

Stefan Heucke

Baruch ata Adonaj – Gesegnet seist Du Herr

Cantata for Baritone, Boys' Voices, Chorus and Orchestra
on an Hebrew Blessing
Opus 77

Baruch ata Adonaj, elohejnu melech ha'olam
Schehechejanu wekijemanu wehigianu las'man hase

Blessed be you, Lord our God, King of the world,
Who has made us live, has preserved us and brought us up to this time.
Amen

Introduction

For the opening of the new Anneliese Brost Musikforum Ruhr in October 2016 I was commissioned by the General Music Director of the Bochum Symphony Orchestra, Steven Sloane, to compose a work which should convey both the grateful recognition of the completion of this long-cherished project and the blessing for its future.

We decided in favour of the short text mentioned above which is the only text block that defines the almost 30-minute work in numerous variations.

At the beginning, the stage is completely empty except for the conductor; the solo baritone is placed on the balcony with the three boy soloists on the opposite side. The baritone begins alone with a rhapsodic melody on a Hebrew text and is answered in antiphon by the three boys. This theme is varied in eight vocal and instrumental movements, which expand from intimate moments of chamber music to full and powerful sonorities with the entire ensemble. More and more singers and instrumentalists progressively enter the stage until the final amen apotheosis when the entire hall is filled with music and performers, thereby inhabiting and consecrating the space.

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