

Together

The unique love story of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Maria von Wedemeyer

A dramatical piece for SLOT Art orchestra and choir

The SLOT Art Orchestra is a wide combination of young talented musicians and singers. This year we will hear the inspiring love story from the times of the 2nd World War. The famous pastor and an inspiration to many people in his time and today, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, was imprisoned for opposing Hitler's regime. He had then fallen in love with a lively, young and brave Maria von Wedemeyer. They were engaged just before he was arrested. However, they continued their life together with constant letters and visits as much as was allowed, although they were never given time just between the two of them. There was always a guard standing in the meeting room or a censor reading through their letters. Their love was deeply founded in their personal relationship with God. And through prayer and faith they survived. The life of Bonhoeffer came to a brutal end, but his writings and the memory of him last.

The themes for this composition started evolving already 7 years ago. I had melodies and harmonies in mind that would not turn into merely songs but needed an orchestral setting. I didn't know what was to come of those melodies. I gave them names like Sorrow, Rush and Threat. I continued arranging those melodies and became to understand, that they have a common overall sound to them. They sounded like parts of a cinematic storyline.

Some years later I read the biographical book 'Bonhoeffer' by Eric Metaxas and I knew that this music is about him, Dietrich Bonhoeffer. I started working with my friend Johan Franzon to find a story line to what we first thought would be a musical or an opera. Working together with the leaders of SLOT art festival it found its present form: orchestral music with a twist of drama. Together with Johan we have come now come up with the present form of the story.

This is by far the largest piece of music I have composed. I am privileged to be given this opportunity. I loved singing in the SLOT Art Orchestra choir in 2019. I am looking forward to this summer and the first hearing of this music. My studies in music started when I was five, traditionally with Suzuki piano. I later studied the clarinet as my main instrument but learned to play the flute and saxophone to be able to be part of a couple of Big Bands. However, after some university studies theater took over, and I graduated as a musical theater actor in 1998. I have worked in a professional theater ever since singing and acting over 50 roles including Tony in West Side Story and Billy Bigelow in Carousel, some of my favourite musicals.