

Paweł Kotla

“Andrzej Panufnik – the voice from behind the Iron Curtain.

Context and analysis of the Polish composer's work written

in response to political events in Poland

in the years 1954-1989.”

KEY WORDS

Andrzej Panufnik, composer, Polish music, Polish contemporary music, symphonic works, emigration, cultural diplomacy, propaganda, communism, Poland, Great Britain, Russia, concert, socialist realism, war, peace, Sinfonia Elegiaca, Polonia, Hommage à Chopin, Old Polish Suite, Concerto in Modo Antico, Jagiellonian Triptych, Katyń Epitaph, Bassoon Concerto, Katyń, Jerzy Popiełuszko, Universal Prayer, Thames Pageant, Sinfonia Votiva, Procession for Peace, Sinfonia di Speranza, Johannes Brahms, Richard Strauss.

SYNOPSIS

This dissertation discusses the creative output of Andrzej Panufnik (1914-1991) - a Polish composer who found himself at the epicentre of some of the most important historical and political events of the 20th century and who, after defecting to the West and resigning from the role of one of the most celebrated artists of the communist regime, became not only a world class artist, but also an emigrant composer, with a free voice for communism-dominated Poland, who perfectly understood the mechanisms of harnessing music by totalitarian governments for their propaganda and the validation of their power. The initial chapters talk about: historic relations between music and politics, the context in which Panufnik grew up and lived, and his analysis of the methods used by communist regimes for adapting music for their propaganda. Then, some basic information is collected on the composer's works which were written with an additional ideological, historical or political message. Also included are his comments and a discussion of source materials - manuscripts and prints deposited in the British Library in London. Finally, an example of using two such works to build a program of an artistic event that strengthens their non-musical narrative is presented. The work is also a reflection of the author's experience gathered during cultural diplomacy projects in post-Soviet countries.