

Nikoloz Rachveli

The Rest is Silence

Requiem for Holocaust and violence victims

*for mezzo-soprano, mixed choir and orchestra *40 min*

World premiere - 19.12.2016 at the Teatro alla Scala

Georgian Premiere - 27.12.2017 at the Tbilisi Opera and Ballet Theatre



This composition, which was specially created for Anita Rachvelishvili's concert at the Teatro alla Scala, is dedicated to the memory of people who have been tortured and killed unjustly. The final words from Shakespeare's Hamlet are used for a title. The work is based on a poem "Death Fugue", written by an outstanding poet Paul Celan (1920-1970) about his experience in the Nazi concentration camps. Five-piece vocal cycle consists of Georgian poet Vazha Pshavela's (1861-1915) poem "I could not save anyone" and poem about Jewish boy - 1st part, 2nd part - The Fest of the Tortured Souls, 3rd - Hebrew lullaby by Emanuel Harussi (1903-1979), 4th - "Death Fugue" by Paul Celan, and

5th part - Postludium, where Paul Celan reads his own poem written in the concentration camp. **After the premiere on December 27, 2017 the mesmerized public was silent for a long time before a standing ovation.**

"Although defending human rights is the supreme value of humanity, injustice and brutality remains an irreparable problem of nowadays. If we consider the Earth as a whole, we find that the largest percentage of its population is still sacrificed to dictatorship, repression, the death penalty, political and religious confrontations, terrorist acts and territorial conflicts. Mental and technological progress has failed to protect the most vulnerable people until today; the world is still full of displaced refugees, innocent prisoners fighting for the freedom of speech. So all those people who can talk to other people by their creations, be it via the language of music or other, should consider this as their duty to point at this problem and, if a lot of us behave like this, we may succeed to transform our planet to a safer and better place to live on.

My work is not a manifesto; it is an expression of pain and sadness. Sadness leads to sentiments. The sentiment is a component of love, whereas love is a feeling that can make the world better. As a composer, I want to modestly serve this path together with my dear colleagues, friends and Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra."

Nikoloz Rachveli



Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra - (invited Orchestra can be discussed)

3.3.3.3

4.3.3.1

1.5.1.1.1

14.12.10.10.8 or 12.11.10.8.6

Performers:

Anita Rachvelishvili mezzo-soprano

Kakhi Solomnishvili conductor

Nikoloz Rachveli grand piano/organ

The poems:

Vazha Pshavela, Georgian poet (1861-1915)

"I could not save anyone" - Translated by Nana Namoradze

How terribly dark it was,
Many thunders
Lit in red
The bushes on the graveyard;
The sky came down and the Earth
Sew the shroud for itself,
The destruction of universe 't was,
Happily watched by the Devil.
His laughter in the darkness
Has frightened everyone,

The men in despair
Do not ask God for help;
Black waters covered
Their houses,
They said "that's nothing"
To a brother blinding his brother.
The blinded were weeping,
Why should they sing?
I was struggling to help them
But I was unable to do so.

Emanuel Harussi, a Hebrew writer and poet (1903-1979)

"A lullaby" - Translated by Nana Namoradze

Lie down peacefully, don't cry, lie down, my little boy, numa na.
It is your Mother besides you and she protects you, numa na.
A jackal is howling, the wind is blowing, numa na.
Sleep quietly, my little son, my sweetie, numa na.
Sow in tears, reap with joy, numa na.
You will grow up, but now, listen to you Mother, numa na.
It is forbidden to give way to despair.
Tomorrow we will start all over again...
Sleep quietly, my little son, my sweetie, numa na.
It is your Mother besides you and she protects you, numa na.

Paul Celan, Romanian-born German language poet (1920-1970)

"Death Fugue" - Translated by John Felstiner

Black milk of morning we drink you at dusktime
we drink you at noontime and dawntime we drink you at night
we drink and drink
we scoop out a grave in the sky where it's roomy to lie
There's a man in this house who cultivates snakes and who writes
who writes when it's nightfall nach Deutschland your golden hair Margareta
he writes it and walks from the house and the stars all start flashing he whistles his
dogs to draw near
whistles his Jews to appear starts us scooping a grave out of sand
he commands us to play for the dance

Black milk of morning we drink you at night
we drink you at dawntime and noontime we drink you at dusktime
we drink and drink
There's a man in this house who cultivates snakes and who writes

who writes when it's nightfall nach Deutschland your golden hair Margareta
your ashen hair Shulamite we scoop out a grave in the sky where it's roomy to lie
He calls jab it deep in the soil you lot there you other men sing and play
he tugs at the sword in his belt he swings it his eyes are blue
jab your spades deeper you men you other men you others play up again for the dance

Black milk of morning we drink you at night
we drink you at noontime and dawntime we drink you at dusktime
we drink and drink
there's a man in this house your golden hair Margareta
your ashen hair Shulamite he cultivates snakes

He calls play that death thing more sweetly Death is a gang-boss aus Deutschland
he calls scrape that fiddle more darkly then hover like smoke in the air
then scoop out a grave in the clouds where it's roomy to lie

Black milk of morning we drink you at night
we drink you at noontime Death is a gang-boss aus Deutschland
we drink you at dusktime and dawntime we drink and drink
Death is a gang-boss aus Deutschland his eye is blue
he shoots you with leaden bullets his aim is true
there's a man in this house your golden hair Margareta
he sets his dogs on our trail he gives us a grave in the sky
he cultivates snakes and he dreams Death is a gang-boss aus Deutschland

your golden hair Margareta
your ashen hair Shulamite

Reviews after the premiere at the Teatro alla Scala

"At the end of the first part Nikoloz Rachveli's The Rest is Silence was performed - a tragic piece, dedicated to Anita Rachvelishvili and its world premiere was held at the historic stage of The Teatro alla Scala. Nikoloz Rachveli's (present in the room) composition differs by a great expression potential and stylistic variety: we meet sharp and fascinating sparkles in his music (especially in the final part), which follow such dramatic themes as refugees, lost in action and terrorism, torture and repression victims tragedy. A Jewish sadness accompanied Mother's lullaby pouring from the land of dreams performed with an impressive mezza-voce by Anita Rachvelishvili transforming into a deeply emotional calm whisper."

**Stefano Balbiani, an opera critic
December 20, 2016, Milan**

"I would like to start with an outstanding moment: at the Teatro alla Scala during a magnificent recital of Anita Rachvelishvili, at the interval between the first and the second parts, the husband of the singer has introduced me to an author of an impressive piece, which was performed at the end of the first part - this was Nikoloz Rachveli.

The music of "Death Fugue" became especially exciting for me, which he created based on the Paul Celan's poem. I knew this poem very well and therefore the music which was written on this verse and Anita's strong voice - have absolutely shocked me indeed. I tried to thank a humble Georgian composer standing in front of me and he just warmly shook my both hands in gratitude and got closer to his face as if for a kiss. This is a memory following me forever, which I will never forget...

A Shakespearean title characterize these horrible and frightening news, which reached us by the end of the concert (actions in Syria). This world of ours is becoming smaller and it has been crushed once again with brutality, which always brought death and terrifying reality, which deprives us from a Christmas joy and dumbs in silence festive songs."

**Pietro Gandeto, critic
December 2016, Milan**

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Nikoloz Rachveli



composer / conductor
UNICEF's National Ambassador in Georgia

Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra. Laureate of The Rustaveli Prize. He has graduated from the Tbilisi State Conservatoire Composition Department under direction of Georgian composer Bidzina Kvernadze. In 1999-2003 studied at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna. During his studies, Nikoloz Rachveli has passed master classes with such composers, as Pierre Boulez, Luciano Berio, Michael Jarrell, etc.

In the various years he has collaborated with the Opera and Ballet State Theatre Symphony Orchestra and Choir, Tbilisi Symphony Orchestra, Rijeka Opera Symphony Orchestra and Choir (Croatia), Ingolstadt Georgian Chamber Orchestra, Parnu Symphony Orchestra (Estonia), State Symphony Orchestra of Russia, Moscow Symphony Orchestra MCO (Russia), Kiev Philharmonic Orchestra (Ukraine), Kremerata Baltica, Georgian State String Quartet, Batumi State Music Center Choir, Kutaisi State Opera Theatre Choir, Children's Choir Schedrik (Ukraine), etc.; with the composers and musician-performers: Alexander Toradze, Liana Isakadze, Paata Burchuladze, Marine Iashvili, Nodar Gabunia, Bidzina Kvernadze, Jansug Kakhidze, Nodar Mamisashvili, Natela Svanidze, Josef Bardanashvili, Vazha Azarashvili, Tigran Mansurian, Franghiz Ali-Zadeh, Michel Legrand, Kim Kashkashian, Nino Ananiashvili, Khatia Buniatishvili, Lisa Batiashvili, Sting, Yuri Bashmet, David Geringas, Gidon Kremer, Alexander Korsantia, Michele Crider, Dudana Mazmanishvili, Katia Ricciarelli, Giuseppe Giacomini, Lado Ataneli, Makvala Kasrashvili, Anita Rachvelishvili, Nino Machaidze, Tamar Iveri, Giorgi Gagnidze, Iano Tamar, Katia Skanavi, Alexander Markovich, Valerian Shiukashvili, Maxim Risanov, Giorgi Zagareli, Andres Mustonen, Giorgi Kharadze, Ariel Zuckermann, Sergei Nakariakov, Rusher Saxophone Quartet, Federico Mondelci, Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi, Avi Avitali, Chris Botti, Bjork, Nani Bregvadze, Nato Metonidze, Nino Katamadze and many others.

His Piano Concerto "Introversion" was premiered first at the Carnegie Hall and later at the Berlin Konzerthaus; In Tbilisi and Petersburg Rachveli's Symphonic Piece "The Answer" was performed; his Symphonic opus in the minimal style "The way home and back" was published as a CD in Vienna, which is sold in Europe. After Georgian Premiere, the "Reverence" for Symphony Orchestra was performed at the Kiev National Philharmonic, in 2015; His recent symphony piece "The Silver Sun" was premiered at the Hamburg ElbPhilharmonie on April 2nd, 2018. As a composer of David Doiashvili's theatre stagings, Nikoloz Rachveli has received various Prizes for the best music, among them Croatian National Prize and National Prize of Georgia. He is the author of music for films by Giorgi Shengelaia, Kakha Melitauri and Rezo Giginishvili.

Nikoloz Rachveli is the founder of the Contemporary Music Festival KONTRAPUNKT, an original concept of which is a meeting of a Georgian and foreign composer's pieces of various genres. He closely cooperates with the Georgian composers. An exclusive place in the creative life of Nikoloz Rachveli belongs to Giya Kancheli and his works. During the last years, the young conductor is the first performer of Kancheli's pieces with the Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra in Georgia. Nikoloz has conducted the premiere of Gyia Kancheli's "Angels of Sorrow" first at the Kronberg Festival and in a few days at the Berlin Philharmonic; Kancheli's "Little Imber" and "Amao Omi", conducted by Nikoloz Rachveli, was recorded in UK by MATRIX Chamber Orchestra, London and published by ECM records.

Nikoloz Rachveli is an initiator of a historic reform in Georgia, the result of which is a right which is given to the musicians of the Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra to choose their Creative Directors upon their decision. In earlier period persons for these positions were appointed by Minister of Culture. For nowadays, Nikoloz Rachveli is the first elected Music Director and Principal Conductor in Georgia.

During his direction, Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra has performed at the various worldknown venues, among them: Athens and Frankfurt Concert Halls, Paris Les Invalides, Pierre Cardin Center, UNESCO Concert Hall and Salle Pleyel, Petersburg Dmitri Schostakovich Philharmonie, Berlin Konzerthaus, Brussels Centre for Fine Arts BOZAR, Strasbourg Convention Centre, Tallinn NORDEA Concert Hall, Hamburg ElbPhilharmonie, etc.



Anita Rachvelishvili

mezzo-soprano

Born in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia. She at first studied piano at the Mukhran Machavariani School and then sang at the Vano-Sarajishvili Conservatory with Manana Egadze. She received a stipend from the president of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, and in 2007 won the Paata Burchuladze Prize. While still a student at the conservatory, she debuted at the Opera in Tblisi as Maddalena in *Rigoletto* and as Olga in *Eugen Onegin*, subsequently joining the ensemble of the theater in the fall of 2006. In 2007 she was invited to join the Accademia at the Teatro alla Scala, it was there she was heard by Daniel Barenboim, who then invited her to star in a new production of *Carmen* which opened the 2009/2010 La Scala Season.

She has become internationally known when on December 7th, 2009, the opening night of the La Scala season, she sang the title role in *Carmen* opposite Jonas Kaufmann as Don José, in a production staged

by Emma Date and conducted by Daniel Barenboim. This performance, which was her first of any major role in the West and which was her debut in the role, was also televised all over the world.

She has since debuted as *Carmen* at the Metropolitan Opera in New York, at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, the Bayerische Staatsoper München, the Staatsoper Berlin, the Seattle Opera, the San Francisco Opera, the Teatro Regio in Turin, with the Canadian Opera Company, and at the Arena di Verona, as well as making a return in the role to the Teatro alla Scala.

Anita Rachvelishvili made her Netherlands debut when she sang her first *Dalila* in a concert performance of *Samson et Dalila* at the Concertgebouw. She has also been heard as *Dulcinée* in Massenet's *Don Quichotte* at the Teatro Lirico di Cagliari.

In the fall of 2011 Anita Rachvelishvili debuted at Carnegie Hall alongside with Angela Gheorghiu and Jonas Kaufmann as the Principessa di Bouillon in Francesco Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur*. Other roles in her repertoire have also included *Isabella* in Rossini's *L'Italiana in Algeri* at the Scala, and the title role in Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice* and at the Festival de Peralada I.

Anita returned to the Staatsoper Berlin as *Lyubasha* in the new production of Rimsky Korsakov's *The Tsar's Bride*, staged by Dmitry Cherniakov and conducted by Daniel Barenboim.

Performances for the 2013/2014 season include appearing as the *Konschakowna* in the Metropolitan Opera's new production of Borodin's *Prince Igor* which was the first time the company had performed this work since 1917.

Anita has also made her debut at the Teatro all'Opera di Roma as *Carmen*, and returned to the Bayerische Staatsoper in Munich in the same role. Earlier in the season, she sang as *Carmen* at the Staatsoper Berlin and at the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. She also returned to the Arena di Verona that season as *Carmen* and as *Amneris* in *Aida*.

The 2014/2015 season began with a return to the Metropolitan Opera in the title role of *Carmen*. She also returned to the Teatro alla Scala for a new production of *Aida* led by Lorin Maazel. She returned to the Teatro alla Scala as *Carmen*, she sang as *Amneris* in *Aida* at the Rome Opera, and gave an extraordinary recital at the Mariinsky Theatre. Anita also performed Verdi Requiem at the Salzburg Easter Festival.

This season, her appearances include her return to Teatro alla Scala in performances of the Verdi Requiem, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden in the title role of *Carmen*, the Dutch National Opera in the role of *Marfa* in Mussorgsky's *Khovanshchina* and her debut with the Paris Opera as *Amneris* in *Aida*.

Engagements in future seasons include her Paris Opera debut as *Amneris* in "*Aida*", "*Samson et Dalila*" in Berlin and Sao Paulo, and *Azucena* in "*Il Trovatore*" at Covent Garden.

Kakhi Solomnishvili

conductor

Born in 1990 in Tbilisi, Georgia. Graduated from The Zakaria Paliashvili Central Music School Piano Department and The Vano Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire Academic Choral Conducting Department. He has mastered choir conducting skills with Emeritus Professor Givi Munjishvili and orchestra conducting under the guidance of maestro Gianluca Marciano.

From 2011 he became an assisting conductor at the Tbilisi Opera and Ballet Theatre, later from 2014 he has received a position of a conductor at the same Theatre. In various years Kakhi cooperated with Gianluca Marciano, Paolo Arrivabeni, Mariano Riva, Laurent Petitgirard, David Kintsurashvili, Vakhtang Matchavariani, Daniele Agiman, Dmitri Jurowski and many others, on Opera-Symphonic repertoire.



From 2017 he is the resident conductor of the Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra and since then conducted numerous very successful concerts with the various symphony and opera repertoire, among them Shostakovich - 5th Symphony, Kancheli - Light Sorrow, Nikoloz Rachveli - The Rest is Silence and Silver Sun, Stravinsky - The Rite of Spring, etc.



GEORGIAN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra was officially established in 1925 and its first artistic director and principal conductor was Ivane Paliashvili. In 1933 the Orchestra was awarded with the State status and its principal conductor became Evgeny Mikeladze – a legendary conductor, who became a victim of 1937 repressions. In 1971 GPO was awarded with the status of honored Orchestra and in 1994 - it was named after Evgeny Mikeladze.

At different times the Orchestra was directed by the conductors Aleksandre Gvelesiani, Grigol Kiladze, Aleksandr Gauk, Shalva Azmaiparashvili, Odissey Dimitriadi, Jemal Gokieli, Zakaria Khurodze, Jansugh Kakhidze, David Del Pino Klinge, Vakhtang Matchavariani; also, music directors: composers Andria Balanchivadze and Alexi Matchavariani.

In 2005 GPO, together with other State status collectives, was united in newly established Georgia National Music Center and 25 years old composer Nikoloz Rachveli was invited from Vienna University of Music and Performing Arts as an Artistic Director. From 2007 he has combined the position of principal conductor of the Orchestra.

The Orchestra has implemented lots of successful performances. Among them are concert tours abroad in various worldwide famous venues, such as the Moscow Conservatory Grand Hall, Berlin Philharmonic Concert Hall, Amsterdam Concertgebouw, Athens and Frankfurt Concert Halls, Paris Les Invalides, Pierre Cardin Center, UNESCO Hall & Salle Pleyel, St. Petersburg Dmitri Schostakovich Philharmonie, Berlin Konzerthaus, Brussels Centre for Fine Arts BOZAR, Strasbourg Convention Centre, Tallinn NORDEA Concert Hall, Hamburg ElbPhilharmonie, etc... In 2018 the concerts at Frankfurt Alte Oper and Berlin Philharmonie are planned.

The Orchestra's repertoire includes all the most important pieces of the Georgian symphony music and numerous masterpieces of the world's symphony and opera music. The Orchestra is the first performer practically of all important National symphony music pieces, as well as performs Georgian premieres by numerous foreign composers. The music recorded by GPO is used in the various Georgian Films, among them is "Corn Island" by Giorgi Ovashvili - selected as the Georgian entry for consideration for the Best Foreign Language Film at the 87th Academy Awards. The film won the Crystal Globe prize at the Karlovy Vary International Film Festival.

In 2013, due to the reform at the National Music Center of Georgia, the young talented musicians of the new generation, successfully performed in the various Orchestras of Georgia and abroad, joined the GPO; the outstanding Georgian Musicians: Giya Kancheli, Alexander Toradze, Paata Burchuladze, Josef Bardanashvili and Shalva Mosidze were elected as an Artistic Council of the National Music Center of Georgia and during the same year, Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra and Maestro Nikoloz Rachveli became the initiators of the historic reform in Georgia, the result of which was a right given to the musicians to choose their creative director (before this position was appointed by the Georgian Minister of Culture). From December 2013, Maestro Nikoloz Rachveli is the first elected Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Georgian Philharmonic Orchestra.

During 92 years of its existence, the Orchestra has performed with the following musician-performers: Sergei Prokofiev, Dmitri Shostakovich, Sviatoslav Richter, Yakov Flier, Emil Gilels, Ani Fisher, Van Cliburn, David Oistrach, Mstislav Rostropovich, Kurt Mazur, Kent Nagano, Yuri Temirkanov, Valeri Gergiev, Yuri Bashmet, Boris Berezovski, Alexander Toradze, Liana Isakadze, Paata Burchuladze, Kim Kashkashian, Nino Ananiashvili, Lisa Batiashvili, Khatia Buniatishvili, Dudana Mazmanishvili, David Geringas, Nicolas Altstaedt, Natalia Gutman, Eliso Virsaladze, Elisabeth Leonskaja, Gidon Kremer, Michele Crider, Katia Ricciarelli, Giuseppe Giacomini, Lado Ataneli, Makvala Kasrashvili, Anita Rachvelishvili, Nino Machaidze, Tamar Iveri, Giorgi Gagnidze, Iano Tamar, Maxim Risanov, Giorgi Zagareli, Andres Mustonen, Ariel Zuckermann, Sergei Nakariakov, Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi, Chris Botti, STING, BJORK, Nani Bregvadze, Nato Metonidze, Nino Katamadze and many others.