

## **Brundibár Arts Festival Special Commission 2024**

Volodymyr Runchak - "Fragments of a diary..."

A chamber cantata for tenor and piano quintet based on texts by Ruben Ben-Szem Feldschuh

The work is dedicated to the 11-year-old talented Polish pianist and composer of Jewish origin Josima Feldschuh. The work uses texts from her father's diary, Ruben Ben-Szem Feldschuh, which refers to his daughter's first concert on 03/15/1941 at the Melody Palace in Warsaw. The piece consists of 4 uninterrupted movements.

As for the fragments of the text, they speak of the father's admiration for his daughter's talent and his great hopes for her successful future.

Unfortunately, the future of their family and many families living in the Warsaw ghetto, as well as the entire Jewish nation's fate was sealed. In this case, only Ruben was to make it alive.

The musical aspect of the work is often varied and changeable. From the melancholy that accompanies the text about Josima's suffering from hunger and malnutrition, to the pride experienced by her father in his daughter, who, despite physical hardships, still sits stubbornly at the piano for many hours and practices in an utmost professional way. From the delight associated with the huge success of the daughter's first concert, to the quiet dreamy lullaby of the father over his sleeping daughter.

I thank Mrs. Alexandra Raikhlina and Brundibár Arts Festival for the offer to write this work and consider this collaboration a great honour.