

# Densité de présence (2022)

Būties tankis

For 8 female voices and 5 cellos

*Commissioned by the vocal new music collective "Melos"*

In the book "When We Cease To Understand The World" by Chilean writer Benjamin Labatut, I encountered the French phrase "densité de probabilité de présence" (density of probability of presence) which became the philosophical and textural idea for this piece. The metaphor of "density of being" was translated into the realm of sounds. Having the opportunity to compose for such an unusual combination of two monochromatic layers - 8 female voices and 5 cellos, I was focusing not only on the color of the sound, but also the density of it as one of the structural parameters. The perceived density of sound depends on how many instruments and voices are present at a given moment. In the piece I use various gradations of this aspect.

Another poetic and symbolic association connected to this piece, occurred completely unexpectedly, when tasting traditional Lithuanian rye bread. I've noticed its dense texture which is so different from commercially baked bread. As though one slice contained the density of our existence. One slice was more than enough. After eating it, one feels as though biting into the very essence of being and tasting the nature of reality....

Duration 17'-18'

Premiere: December 10th, 2022 at the experimental music series "KONTAKTAS", National Art Gallery in Vilnius.

Performed by the vocal ensemble "Melos" and "Cello Club", conductor Karolis Variakojis.