

## **Žibuoklė Martinaitytė**

### **ENHEDUANA (2023)**

for mezzo-soprano and symphony orchestra

*Dedicated to mezzo-soprano Justina Gringytė with deep admiration for powerful voice and the person behind it.*

This piece consists of 7 parts based on the texts of Enheduana, a priestess and a poetess of ancient Sumerian royal origin. She lived around 2300 BCE in the territory of present-day Iraq and is considered the first poet whose authorship is historically known to us. I was inspired by the very fact of her existence almost more than her words intended for religious rites. Last year there was a major exhibition in New York dedicated to Enheduana at the Morgan Museum and Library as well as the publishing of the book by Sophus Helle with new translations of her texts into English. Her personality awakened great public curiosity especially since she was forgotten for so many centuries. She symbolizes many other female artists who have been completely erased from the history of art and only now are starting to regain their rightful place.

I chose one of her texts "Hymn To Inana" in English with some authentic Sumerian words. Since only fragments of the texts have survived, it was necessary to create a new story, where many things are kept silent or only hinted at, but the topics present in the text are surprisingly relevant even today - from the devastation of war to natural disasters, the forced exile of people from their homeland and gender-bending identities.

I. Invocation. "innin-ša-gura". Ca' 3:35

II. "Queen of vast heart" Ca' 7:30

III. "to run, to flee, to calm, to quiet.." (Vertigo of lists) Ca' 7:15

IV. "when your eyes..." Ca' 4:30

V. "I am Enheduana" Ca' 3

VI. "Let it be" Ca' 5:25

VII. "innin nin-ene nam..." Ca' 5

The text is from Sophus Helle's book "Enheduana" (the complete poems of the world's first author) and used with kind permission of the author and Yale University Press.

Approximate duration 35 min.