

## Gradations of Light (2017-2018)

### Composer's note

Since I learned how to sight-read music as a child, one of my favorite pastimes and pleasures has been to pick up a book of piano scores from the library and to play through it at once. There was a sense of freedom and discovery, an exploration of the unknown emotional worlds as though travelling through imaginary landscapes and experiencing them first hand. I would play through every page and then decide which pieces I wanted to commit to learning and performing. Sight-reading required prolonged one-pointed concentration due to which it had almost a meditative effect on the brain. Another feature was playing everything at a much slower tempo and allowing quite a bit of rhythmic liberties, which was stretching the time and in turn, changing the perception of a particular piece of music.

This cycle is my offering to someone who is as eager for something new as I was in my childhood, to someone who is willing to forget about time by diving inside it.

#### **I. as in the darkness of a tunnel...**

It reveals the experience of going through the intense darkness similar to finding oneself in a long tunnel.

#### **II. as in the light.... , IV. as in the blinding light...**

Both pieces remind of encountering the unexpected stark light that keeps us blinded. The brightness is so uncomfortable at times that we have to close our eyes. Similarly, stark harmonies are hitting our ears without mercy.

#### **III. as in transparent dreams...., V. as in sweet dreams...**

These pieces are transitory states of transparency between light and dark where one can easily morph into another.

#### **VI. as in the darkness of light... , VII. as in the darkness of night...**

Both pieces are taken from the "Chiaroscuro Trilogy" (2017) for piano and string orchestra.

### Performance notes

These pieces can be performed either together or separately. Pedal indications are merely suggestions. The use of pedal is up to the performer.

Total duration ≈ 27 min.