

Gilead Mishory

Psalm II

for flute and piano (2003–2004)

Like its musical pair "Psalm" for cello and piano, "Psalm II" for flute and piano was inspired by the Psalms of David. As in "Psalm", this piece moves between incredible sadness, doubt and despair on the one hand and unconditional trust in God on the other hand. The breach between Psalm 22 ("My God, why have you forsaken me?") and Psalm 23 ("God is my shepherd, I shall not want") could describe this conflict, whereby the idyll in Psalm 23 is being put to question.

In the fantasy-like form, four different sections, which stem from the same melody, can clearly be distinguished.

In the postscript "Rauch" ("Smoke"), the spoken, sung phrases of the principal movement are being described as ashes from burnt prayer or music sheets floating in the air after a fire. This movement is very free, and should be played with a lot of time between the motif fragments.

This piece is dedicated to "Leika, Golda, Siolek and the others" – the composer's Polish relatives who were killed by the Germans in World War II.