

**Gilead Mishory**

## **PSALM – String-Quartet after Paul Celan**

The String-Quartet was initiated by Celan's poem "Psalm", which depicts a theological image of human life-death, describing man's wish for God's mercy, despite His inexistence. The profound text, moving on several levels of historical and theological associations, inspired me to juxtapose in the second, central, movement, the spoken text (in German) and its musical affiliation, elements which lean on Jewish prayer versus Christian Choral-material, "Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen" ("Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming") by Praetorius.

The whole work consists of three movements. Other two poems by Celan serve as a source of inspiration "behind" the music of the first and third movements, without being recited acoustically. The third, fast movement, with a clear affiliation to oriental rhythms and motives, depicts the biblical desert-scene of the poem "Oben, geräuschlos" (High above, Noiselessly). Its musical material has motive-connections with the first movement, "Auge der Zeit" (Time's Eye).

Length: ca. 24 minutes.

The second movement has also been adopted for an eight male voices choir and a string quartet.