

## *Invocation IV* (1999)

Milan Slavicky

The world premiere of *Invocation IV* was on September 30, 2001 at Music at St. Lorenz Church, Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Milan Slavicky (1947–2009) was born in Prague, Czech Republic and is a well-known Czech composer, music editor, musicologist, and producer of electro-acoustic music. He studied musicology at Charles University in Prague, earning a doctorate in 1972. He later studied composition at the Janacek Academy of Arts in Brno with Jan Kapr and music theory at the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague under Karel Janecek and Karel Risinger.

Instrumental music predominates in the works of Slavicky. Since the 1970s, he consistently applied the method of fixed interval selection coupled with the principle of thematic sequentiality with music structure. He drew his program background largely from literature and the arts, and is noted for endeavors to achieve maximum emotional effect. His music won the Carl Maria von Weber Preis, Dresden in 1976 and again in 1978 and 1979. He was awarded the Prize of Town Brasilia in 1985 and a Czech Music Critics Award in 1992 and 1995.

Slavicky's compositions have been played by domestic and foreign orchestras, and many of his works were commissioned by soloists and festivals such as the Berliner Festwochen and the Prague Spring Competition. His music has been heard in performances by the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, Prague Symphony Orchestra, Brno Philharmonic Orchestra, Solistes Européens Luxembourg, Camerata Zurich, and Philharmonisches Orchester Erfurt. His chamber ensembles have been performed by the BBC Singers, Brodsky Quartet, Musica Lirica, Duo Boemi di Praga, Synchronia St. Louis, Trio a Clavier Namur, Prague Madrigalists, Gruppe Konfrontation Halle, and Prague Percussion Ensemble.

As a recording producer, Slavicky worked on over five hundred fifty CDs, LPs, and video programs for Supraphon, Panton, Opus, DGG, EMI, CBS, Sony Classic Denon, Orfeo, Cadenza, and Bayer Records. His recordings received a Grammy, the Grand prix du Disque from the Académie Charles-Cros, and the Prix Caecilia.

From 1990–2009, Slavicky taught musicology at Charles University, Prague, and from 1994–2009 he taught composition at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts. He was also a lecturer at Prague Mozart Academy in Dobruška, Artist-in-Residence at Northeastern University in Boston, and Visiting Professor of New York University in Prague. He gave many lectures and workshops throughout Europe and judged several musical competitions. He wrote numerous essays, articles, and reviews; produced a number of radio programs; and published two books, one of which discusses the Theresienstadt composer Gideon Klein.