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SUMMARY

VLADO SUNKO: *THE LIGHT IS THINE SHADOW. VERSES AS MUSICAL INSPIRATION.*

In his collection of spiritual songs for *a capella* singing, the author Vlado Sunko finds his inspiration in the poetry of Enes Kišević, a poet and an artist; the themes and atmosphere are close to Sunko's artistic sensibility, and the central emotion of the collection is love in the broad sense. The selection of media and forms that will mediate these poetic-music stories is quite logical – choir compositions have proven to be the most desirable starting point for composing continuity but without significant predetermined limitations. Sunko's melody, rhythms and harmony follow the modal-tonal heritage, and their originality provides them with numerous variations and shades of texture in the creation of choral sound – from the airy solo parts, through imitation episodes to dense homophone and combined blocks; the almost constant presence of sustained and pedal point voices gives free flow and continuity at the level of music flow. In treating human voice Sunko uses: speech, speech-song [sprechgesang], recitation and singing, always in the service of text interpretation, but also, more music dramaturgy, since the text can be both a starting point and a support to music. The composition, however, always strives for the integrity and completeness of its own structure and form, which is primarily confirmed by musical logic.

Key words: pieces for mixed choir, local text pattern, musical form, elements of musical form, expression