

Oratorium

This piece was composed in 1981 at the request of the Music Department of the *Swedish Radio* for Kerstin Ståhl (mezzo-soprano), Kjell-Inge Stevensson (clarinet) and Mats Persson (piano) who gave the first performance in the *Nordic House* in Reykjavik. The Icelandic text is an old refrain printed in a collection of folk poetry ("*Fagrar heyrði ég raddirnar*") which was published in 1942 by Einar Ólafur Sveinsson.

An English translation:

*It is dark on earth, my Lord
the day is waning.
The world is graced by a beautiful day.*

Oratorium was revised in 1982 and later recorded by Olof Kolbrun Hardardóttir (soprano), Sigurður I. Snorrason (clarinet) and Anna Guðný Guðmundsdóttir (piano). The recording was published on LP (ITM 5-07) and is available from *Iceland Music Information Centre* (<http://mic.is/>).

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Þetta verk var samið árið 1981 að beiðni tónlistardeildar sænska útvarpsins fyrir Kerstin Ståhl (messó-sópran), Kjell-Inge Stevensson (klarinet) og Mats Persson (píanó) sem frumfluttu verkið í *Norræna Húsinu* í Reykjavík. Textinn er gamalt viðlag sem hljóðar svo:

*Dimmt er í heiminum, drottinn minn,
deginum tekur að halla
Dagur fagur þrýðir veröld alla.*

(Úr þjóðkvæðasafni Einars Ólafs Sveinssonar *Fagrar heyrði ég raddirnar* (útg. 1942)).

Verkið var endurskoðað árið 1982 og hljóðritað nokkru síðar. Flyjendur í upptökunni voru Ólöf Kolbrún Harðardóttir (soprano), Sigurður I. Snorrason (clarinet) and Anna Guðný Guðmundsdóttir (piano). Hljóðritunin var gefin út á vínyl-plötu (ITM 5-07) hjá ITM (<http://tonverkamidstod.is/>).