

Fegurð veraldar mun hverfa / The Beauty of the World Will Vanish

for Soprano, Clarinet, 2 Violas, Cello, Double Bass and Percussion* (1) was composed in 1999 at the request of *Collegium Musicum, Musical Association in Skálholt*. Funds were made available by the *Composers' Fund of the Icelandic National Broadcasting Service*. The piece was first performed on July 24th 1999 at Skálholt Cathedral under the direction of the composer. Soprano-soloist was Hallveig Rúnarsdóttir and instrumentalists were: Oskar Ingólfsson (Clarinet), Steef van Oosterhout (Percussion), Thorunn Osk Marinósðóttir (Viola), Herdis Jónsdóttir (Viola), Nora Kornblueh (Cello) and Havardur Tryggvason (Double Bass).

*Percussion instruments: Marimba, Vibraphone, Crotales.

The music is set to a poem by Hallgrímur Petursson (1614-1674) who was the greatest Icelandic poet of his time. His *Hymns of the Passion* are still very close to the hearts of Icelanders almost 350 years after they were written. They have been printed more than eighty times and every year they are broadcast during Lent on the national radio.

In addition to his *Hymns of the Passion* and other religious poetry, Hallgrímur Petursson also wrote in a secular vein. He attacked vanity, greed and the abuse of power. In many of his poems the mutability of life is a central theme and *Fegurð veraldar mun hverfa* ("*The Beauty of the World Will Vanish*") is an example of such a poem. It consists of 10 stanzas. The first is an introduction of sorts, followed by 3 stanzas describing the beauty of nature; but from then on, darker tones are introduced and the poet is powerless when faced with the transitory nature of life.

Fegurð veraldar mun hverfa

fyrir sópran, klarínnett, 2 víólur, selló, bassa og slagverk (1)* var samið árið 1999 að tilstuðlan *Collegium Musicum, samtaka um tónlistarstarf í Skálholti* og veitti *Tónskáldasjóður Ríkisútvarpsins* styrk til verksins. Verkið var frumflutt í Skálholtskirkju 24. júlí undir stjórn höfundar. Einsöngvari var Hallveig Rúnarsdóttir og aðrir flytjendur voru: Óskar Ingólfsson (klarínnett), Steef van Oosterhout (slagverk), Þórunn Ósk Marinósðóttir (víóla), Herdís Anna Jónsdóttir (víóla), Nora Kornblueh (selló) og Hávarður Tryggvason (bassi).

*Slagverkshljóðfæri: marimba, víbrafónn, crotales

Verkið er samið við samnefnt kvæði Hallgríms Péturssonar sem leggur til grundvallar gamalt viðkvæði svohljóðandi:

Sat ég undir fjallinu fríða;
heyrði' eg fagran fuglasöng
um dægrin löng
ekki reikaði hugur minn þá víða.

Hallgrímur hefur fléttað skáletruðu línurnar úr viðkvæðinu inn í sérhvert erindi kvæðis síns. Þannig fá þær óendanlega margar víddir.