

# PORTUGAL

## Nuno Costa



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Slovenian Philharmonic Choir

### ***Pater Noster*** - for mixed choir a cappella [dur. 6'30"] (2014)

performed by the **Slovenian Philharmonic Choir**, conducted by **Martina Batič**

From this work, it is important to retain that the sacred text is approached from the perspective of someone that identifies the Prayer from the collective experience of its recitation.

Based on this premise, the musical idea was developed with the concept of "crowd" in mind. All the different nuances and approaches to each word, and even the individual mode of expression, are amplified by a corresponding sound articulation from the choir. At the same time, the well-proven idea of the Tenor as *cantus firmus* was introduced, as a reference to ancient musical practices.

Generally, throughout the piece, there are several different conflicting and inter-complementing sound moods. These seek to coexist and to build an altogether personal reflection, which aims at delving into the areas of metaphysics, although without great ambitions of success; the concept dominated by the personal experience in the text is presented in the most truthful way that the technique will allow.

Thus, we sought to enhance each lexical fragment and translate it into chains of higher sound intensity, in an alternation that may bring to mind *responsorial* singing but that is nothing more than the evocation of innermost familiarity, which the use of Prayer may also serve.

The duality of meanings observed in each word is also a strong source of opposing ideas, which bring out the irony of our actions in relation to what is recited as a whole. Above all, there is an attempt to explain the different conditions of the Being - from the temporal to the spiritual status.

**Nuno Costa** (b. 1986, Cerva) is currently enrolled in the Advanced Course in Composition at the *Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia*, in Rome, studying with Ivan Fedele, after having graduated, with high distinction, from the *Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp*, where he studied under Wim Henderickx and at the *Escola Superior de Música, Artes e Espectáculo*, in Oporto, with Eugénio Amorim.

After receiving the *ISCM Young Composer Award 2015*, he was selected to participate in the *Late Fall Banff Musicians in Residence* at *The Banff Centre* (AB, Canada) and was also awarded with the *Bourse artistique 2016* attributed by *Académie de France à Madrid - Casa de Velázquez*. The *Istituto Italiano di Cultura* also granted him a scholarship.

His works have been showcased in several venues in Oporto, such as *Coliseu do Porto*, and in a number of the city's churches. His piece *rituais* was performed several times at the *deSingel* (Antwerp), and his music has also been presented at the *Auditorium Parco della Musica* and at the *Accademia Filarmonica Romana* (Rome). He obtained a commission from the *Teatro La Fenice* (Venice) for the Festival "*Lo Spirito della Musica di Venezia 2015*" and from the *Biennale di Venezia* for the *7. Carnevale Internazionale dei ragazzi*. His music was performed during the *ISCM World Music Days 2015*, in Slovenia and next performances are scheduled for Italy, France, USA, Canada and Australia.

Notes and biography provided by the composer and current to 2016

Composer's contact : [nunofariacosta@gmail.com](mailto:nunofariacosta@gmail.com)

### **About the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir**

The Slovenian Philharmonic Choir was established as a professional concert choir in 1991. The choir's mission is to perform and record a cappella and vocal-instrumental compositions, and it has been part of the Slovenian Philharmonic since 1998. The Slovenian Philharmonic Choir is frequently involved in recording projects. Its substantial discography numbers more than 80 compact discs in the collections *Musica sacra Slovenica* and *Slovenska zborovska glasba*, presenting an anthological selection of Slovenian choral music, both sacred and secular. Its last release was in 2014, when a fertile collaboration with composer Ambrož Čopi gave rise to a new compact disc featuring his works entitled *Sanjam*.

In the 2012/13 season, Martina Batič took over the artistic direction in its entirety.

The Antena 2 | RTP wishes to thank the RTV Slovenia, Mme Martina Batič and the Slovenian Philharmonic Choir for kindly allowing the submission of this work.