

"Again the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto treasure hidden in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and from joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. Again the Kingdom of Heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls; Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."

- Matthew 13:44-46

Movement Listings for Program

...like treasure hidden in a field

chorale peregrination pearl of great price tolling bells (broad attacks) cut from an infinite fabric

(performed without pause)

Program Note

...like treasure hidden in a field is inspired by a passage in Matthew 13:44-46 relating to keeping sight of intangible spiritual values in one's life. This work for chamber orchestra is in five movements played with minimal pause between them, totaling about thirteen minutes. Its sound-world demonstrates the composer's characteristic ear for evocative instrumental timbres and combinations, as well as a sure sense of harmonic and narrative progression. The writing for percussion—sometimes very aggressive, sometimes delicate—and solo instruments within the ensemble is particularly detailed and intricate. The piece presents a series of dense, complex harmonies via distinct groups of instruments within the ensemble. The prevalence of Chinese wind gongs and bells adds an otherworldly, magical element to the sound world, one that can be heard to various degrees in many of Kati Agócs's orchestral works.

- Robert Kirzinger, Director of Program Publications for the Boston Symphony Orchestra; from notes for *The Debrecen Passion* album, 2015

First Performances and Recording

...like treasure hidden in a field for chamber orchestra is a re-working of the 2009 work *Pearls*, commissioned by the American Composers Orchestra, who gave the premiere under conductor George Manahan in February 2009 on their Orchestra Underground Series at Carnegie Hall (Zankel Hall) in New York City. James Sommerville conducted the Canadian premiere with the Hamilton Philharmonic in 2010. The work was premiered in its revised and retitled form by the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Alexander Michelthwate, in February 2011 in Winnipeg. The premiere recording of *...like treasure hidden in a field* was made by Boston Modern Orchestra Project in Boston's Jordan Hall with Gil Rose conducting, and released on the album *The Debrecen Passion* (BMOP Sound 1046).