

O Freunde, let others speak

The title is the motto that Kent Nagano gave for this commission, obviously an allusion on the Beethoven 9th Symphony. It can also be read as a message that describes what's going on now, as we learn the names of squares in cities where people gather to express themselves, the Tahrir, the Taksim and the Maidan squares. I visited one of them while composing this piece. The music begins with the trembling intonation of a sound and ends with a signal, a perfect fifth, pointing towards the stunning opening of the Beethoven 9th.

Henrik Strindberg