

Per Nørgård
LIBRO PER NOBUKO

Preface / Programme Note

LIBRO PER NOBUKO (BOOK FOR NOBUKO) consists of two pieces written for Nobuko Imai, the Japanese violist.

The first (and longest) piece is a sonata in five movements called LA MELODIA SEGRETA (THE SECRET MELODY). The title is borrowed from a book by Trinh Xuan Thuan, the Vietnamese astrophysicist. Of the mysterious and inexplicable order of the universe he writes: *Nature sends us the notes of a music formed by a melody that will remain secret forever.*

The five movements of the sonata circumscribe a hidden melody: a clear melodic shape appears often enough, but it soon reveals itself as being part of another, superior melody - and so on. In this labyrinthine way the three middle movements, framed by a short prologue and epilogue, unfold different moods (roaming, singing, playing) in an eternal hide-and-seek of the melody (melodies).

The second piece for Nobuko, BOFAST (RESIDENT) is dedicated to Bo Vincens Steensen-Leth, in gratitude of the many and selfless services he has rendered to the musical audiences at the locality of Langeland, Denmark. The piece remains faithful to one single motif, a „resident“, like Bo and his ancestors who have been residents at the manor house Steensgaard for over 400 years.

Both pieces were composed for the viola of Nobuko Imai. However, a version for violin solo was suggested to me by German violinist Heinrich Hörlein and that alternative version has been approved by me.

Per Nørgård, 1997