



Here in this house in the Berggasse of the city of Teschen Viktor Ullmann was born of 1st of January 1898. His father Maximilian Ullmann was from his profession a military officer. During this time the city of Teschen was the place of the high command of of the k.u.k. Wehrmacht, the imperial and royal army of the Hapsburgempire. And Maximilian Ullmann worked in this time there. Today the city of Teschen is a parted city along the river Olsa between the Republic of Poland, Cieszyn, and the Czech Republic, Český Těšín.

1.1.2021 20.00 CET PERFORMANCE

"The Emperor of Atlantis or The Disobedience of Death" Play in one act
Music and Libretto by Viktor Ullmann on the 123rd anniversary of his birthday

On the 1st of January 1898 Viktor Ullmann was born in the city of Teschen. Teschen was not the hometown of his parents, but his father, the professional military officer Lieutenant Colonel Maximilian Ullmann, served at this time in the city of Teschen. At this time the city was the place of the High Command of the k.u.k. Wehrmacht, the imperial and royal army of the Hapsburgempire. There Viktor Ullmann attended the elementary of school of the Teacher Training Institute at Teschen, and he attended also the first class of the gymnasium, the I. B-Klasse, before he moved over to Vienna with his mother Malvine Ullmann into the third district of Vienna, there he attended the Rasumofsky-Gymnasium. At the city of Teschen Viktor Ullmann learned also playing the piano with training one time in a week. As a child he saw and heard concerts of military bands and he heard also the musical military signals of the k.u.k. Wehrmacht, which he heard and saw during marches and parades, especially in the year 1906, as in this year the military maneuver for the emperor Franz Joseph I. took place at Teschen. There he saw for his first time in his life the emperor. And Franz Joseph I. was also the Duke of Auschwitz in this time. This first musical impression will be found later also in the anti-war opera "The Emperor of Atlantis" written Viktor Ullmann himself in libretto and music.



Pictures from the first performance ever of the anti-war opera of Viktor Ullmann "The Emperor of Atlantis or The Disobedience of Death" in a production of ARBOS - Company for Music and Theatre on 23rd of May 1995 at the so-called Dresdner Kaserne of the former concentrationcamp of Terezin, 51 years after the rehearsals at Terezin. Viktor Ullmann himself wrote the libretto of the opera. He worked on his anti-war opera from 1917 to 1944. In summer 1944 he finished his anti-war opera during the Freizeitgestaltung - leisure time activities - in the concentrationcamp of Terezin. He finished the opera after 27 years of working on it.

During his time at the gymnasium in Vienna he got also lessons in composition and conducting by Josef Polnauer. And also during this time in Vienna Viktor Ullmann became an excellent player on the piano. During The Great War in May 1916 Viktor Ullmann finished the gymnasium with the final exams with a so-called war diploma. On advice of his father he started the military service as a one year volunteer. He was trained to an artillery observer of the most modern piece of artillery of The Great War, the 38cm-howitzer produced by the arms factory of Škoda. In the night from October 23rd to 24th he became a witness of the gas attac during the start of the 12th battle in theatre of war in the valley of the river Isonzo near Bovec, there poison gase of green cross and blue cross were used. During his military service Viktor Ullmann was also the musical officer of his unit responsible for the entertainment of soldiers and people as a part of the Freizeitgestaltung - leisure time activities. And for these activities he had a chamber orchestra in the same size as for his anti-war opera "The Emperor of Atlantis or The Disobedience of Death". Since the year 1917 Ullmann worked on the theme of this anti-war opera based on his own military experiences of The First World War. he himself wrote the libretto for the opera. In the composition of the music he used the musical military signals of the k.u.k. Wehrmacht in citations., which he knew also from his childhood in the city of Teschen. After 27 years of work on the opera in summer 1944 Viktor Ullmann finished his anti-war opera in the concentration camp of Terezin as a part of the Freizeitgestaltung - leisure time activities. In special scenic arrangement Ullmann's opera was rehearsed at Terezin, but Ullmann himself did not attend the rehearsals. After the end of the rehearsals he finished the composition of his anti-war opera after years of work. In summe 1944 no performance of Ullmann's opera happened at Terezin. So 51 years later after the Terezin rehearsals on 23rd of Max 1995 Ullmann's opera was performed for the very first time at Terezin in a production of ARBOS - Company for Music and Theatre in the original version of Viktor Ullmann. This production was the best opera performance of the year 1993 in the Czech Republic. The reconstruction of the original version could be done with the help and support of the surviving musicians from Terezin, the singer Karel Berman and the violin players Paul Kling and Herbert Thomas Mandl. See also the link to the essay;
https://www.arbos.at/ullmann/downloads/HG_Karel_Berman_mr_2019%20-%20BS_VB.pdf



GESELLSCHAFT FÜR MUSIK UND THEATER

Der Kaiser von Atlantis

Inszenierung und Produktion - Herbert Gantschacher
(Salzburg/Klagenfurt)

Dramaturgie - Dževad Karahasan (Sarajevo/Salzburg)

Dirigent - Alexander Držar (Mödling/Klagenfurt)

Bühnenbild und Lichtgestaltung - Erich Meyduck (Dresden)

Kostüme - Eva-Maria Schön (Dresden)

Choreografie - Michal Caban (Prag)

Kaiser Overall - Stephen Swanson (USA)

Der Tod - Krassimir Tassev (Bulgarien)

Marlekin/Soldat - Johannes Strasser (Österreich)

Mädchen/Bubikopf - Ritsuke Ishii (Japan)

Der Trommler - Ingrid Niedermair (Österreich)

Der Lautsprecher - Rupert Bergmann (Österreich)

Orchester - ensemble kreativ (Klagenfurt) mit Günther Margiel (I. Violine), Nenad Nezmah (2. Violine), Michael Kasalicky (Viola), Klaus Alterff (Violoncelle), Igor Bittner (Kontrabaß), Günther Fliedl (Flöte, Piccolo/Flöte), Wolfgang Kremser (Klarinette), Helen Skirew (Oboe), Dietmar Urbancsek (Saxophon), Robert Mefer (Trompete), Ferdinand Neges (Gitarre), Elmo Cesentini (Klavier, Cembalo, Harmonium), Roman Flammersfeld (Schlagwerk)

"Der Kaiser von Atlantis" ist eine Produktion von ARBOS, Gesellschaft für Musik und Theater Salzburg/Klagenfurt in Kooperation mit dem Festival Kontraste Hallein (Friedrich Bahner), der Ballet Unit Cramp Prag, der Europäischen Werkstatt für Kunst und Kultur Mellerau/Dresden und dem Dresdner Zentrum für zeitgenössische Musik

Aufführungsrechte: Universal Edition Wien, Schott Mainz

VZPOMÍNKOVÝ FESTIVAL

TEREZIN.

23. KVĚTNA '95

Facsimile of the original cast of the first performance ever of Viktor Ullmann's anti-war opera "The Emperor of Atlantis or The Disobedience of Death" on 23rd of May 1995 in a production of ARBOS - Company for Music and Theatre, 51 years after the Terezin rehearsals.