

Stephen Montague

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VARSHAVIAN AUTUMN

for chorus and chamber orchestra (1995)

chorus SATB (16, 32, or more), orchestra 2.0.2.0 - 2.0.2.0 - perc(2) - strings, 20'

TME 3058 Full (Performing) Score €33,--

Written for The Orchestra and Chorus of St. John's Smith Square, London.
First performance: 8 February 1996 at Huddersfield Town Hall, Huddersfield,
Yorkshire, 9 February 1996 at St. John's Smith Square, London,
by The Orchestra and Chorus of St. John's Smith Square,
John Lubbock, conductor, chorusmaster Jeremy Jackman.

bei Tre Media Edition

Varshavian Autumn

Programme Note by Stephen Montague

In October 1972 I won a Fulbright Scholarship to work and study in Warsaw, Poland. I left sunny Florida for the adventure of two years behind "The Iron Curtain". After the long flight I arrived in Warsaw on Halloween night, the evening before All Souls' Day. As I rode into the city I was overwhelmed by what I saw. Thousands of candles flickered on graves in every cemetery. The cold, leaden sky was aglow and the whole city perfumed with the musty smell of funereal wax. I didn't even unpack my bags and went immediately to a nearby cemetery to watch the ritual. Hundreds of people passed silently along the graves crossing themselves and occasionally crying. I was deeply moved and a little scared. I was a long way away from the culture I knew where Halloween was children dressing up in funny costumes and playing "Trick or Treat".

For further information please contact:

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