

JOSEF TAL

“Imago”

Imago, for chamber orchestra, was commissioned by the Music Division of the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., to be first performed in the programme of the Brahms Festival 1983.

“I felt a noble obligation to give honour to Johannes Brahms by quoting a thematic idea in his Horn Trio. I put Brahms’ saying into a dialogue with the texture of my own composition, thereby emphasizing past and present in timeless musical content, outlasting external changes in musical language.

Imago is a one-movement composition, formed by the smallest possible sound structures. The so-called “orchestration” does not produce sound-coloured phrases, but elevates the concept of tone-colour to motivic content by itself. Consequently, the developed texture of the composition embraces all parameters, giving equal importance to everyone being engaged in rising tension or its gradual release.

In accordance with nature’s metamorphic process from the larvae to the perfect insect, called “Imago”, I used this term as title for my composition.”