

Illés Mária:

István Vántus: *Gemma* – a musical self-portrait

István Vántus' oeuvre contains about fifty compositions: among others two operas, three cantatas, and eight orchestral works. On the 80th anniversary of his birth I'm attempting to present the main characteristics of his style by analyzing one single composition. The fact that five minute long *Gemma* (1988) is a late adaptation of an installment from the most well-known Vántus composition: *Aranykoporsó* (Golden Coffin, 1975) makes this work of art interesting. In this paper I'm analyzing the wide context-system and different meanings of the last orchestra composition of Vántus. I'm also searching for the answer for the question how the *Gemma* turned from a simple adaptation into an extraordinary self-portrait.