

**NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE
OF THE ORIGINAL SCORE!**

An opera in defiance of oppression!

THE EMPEROR



of **ATLANTIS**

by
**VIK
TOR
VUL
MANN**

**OCTOBER 25, 2³⁰ PM
OCTOBER 26, 8⁰⁰ PM**



**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY
CONCERT HALL
7141 SHERBROOKE**

Produced by **ARBOS**

IN ASSOCIATION WITH B'NAI BRITH CANADA



AND WITH CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY



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Salle de Concert



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Under the auspices of the Embassy of Austria

The triumph of the human spirit!

THE EMPEROR of ATLANTIS



LIBRETTO BY
P E T R K I E N

WE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS ITS SINCERE
APPRECIATION FOR THE GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CANADIAN HERITAGE AND THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF AUSTRIA, WITHOUT WHOSE ASSISTANCE
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Programme editors: Rubin Friedman and Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer



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Office of
the Rector and Vice-Chancellor

It is difficult for us to even conceive of what daily survival might have been like in the Theresienstadt camp, in the Czech City of Terezin in 1942. There are few words to describe a “model ghetto” that tried to eradicate speech, language, culture and a people. Imagine then a figure huddled under the lights in the half-lit corridors intensely composing through the night.

Viktor Ullmann was part of the “Freizeitgestaltung” (Leisure Organization) where he organized concerts, gave lectures, taught piano, directed, reviewed, and composed. This is the wonder of the creative human spirit, refusing to cower in the face of organized brutality. Viktor Ullmann took the faded corridor light and lit a spark of beauty and hope in the deepest depths of the Nazi concentration camp.

The presentation of *The Emperor of Atlantis* is a renewal of the spirit that created 22 such works in the short span of two years. Viktor Ullmann was taken from Terezin on October 16, 1944, and murdered at Auschwitz two days later. The legacy of his art and the spirit of those who died, lives on in his works.

I wish to acknowledge the efforts of the Austrian Ambassador, his excellency Walther Lichem, Rubin Friedman, Director of Government Relations and Robert Libman, Quebec Regional Director of B'nai Brith Canada, le gouvernement du Québec, The Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre, Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer and the Concordia University Faculty of Fine Arts, without whom this Montreal premiere of *The Emperor of Atlantis* would not have been possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Lowy".

Frederick Lowy
Rector and Vice-Chancellor

