

# POEMS BY KARLA ERBOVÁ IN MUSIC

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## **Keywords**

Karla Erbová; Leon Juřica; Jiří Bezděk; Lukáš Sommer; poetry; poem; opera; cantata; melodrama; Sv. Anežka; Ariadné – řecký mýtus; A na počátku bylo slovo; Nech otevřeny dveře na zahradu, láska má; Dávno mne nikdo nepohladil; Vasquezův jestřáb; Rada příštím sebevrahům; Mrtvému zimník

## **Abstract**

On 19 March 2024, Karla Erbová, an important Czech poet who made a significant contribution to contemporary vocal music with her lyrics, died. The poetry of Karla Erbová (b. 1933) is represented in Czech music with a similar frequency as the poetry of Vladimír Holan, Václav Hraběte, Josef Kainar, Vítězslav Nezval and Jan Skácel. She became actively involved in the world of music in 1998 by collaborating with the North Moravian composer Leon Juřica. This was followed by a long-term collaboration with composer Jiří Bezděk. Their joint works include the symphonic melodrama Ariadné – a Greek myth, the cantata for solo mezzo-soprano, viola, choir, percussion and orchestra and in the beginning was the word... and the cantata Leave the door to the garden open, my love for recitation, singing and piano trio. All of the pieces have been performed on stages in Prague and beyond and have been favorably received by art critics. Karla Erbová's poems have also attracted the interest of foreign composers Holmer Becker (BRD) and Frédéric Bolli (CH), who presented songs with her texts, among other things, at a joint evening at the Droste Literaturtage literary and music festival in

Meersburg on the shores of Lake Constance. The organisers of the festival seek out successful contemporary female writers and give them the opportunity to present their creations to the audience. The composers Holmer Becker and Frédéric Bolli were attracted by Karla Erb's lyricism on the theme of love. Their settings take into account the content of the poems. They make use of free tonality and modality. Less atonality. Concern for understanding and correct declamation led both authors to careful preparation, which included the acquisition of recordings of the recitation of the poems by a native speaker.