

The rock opera Swastika was written by Danish composer H.W. Gade in 1974. It is a very special opera or "musical", with the eternal fight between Good and Evil as the central theme. The lyrics are deeply emotional despite of the harsh realities of Nazi Germany, written in the archaic style peculiar to H.W. Gade's early works. The music, however, is highly advanced, played by a rock band with 2 guitars, two pianos and a choir of 16 singers. Among the highlights, are the songs "O, these Chimneys" and "You're drawing me upwards", both with lyrics by Nobel Price winning Jewish poet Nelly Sachs.

FACTS

Contents

Swastika has 3 main vocals and a mixed choir of 16 voices (S/A/T/B). The orchestra consists of 2 guitarists, 2 piano/organ players, 1 bass player, 1 drummer and 1 flute / clarinet player. The scenography incorporates a film screen.

Printed Editions

CD-ROM: [ISBN 87-88619-85-0], Microsoft Windows 3.1[®] or higher, Microsoft Internet Explorer[®], Adobe Acrobat Reader[®] 4.0, MIDI card (Sound-Blaster AWE 64 recommended).

Swastika was released in a paper edition in 1985, including text, all vocal and chorus parts and chord symbols.

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Swastika



Fighting the Devil

Rock Opera in 18 Scenes
by H.W. Gade



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The Lance of Longinus

According to occult myths, the lance of the Roman soldier Longinus, who stabbed the dead Jesus in the side on Swastika, became extremely powerful by touching the blood of our Lord. Since then, every world conqueror has tried to steal the lance and misuse its power. One of the tyrants was Hitler.

Hitler steals the Lance

After Golgotha, we travel to Vienna in Austria, 1909. Hitler lurks around the lance in the Museum. He is obsessed with evil and the will to conquer the world. He wants the lance.

Rudolf Steiner, Saint of the Well-meaning

The father figure of all progressive, open-minded people in Germany, the great School Founder and religious thinker Rudolf Steiner, is the antagonist of Hitler. Up in the mountains, we find the old man sitting, looking at the world.

The Third Reich Triumphs

Hitler awakes one morning, determined to fulfil his evil dreams. The old Rudolf Steiner dreams are filled with fear. In his dreams, he sees the Cherub threatening Hitler with destruction and fire. Hitler only laughs and Steiner awakes in great sadness.

The Death of Rudolf Steiner

The old thinker, the master of the Good Will and the strong spirit, does not live to see the fall of the tyrant. In his last years, he witnesses the burning of the Goetheannum, his life work, and the infamous rise of the Nazis. It seems that all he ever fought for has been lost to the dark forces.

Holocaust

Now Hitler has become dictator in Germany and the intellectuals have been murdered or exiled, he can concentrate on his original plan, the killing of all Jews, Slaves, Gypsies, Handicapped and Homosexuals. We witness the Holocaust through the poems of Nelly Sachs.

The Battle of Stalingrad and the Fall of Hitler

On the top of his power, Hitler sacrifices 200,000 soldiers in the battle of Stalingrad. Once again, Russia has slain a conquering enemy from the West. Hitler is now falling. The opera Swastika ends with the Cherub killing Hitler and the blinding light of the first atom bomb.



Jewish Partisans in Poland