Peter Machajdík

IN MEMORIAM (V.K.)

2023

3 organ meditations in memory of Vladimír Krčméry

Vladimír Krčméry (23 July 1960 – 20 December 2022) was a Slovak physician, humanitarian and academic. He was born in Bratislava to a Catholic family. His uncle Silvester Krčméry was among the leaders of the Catholic dissent, working underground in the opposition to the Communist regime and spending much of his life in prison.

As a doctor, Vladimír Krčméry became known as a prominent specialist in the area of tropical medicine. In 2007 he was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Scranton.

Krčméry was the founder of the St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work (SEU), which trained medical and social work professionals. Krčméry used the college as a basis for his humanitarian work, setting up medical facilities across the developing world, including in Kenya, Cambodia and Haiti. Since 2015, the college became active in providing medical assistance to refugees travelling through Slovakia as well as Balkan countries.

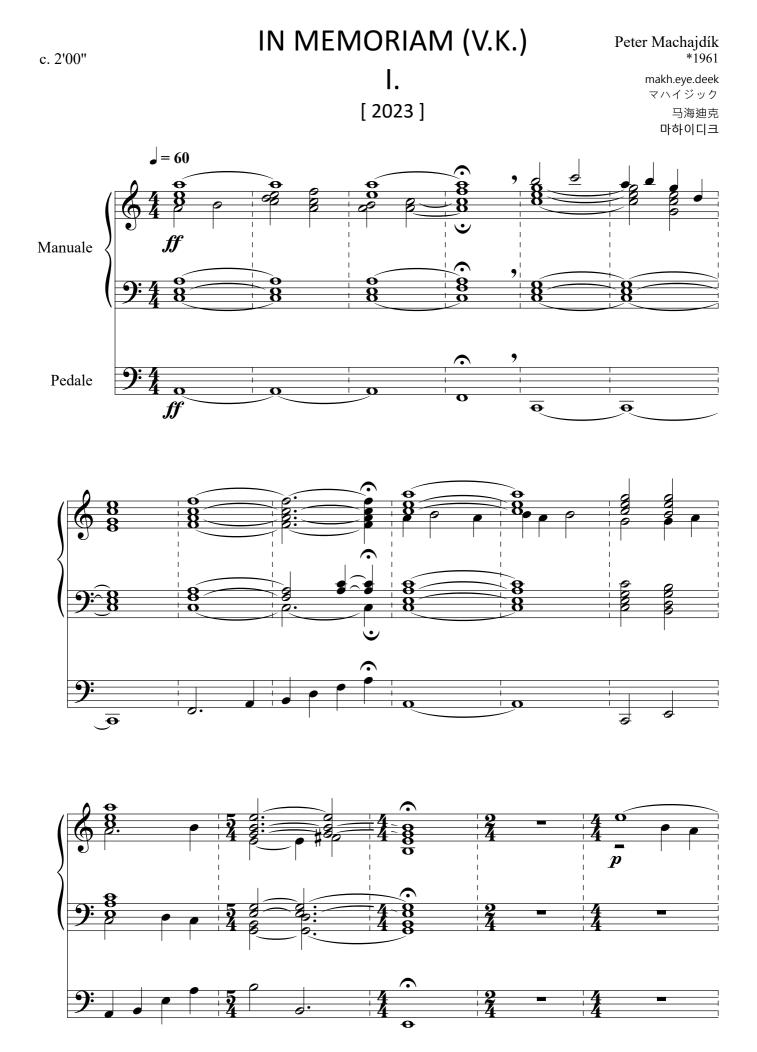
Vladimír Krčméry was a prominent member of the government advisory team during the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to his prominent role in the vaccination campaign, Krčméry and his family became a target of anti-vaxxers, who physically threatened him and his family.

Krčméry died on 20 December 2022 in Bratislava from complications associated with pneumonia. After his death, several politicians praised his life achievements. Slovak president Zuzana Čaputová stressed Krčméry's devotion to helping the poor around the world. Prime Minister Eduard Heger likewise praised Krčméry for his work to help "the poorest of the poor".

The tempo 60 bpm of each part of the work symbolises the year of Krčméry's birth -1960. The number of measures of each part of the work symbolises the year of his death -2022.

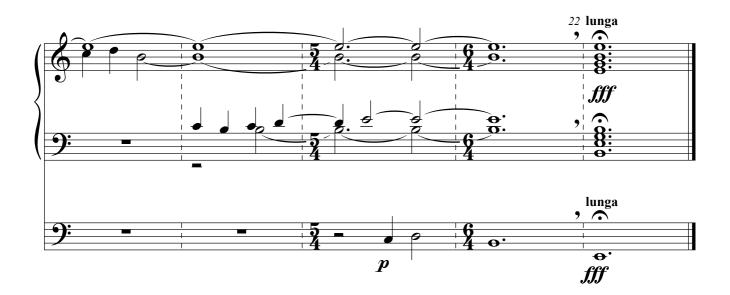
Composed at the request of Peter Machajdík's classmate from the gymnasium (high school) in Bratislava, organist Ján Kusenda.

In the late 1970s, Vladimír Krčméry went to the same gymnasium as Peter Machajdík and Ján Kusenda.



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II.





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