

Baltas paukštis **Prayer – The White Songbird**

Music and lyrics: Vytautas Kernagis

Keyboard: Andrius Kulikauskas

Choir arrangement: Vytautas Miškinis

Maestro Vytautas Kernagis has said: “Every person understands things his own way. The correctness of my songs is this: the created song has to be interesting not only to me, but also to the listener. If that occurs, the song will not die and will survive the passage of time. That which continually affects our emotions is correct.”

His son Vytautas shares these insights into his father’s compositions: “Truthful songs are those that fulfill you. Those which give you something or provide you the strength to move forward. I believe that is the essence of Vytautas Kernagis’ compositions. Every one of his songs tells a story.”

“The range of Vytautas Kernagis’ compositions is so deep and wide that everyone who listens to his songs finds something different. I can only say that he loved the listening public unconditionally, had the utmost respect for the stage, and he always knew what message he wanted to get across in his songs. He didn’t do anything that was superficial or not thought out. I suppose that is what created his uniqueness, which is hard to explain.”

“The White Songbird” is one of Vytautas Kernagis’ most memorable and beloved songs. The melancholy and nostalgic mood of the song speaks of a person’s life and longings. Kernagis speaks of the fragility and temporary nature of life, symbolized by the white songbird. The songbird is understood to represent freedom of one’s spirit, although it can also symbolize the fragility of our life and dreams. Kernagis uses the white songbird as a metaphor to convey universal feelings associated with our existence and place in the world. The song ends with the wish that the songbird will continue to sing. New generations will come after us and continue the works we have begun.

Sources: Quotations from Internet websites and <https://www.bernardinai.lt/zyma/vytauto-kernagio-gyvenimas-ir-kuryba/>