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## The forest we could not see - Program Note

The forest we could not see was commissioned as part of the PODIUM Festival's "Seven Last Words" project, with contemporary responses to Joseph Haydn's "The Seven Last Words of Our Redeemer on the Cross," and premiering in April 2023 throughout Festival performances in Esslingen, Germany.

The work is inspired by the below quote and statement from writer Simoné Goldschmidt-Lechner, based on workshops for topic of climate science held by the PODIUM Festival:

***"The forest we could not see for the trees would not have wanted to be stopped in its dying moments."***

*We speak of apocalypse when we speak of climate crisis – which is a problem, because the process is gradual, not immediate/visible enough.*

*We associate words like catastrophe and apocalypse with something sudden, with an elemental force that overtakes us, with the sudden end of the world in one day - then we can be heroes. Just for one day.*

*We cannot calculate when the exact day will be, instead it drags on forever and for years, no matter what we do, how we approach this crisis, whether we do or don't, it's up to youth to bring about change, to persevere. All of this while the destruction of works of art that should be preserved for the benefit of humanity remains more important than humanity itself. Waking up every day and remembering anew that things could improve if we only worked together, eternally convincing ourselves and others again and again of indisputable facts, speaking uncomfortable truths, waking those in slumber, calling comfort into question, how to endure, how to keep motivation alive, what can motivate us now?*

*This is a systemic problem, not an individual one, and yet we tell each other to go vegan, ride bikes, surely this will counteract the pollution by private jets and companies. We know we will not be able to reach the goals we need more than one day we need all the days that remain before the point of no return is passed (if that hasn't already happened.)*

*- Simoné Goldschmidt-Lechner*