Alfred Shnitke (A. Schnittke) „Contractuals“ (1991)

This year Lithuania celebrates the 13th of January for the 27th time. This day almost every year we can hear a composition of a famous Russian composer Alfred Schnittke “Contractuals”- Lithuanian folk songs, arranged for percussion, organ and the strings, chamber orchestra. It is a modest writing, which has an eloquent history and a meaningful tradition, which was started and consolidated by a conductor Saulius Sondeckis.
A. Schnittke, a buddy of Lithuania and composer, was shocked by the tragic events in Lithuania and, having understanding all the pain our nation was surviving, decided to express his feelings in a composition. Composer had created a piece for a chamber orchestra and dedicated it for Lithuanian people. A. Schnittke had got to know about the lurit events of Vilnius, discovered a set of Lithuanian contractual, chose the most suitable ones for his conception and overnight wrote a masterpiece as a remembrance about the struggle for independence, spiritual strength, firmness and volition of Lithuanians. The very first performance of this work has taken place in Vilnius, February 5, 1995. Lithuanian Chamber Orchestra was conducted by Saulius Sondeckis.

(Saulius Sondeckis and Alfred Schnittke. Photo from S.Sondeckiene's personal archive)

>>>