

***Lines V / Hanukkah* for bass clarinet, violine, cello and accordion (2018)**

As a non-believer, religious festivals do not mean a great deal to me. I find it difficult to identify with their historical and cultural background, which do not seem to resonate with me and the world I live in.

Irrespective of culture and religion, what I am able to appreciate when it comes to festivals of light is the notion of hope. In times of gloom and darkness, the wish for light and warmth is a basic human need which can be articulated in different ways: by both religious rites and works of art, most poignantly perhaps when people express utopian hopes (we know that all people will never be brothers – and this is precisely why we celebrate, time and again, a work that expresses this hope in such an inspiring way).

In my short piece, the bass clarinet plays a line which leads from its lowest note to its highest register. I have borrowed the structure of this upwards movement from the Jewish Hanukkah festival: in eight successively shorter sections, an increasing number of high notes are played: one in the first section, two in the second and eight in the final eighth section. The accordion, violin and cello are the instruments that play these notes, thereby creating a harmonic space that becomes gradually brighter.

The resulting musical process can be regarded as an expression of hope – and each individual can choose what to hope for.