

This work was commissioned by the Brundibár Arts Festival in honour of Sir Nicholas Winton, premiered on 4 February 2020. In 1939, 669 children from Jewish families were rescued by Sir Nicholas from Czechoslovakia before the country's occupation by Nazi Germany. This rescue was predominantly through the use of eight trains (with a ninth that was intercepted before the children were able to be saved).

This piece connects to Sir Nicholas' story in three primary ways. Firstly, in structure, the work corresponds as a microcosm of the arrival times of each train (the seven durations between each). Secondly, the piece is centred around between E5 (647.27Hz.) and F5 (685.76), the corresponding frequency for those 669 children saved. This frequency begins and ends the work. Finally, the piece gravitates towards but never arrives at a lullaby, 'Wiegala', written by the composer Ilse Weber, who was imprisoned in Terezin before she was sent to Auschwitz where she died in the gas chambers with her youngest son. Her oldest son, Hanus, survived as he was sent to UK on the kindertransport organised by Sir Nicholas Winton. Ilse wrote songs to sing to children in the ghetto. It is said that Ilse sang to her son and many other children as she accompanied them voluntarily into the gas chambers.

The title of the work are the words attributed to a woman greeting some of the children. As they arrived to be taken to their new home she greeted them with the words, 'You will be loved.'

The composer would like to extend his deep thanks to the Brundibár Arts Festival for this commission and to all those involved with this artistic endeavour.

S.Q.Smith