

Eppur Si Muove (2006) **(And Yet, it Does Turn)**

Eppur Si Muove (And Yet it Does Move) is inspired by the lives and achievements of two great scientists, philosophers and writers: Nicolaus Copernicus and Galileo Galilei. The title of the piece comes from the words which, according to legend, Galileo said to himself after leaving the session of the Inquisition that had found him guilty of heresy and believing in the Copernican notion that the Sun, not the Earth, is at the center of the universe. The piece is divided into two main sections. The lyrics of the first section are chosen from *Commentariolus* (Little Commentary), a manuscript that Copernicus distributed to his friends in 1514, and in which he introduced, for the first time, his hypothesis of heavenly motions, with the Sun at the center of the universe. *Commentariolus* itself contains seven axioms, the principles on which Copernicus based his theory, which was depicted in great detail in his major work *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* (On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Motions), published in 1543. Those seven axioms are set to music in the first part of the piece in its original Latin version.

The second part of the piece (*attaca*) is set to two texts by Galileo Galilei. The texts are carefully chosen to illustrate the difficulties faced by those who promoted the new heliocentric theory and to honor the courage and genius of individuals like Galileo Galilei, who devoted their lives to popularizing it and proving its accuracy. The lyrics of the first section of the second part of the piece are composed to the words that Galileo was ordered to say in front of the Inquisition. The abjuration in which Galileo was forced to denounce the heliocentric theory is one of the most dramatic moments in the history of humanity and shows the struggle of individuality against an established system of beliefs. In order to show Galileo's real convictions, I decided to use, in the final part of the piece, a fragment of his letter to Kepler from 1597 in which, for the first time, Galileo depicts his real beliefs. The piece is a collaborative work with visual artist Julie Rafalski, who created the video portion of the composition. *Eppur Si Muove* is dedicated to my parents, Karolina and Tadeusz Wolek.
Krzysztof Wolek

The video for *Eppur Si Muove* was filmed through various lenses and prisms, calling to mind telescopes and other optical devices that have been used in scientific enquiry. The camera documents an individual's exploration (in contrast to officially established viewpoints) of the surrounding world, examining the bending and warping of spaces.

Julie Rafalski