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Having waxed almost lyrical on the power of the written word in [another post](#) this morning on the power of writing, I am overdue to share this piece in a different medium from another creative friend, Mark Northfield:

https://youtu.be/E2j3PuRTlcI?si=llbITVqHCruGKNE_

As Mark said of this to me in an email:

This one is a musically symbolic classical instrumental with a very obvious 'message', developed from one of my rough homemade piano recordings posted back in March 2022. It's a more fully realised and properly recorded trio arrangement entwining the official anthem of Europe - Beethoven's 'Ode to Joy', of course - with the national anthem of Ukraine. As the piece progresses, Russia's invasion (and Putin's imperial ambition) is noted with a brief use of Mussorgsky from 'The Great Gate of Kiev' movement of Pictures At An Exhibition. However, the two anthems resume with vigour and entwine once more with greater complexity, finishing the piece in defiance and determination.

Mark timed the release of this piece to mark the second anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. I am late in sharing it. I do so now, noting again the idea that a person possessed of a powerful idea and the means to express it has real power. No wonder so many politicians hate the arts in all their forms.