## Stephen Hill

"...and the pursuit of happiness"

String Orchestra (Grade 4)

SARAHTIM Music Publishing

## **Instrumentation**

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Piano 1

Piano 2

Duration - ca. 4:35



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#### About the Work...

This work, composed in 1995, is scored for String Orchestra and Two Pianos. The 1st and 2nd Violins have distinct melodic material that repeats throughout the piece. As the music progresses, the distance between the entrances of the 1st and 2nd violin parts begins to get farther apart. Eventually, the melodic material realigns to the beginning of the music. The modulations at the interval of the minor 3rd are sudden and random, often in the middle of the melodic material. The piece is propelled forward by the ostinato patterns of the Cellos, Basses, and Pianos. The title comes from the Preamble to the Declaration of Independence -

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—"

Life can be hectic, challenging, and fast-paced, with sudden and unexpected twists and turns that may or may not be all bad. Happiness is a choice amid life's challenges.

Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. Length of days is in her right hand, In her left-hand riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her,

And happy are all who retain her.

Proverbs 3:13-18 NKIV

#### About the Composer...

Stephen Hill (b.1958) was born and raised in Southern California. His compositional lineage includes the likes of Roy Harris, Ingolf Dahl, Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, and Howard Hanson through study with Philip Westin (Cerritos College, 1976-1978) and most notably with W. Francis McBeth at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas (1978-1980). Stephen continued with graduate work at California State University, Los Angeles (1980-83) with composers Dr. Byong Kon Kim and William Hill. He composes for the simple joy of it.

For over 40 years, Stephen taught K-12 instrumental music concurrently in both the Private Christian School (Whittier Christian) and Public School (California High School) settings. Though semi-retired, Stephen still works with students by continuing to teach part-time at California High School and maintaining his private music studio, where he plays and teaches Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, and Piano. Stephen also plays with the church orchestra at Calvary Chapel, La Habra, CA. where he attends. When teaching full-time, he was primarily a "summer" composer. No longer teaching full-time, Stephen has the privilege to compose beyond just the summer months and publishes through his company, SARAHTIM–a title which comes from simply combining the name of his daughter Sarah and son Timothy. (Notes by Dr. John Burdett, Azusa Pacific University)

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"Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence." A.S. Bach

"The Lord is my shepherd..." (Psalm 23)

"Before the mountains were born, before you gave birth to the earth and the world, from eternity to eternity, you are God" (Psalm 90:2)





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