

Stephen Hill

# “The Prairie”

*(An impression of the poem, The Prairie by Rudyard Kipling)*

for  
Violin and Piano



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In the summer of 2015, I took a road trip to Omaha, Neb. to visit with my friends Ken and Ruth Meints, (both colleagues with whom I had taught together at Whittier Christian Schools). While there, I shared a copy of *The Prairie*. Ruth asked me to re-score it from a work for Solo Tuba to a work for Solo Violin for her "Frontier Strings" at the Omaha Conservatory of Music. Ken quickly noted it's not often an original work for solo tuba is re-scored for solo violin. It's usually the other way around.

Since I had my laptop with me, Ruth and I spent the evening adapting *The Prairie*, for Solo Violin. We transposed the key from the original key of Bb, to the key of G. Ruth divided up the phrases for 3 Violin Soloists, and then worked out the specific bowings. We made the changes in Sibelius and on my return to California, I orchestrated the original Tuba and Piano part for Violin and Orchestra. The new setting was premiered by the "Frontier Strings" of the Omaha Conservatory of Music accompanied by the Omaha Symphony with Enrico Lopez-Yanez, conducting.

### *The Prairie by Rudyard Kipling*

*I see the grass shake in the sun for leagues on either hand,  
I see a river loop and run about a treeless land --  
An empty plain, a steely pond, a distance diamond-clear;  
And low blue naked hills beyond. And what is that to fear?"*

*"Go softly by that river-side or, when you would depart,  
You'll find its every winding tied and knotted round your heart.  
Be wary as the seasons pass, or you may ne'er outrun  
The wind that sets that yellowed grass a-shiver 'neath the Sun."*

*I hear the summer storm outblown -- the drip of the grateful wheat.  
I hear the hard trail telephone a far-off horse's feet.  
I hear the horns of Autumn blow to the wild-fowl overhead;  
And I hear the hush before the snow. And what is that to dread?"*

*"Take heed what spell the lightning weaves -- what charm the echoes shape --  
Or, bound among a million sheaves, your soul shall not escape.  
Bar home the door of summer nights lest those high planets drown  
The memory of near delights in all the longed-for town."*

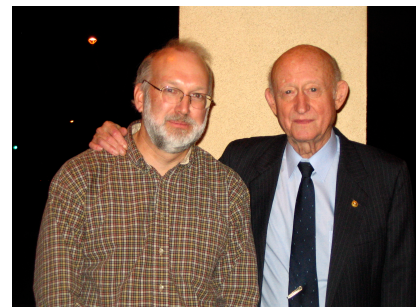
*"What need have I to long or fear? Now, friendly, I behold  
My faithful seasons robe the year in silver and in gold.  
Now I possess and am possessed of the land where I would be,  
And the curve of half Earth's generous breast shall soothe and ravish me!"*

### ***About the Composer...***

I was born in 1958 and raised in Southern California. I live and teach in Whittier, Ca. where I have taught Band and Orchestra for over 35 years. The last 25 years were spent teaching at the K-6 Band and Orchestra at Maybrook Campus of Whittier Christian Schools. I currently teach privately and direct the Orchestra at California High School in Whittier, Ca.

I studied with Composer, Philip Westin (a student of Roy Harris and Ingolf Dahl) at Cerritos College (1976-77), and with Composer Dr. W. Francis McBeth (who was a student of Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, and Howard Hanson) at Ouachita Baptist University (1978-80), in Arkadelphia, Ark. I went to Ouachita to specifically study with Dr. McBeth who afforded me a great deal of personal time and would often invite me to his home to visit where we discussed everything from music to fishing. We remained good friends for over 30 years until his death in 2012. I did my graduate work at California State University, Los Angeles under Composers Dr. Byong Kon Kim, and William Hill.

I compose for the simple joy of it. I have written for Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, Chorus, Piano and Solo Instrumental works. I self-publish my music through SARAHTIM Music Publishing, named for my daughter Sarah and my son Tim.



Stephen Hill [www.stephenhillcomposer.com](http://www.stephenhillcomposer.com)

*"Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:7-8 NIV)*

# The Prairie

(An impression from the Rudyard Kipling poem, *The Prairie*)

Stephen Hill (ASCAP)

Plainly

Violin

Piano

8

Vln.

mp accel.....

rit.....

mp accel.....

ten.

15

Vln.

rit.....

p

23

Vln.

p

mp

mp

PERUSALSCOPE

The Prairie

32

Vln.

*p* *mp* *mf*

39

Vln.

*f* *mp* *mf*

ten. Tutti

**C**

46

Vln.

*p* *mp*

Tutti

**D**

53

Vln.

*mf* *mp*

*mp* *p*