The Prairie (after the poem by Rudyard Kipling)

for Solo Tuba and Piano

by Stephen Hill (ASCAP)

SARAHTIM Music Publishing

About the Work...

Composed in 2007, *The Prairie*, was written at the request of Peter Alexander (Alexander Publishing) and is part of a larger project of Solo Compositions written for each major instrument of the Orchestra: *Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn in F, Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Violin, Viola, Cello and Double Bass*. The project consisted of composing music to specific poems chosen by Peter that he felt reflected the character of each instrument. For the Solo Tuba, the poem assigned was *The Prairie* by Rudyard Kipling.

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!"

Website: https://www.stephenhillcomposer.com
Soundcloud: https://soundcloud.com/sarahtim-music/sets/the-prairie-tuba-and-wind

About the Composer...

Stephen Hill (b.1958), was born and raised in Southern California. He 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. He did his graduate work at California State University, Los Angeles (1980-84) under Composers Dr. Byong Kon Kim, and William Hill.

Stephen Hill composes for the simple joy of it. He writes for Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, Chorus, Piano and Solo Instrumental works. He self-publishes his music through SARAHTIM Music Publishing, named for his daughter Sarah and his son Tim.

He taught Band and Orchestra for over 37 years. The last 25 years were spent teaching K-8th Band and Orchestra at the Maybrook Campus of Whittier Christian Schools. He currently teaches privately and directs the Orchestra at California High School in Whittier, Ca.

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"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)

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The Prairie

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

Stephen Hill (ASCAP)

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