Stephen Hill

McBeth: Fanfare and Hymn

Concert Band

(Grade 4)



Instrumentation

Piccolo
Flute 1-2
Oboe
Bb Clarinet 1-3
Bb Bass Clarinet
Bassoon

Eb Alto Saxophone 1-2
Bb Tenor Saxophone
Eb Baritone Saxophone

Bb Trumpet 1-3
French Horn 1-4
Trombone 1-3
Euphonium
Tuba

String Bass

Timpani
Percussion
(S.D., B.D., Tenor Drum, 3 Toms, Gong, Cymbals)
Mallets
(Chimes, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Glockenspiel)

Piano

Duration - ca. 4:50



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About the Work...

McBeth - Fanfare and Hymn: This piece was composed for the California High School (Whittier) combined Band and Orchestra to perform as the 2014 Graduation Recessional. My colleague, Doug Nordquist, director of Bands at California High School, was informed that the Administration wanted to have a formal Recessional for the Graduation Ceremonies. Doug and I discussed several possible pieces in the established Band repertoire. With three weeks to go before Graduation, I took out my sketchbook where I write down musical themes and motifs, and started to compose a recessional sketch. I sent the short sketch to Doug, and he immediately responded with his approval and asked if I could finish it in time. I completed the piece during two weekends, which then left one week for the Band and Orchestra to rehearse it for the upcoming Graduation. My cherished memory of the evening took place on the way back to the band room after the Graduation Ceremony. Walking near some of the students in the percussion section, I could overhear a few of them humming the "Hymn" tune. I consider having members of the percussion section humming music I had composed a very cool honor indeed.

The piece begins with a short fanfare that moves into a lyrical hymn tune. The second tune propels the work forward, followed by a brief percussion break. The percussion break gives the members in that section, (the ones who usually end up standing around during Pomp and Circumstance) a chance to play something as they might find in a "Drum-line". The work returns to the beginning fanfare with a restatement of both tunes and eventually ends with a massive chordal statement that builds from the lower to the upper instruments in a timbre pyramid.

The title, McBeth, is a tribute to my composition teacher, Dr. W. Francis McBeth. It was at Ouachita Baptist University that I received the personal attention of Dr. McBeth. He showed genuine interest in both my compositions for his class and in me. One memory took place in the hallway while I was on my way to class. Dr. McBeth came up to me and said, "Stephen, I was thinking about your piece last night, and I have an idea for it." I was encouraged that he was thinking about my piece outside of class. He was a very kind teacher and friend. Being from California and going to school in Arkansas, I did not go home on weekends, so Dr. McBeth would often invite me to his house to visit with him. We would talk not just about music, but faith in God, purpose in life, and also a love for fishing. We stayed in touch for over thirty years until his passing in 2012.

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." J.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)

(Dr. W. Francis McBeth 1933-2012)

McBeth - Fanfare and Hymn

Stephen Hill (ASCAP)



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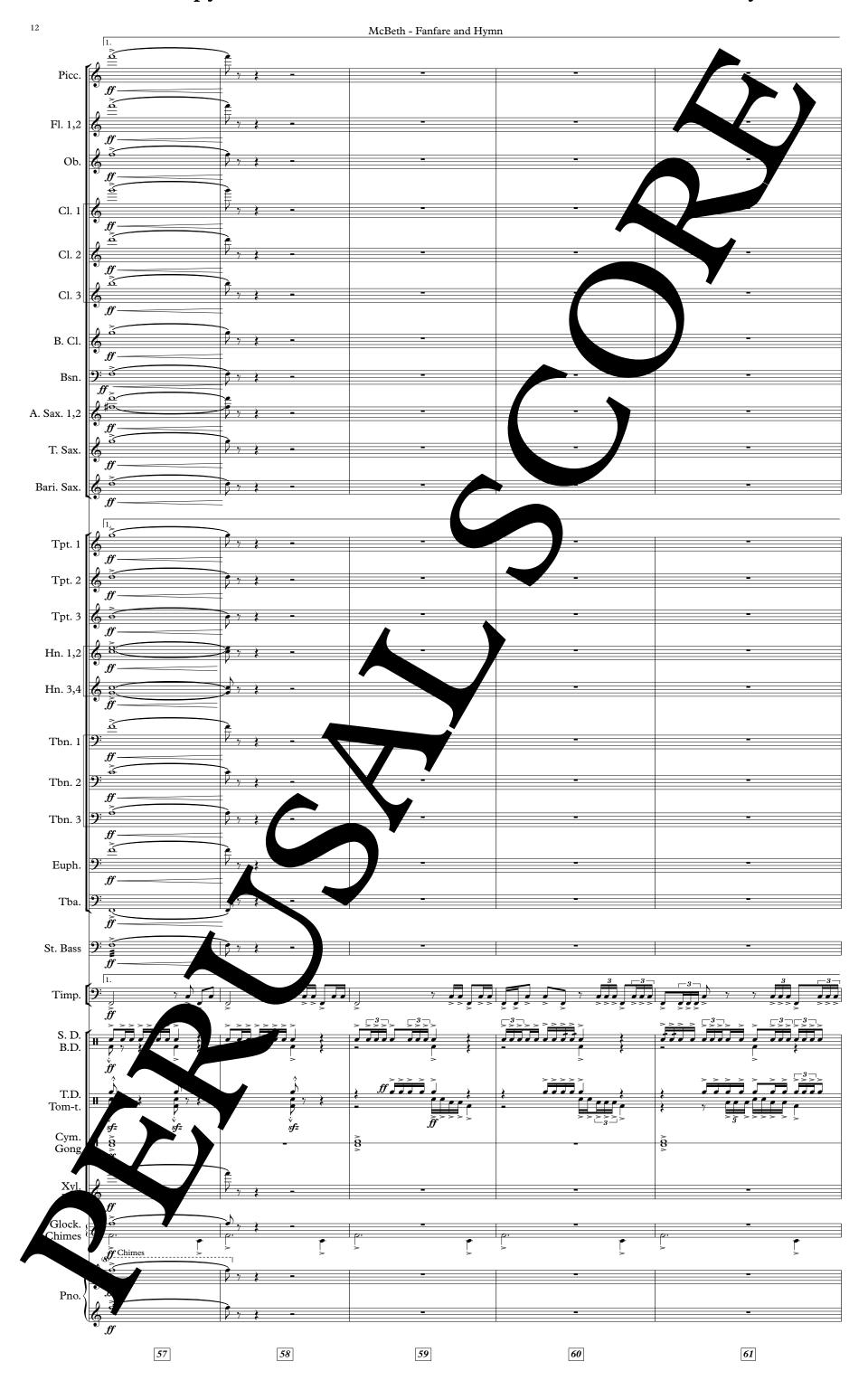




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