

About the Score Cover...

With 1120 pieces, I cannot remember ever including a page about the artwork.

We begin with the *Prayer of Dietrich Bonhoeffer*, a German Lutheran Minister who was condemned to Death for his involvement in *Operation Walküre*. He had written the prayer shortly before his 9 April 1945 execution.

By gracious powers so wonderfully sheltered,
and confidently waiting, come what may,
we know that God is with us night and morning,
and never fails to greet us each new day.

Yet is this heart by its old foe tormented,
still evil days bring burdens hard to bear;
O give our frightened souls the sure salvation
for which, O Lord, you taught us to prepare.

And when this cup you give is filled to brimming
with bitter sorrow, hard to understand,
we take it thankfully and without trembling,
out of so good and so beloved a hand.

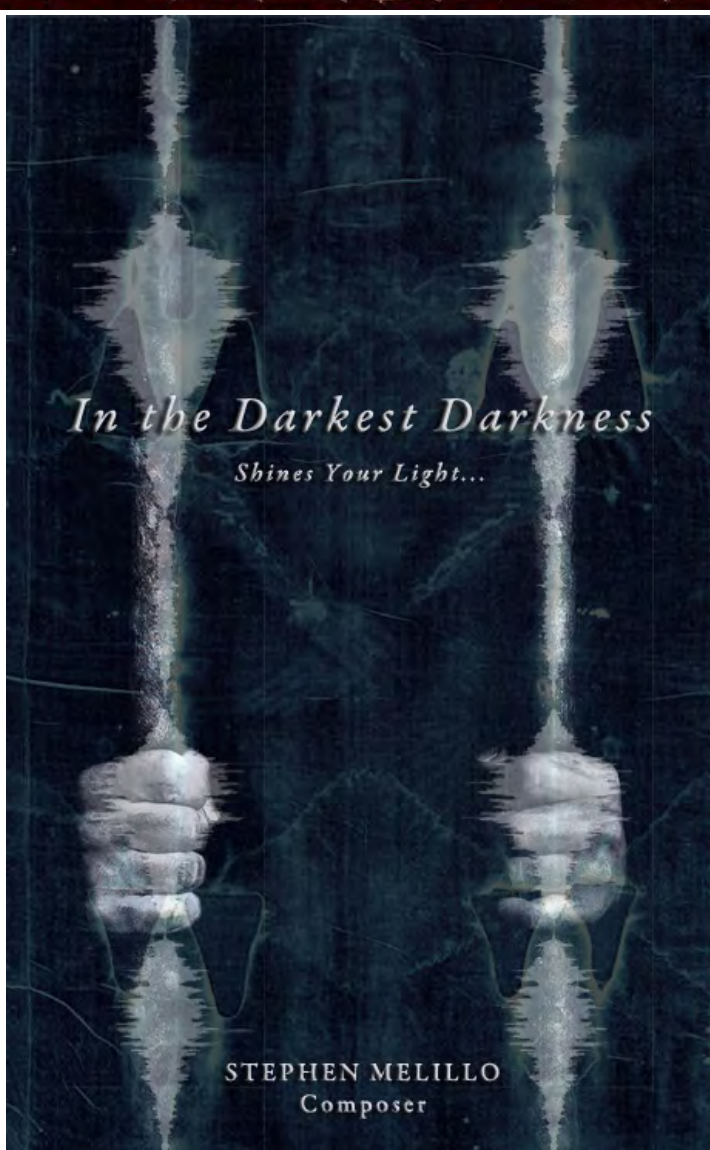
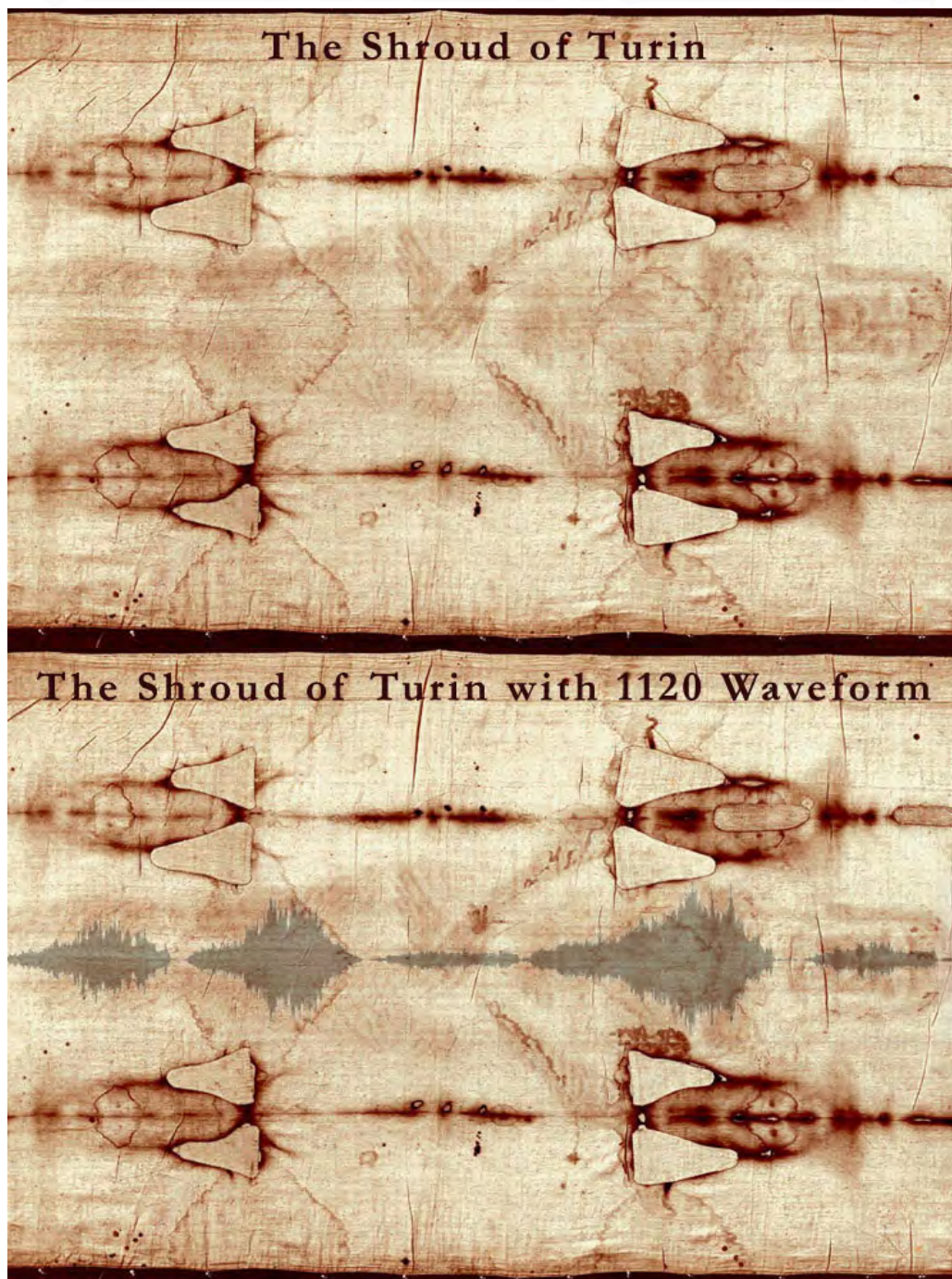
Yet when again in this same world you give us
the joy we had, the brightness of your sun,
we shall remember all the days we lived through,
and our whole life shall then be yours alone.

Looking at the “Waveform” of the MIDI demo sent to Jens, it reminded me of the “*Shroud of Turin*.” For those who know the pieces “*Escape from Plato’s Cave*” and “*By Love Compelled*,” you will know that I grew up with an authority on the Shroud, *Father Peter M. Rinaldi*.

When I placed the Waveform on the Image of the Shroud... well, look for yourself. I knew this was part of what Jens wanted and what Dietrich Bonhoeffer must have well understood from his prison cell.

The images then combined, serves to depict much the same message as “*Escape from Plato’s Cave*” or “*By Love Compelled*,” or indeed all of the “*Storm*” works.... that even *in the Darkest Darkness, Shines His Light...*

Godspeed! Stephen Melillo



In the Darkest Darkness Shines Your Light...

#1120... Musical Haiku #59 in 5:33
for Wind Symphony of the 3rd Millennium™ & optional Chorus
by © STEPHEN MELILLO IGNA 6 November 2015
2nd & 3rd Millennium

Commissioned by Jens Schröer
Dedicated to the Enduring Memory of Heinz Schröer
and to all those who choose the pursuit of Light

The score notes begin with Jens' words. The sum this small work.

“Dear Stephen, It's the birthdate of my father, who died last year of cancer. At the funeral I played with the small village band your work “Never Forgotten”... Since 20th of July, I had a great wish: Papa loved the hopefully words/the “poem” of **Dietrich Bonhoeffer's** new year wishes. It was written in late December 1944 in a Gestapo prison, as a new year approached under threatening circumstances. The threats were real, and Bonhoeffer would be killed within four months. But he wrote the poem that began:

“By gracious powers so faithfully protected,
So quietly, so wonderfully near,
I'll live each day in hope, with you beside me,
And go with you into the coming year.”

Even in the worst of times, Bonhoeffer found reason for hope in God's future that we may know in this life. Even when “*evil days bring burdens hard to bear,*” we may still know God present, and that “*in our darkness shines your light.*”

In February 1945, Bonhoeffer was taken to *Buchenwald* concentration camp and finally to the *Flossenbürg* concentration camp. It was there, on April 9, 1945 (*shortly before the end of World War II*), that he was condemned and executed on Hitler's order, together with other resistance fighters.

I would like to ask you, if you see a possibility to write a piece in honor of my father, Heinz Schröer!

Surely this poem is quiet often set to music - in Germany there's a popular tune, we also sang on his funeral, but I could imagine, that you are the right person to write out these wonderful lines for my wind band, the Bläserphilharmonie Osnabrück (www.blaeserphilharmonie-os.de).

So I thought of something like an HAIKU with choir... in that case I would put it as encore on the program...

But the first question: Could you even imagine to write the piece? Hoping to hear from you...

Herzlich, Jens

In the Darkest Darkness

Shines Your Light...

From Silence, Slowly mm@42

#1120, Musical Haiku #59 in 5:33 for Band M3 & Chorus
by © STEPHEN MELILLO IGNA 2 November 2015, 2-3 Millennium
ASCAP

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

This musical score is for a concert band and chorus. It features 35 staves, including vocal parts and various instruments. The key signature is three flats (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into measures 0 through 9. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) enter in measure 4. The instrumental parts (Flute 1-3, Oboe 1-2, Bassoons 1-2, Clarinets 1-3, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Alto Sax 1-2, Tenor Sax 1-2, Baritone Sax, Horn 1-3, Trumpet 1-3, Euphonium 1-2, Trombone 1-2, Bass Trombone, Tuba, PAD Bass, Orch Bells, Chimes, Timpani, Sus. Crash. B. Drum, and Gongs) enter in measure 6. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). A 'Solo' marking is present for Horn 1 in measure 5. A note for the Tuba part indicates 'Double 8vb in lowest octaves'. The score concludes in measure 9.