

QUERENCIA!



STEPHENMELILLO, COMPOSER



A brief explanation of a fascinating History.

The artwork to the left was created in **1998**. The title of the suite was a play on the words, “**Arabian Nights**” Until 2003 the suite called “**American Knights**”. That title has since been changed to “*A Wish to the World*”.

While the old artwork alone is striking and *eerily foreboding* given its creation date, the intent of the Music is even *more* so.

Before 11 September 2001, there was a notion that “*heroes were a thing of the past*”. This Suite was offered as a counter theme. I wanted to let student Musicians know that there *were* Heroes... all around us all of the time. Indeed, I could have written an almost infinite number of pieces about a great many people throughout Geography and Time.

Then, on **11 September 2001**, the idea of Heroism was revisited. The original intent of “**American Knights**”, from the Music to its artwork became an **all-too-close-to-reality** foretelling. When one looks at the same artwork *after* 11 September 2001, it takes on a meaning beyond the intentions of the Music. Our friends across the world, who have grown rapidly, and who take the English language quite literally, have helped to inspire this new title.

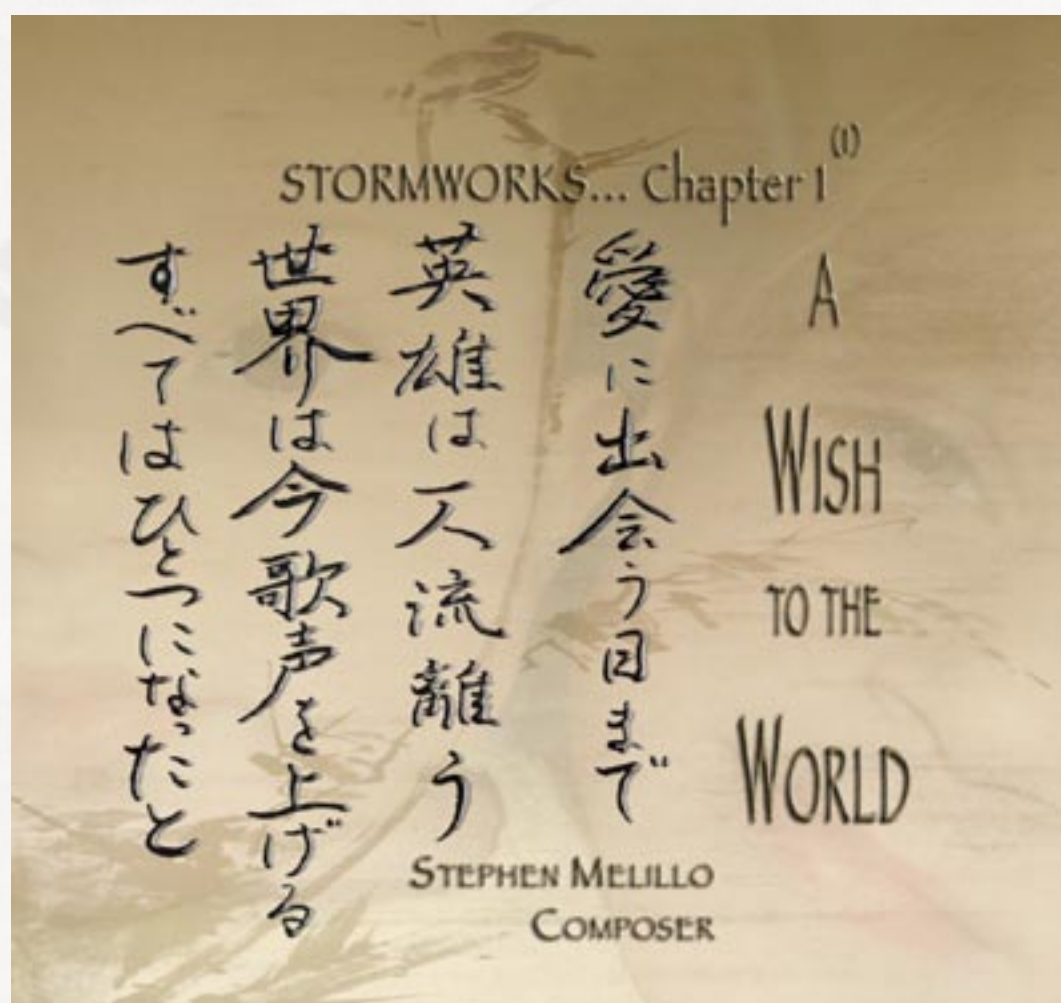
In an effort to applaud the Heroism for which this Music was originally and purposefully composed, the suite finds its new title, “**A Wish to the World.**” The wish? That all of us once again embrace those Heroes alive and sacrificed, the Souls of Heroes from all over the World and vastly different Times, who have embodied self-sacrifice, Kindness and Love.

The new artwork comes from the piece, **MUSASHI**. This work is about a great Hero to the Japanese people. Musashi had become a master of the Sword, only to give it up for the cause of Art and the pursuit of Poetry and Love.

Here is the translation of the Chinese Poet text from **Musashi**, written in the form of a Shinto Prayer Song. In this we find the Spirit with which “**A Wish to the World**” is humbly offered.

Godspeed!

Alone the Hero walks
Until Love finds him
The World sings now
For all is one



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QUERENCIA!

Courage in the Face of Danger

#941 in 5:33 Scored for Young Wind Symphony of the 3rd Millennium
by © Stephen Melillo IGNA 3 March 2006
2nd & 3rd Millennium

Commissioned by the Iowa Bandmasters Association
for the 2007
All-Iowa Middle School Honors Band

TECHNICAL

This piece can be modified to work with a variety of different ages. Throughout, octaves can be adjusted for younger players. Often, these “**Optional 8vbs or 8vas**” are written into the students’ parts. Here are some other small changes that can be made without in any way affecting the emotional thrill of the piece:

This rhythm has been written into the piece: , but if anyone finds this too difficult



depending upon the age level, simply change the rhythm to this:



Another example of something which is either a Challenge... (*fitting for Querencia!*).. or perhaps too difficult is the Trombone passage at **m90**. If the optional 8va cannot be taken because of range limitations, and the lower octave slide positions are too difficult, simply change the **G** to an **E**. Now the Trombones move more easily without any effect being lost.

This kind of thinking can be applied throughout the entire piece. As in ALL of the **STORMWORKS** Music for younger groups, the **KIDS** come first! Feel free to make the music notation malleable to their needs. I'm sure the Music will still come through!

MUSICAL

New Mexico has been a Spiritual Home for me ever since I met the Souls of Bataan. When I was recently conducting the New Mexico All-State Band, a gentlemen came up to me and said, “*Querencia! That’s what you’re asking of the kids!*” He explained that **QUERENCIA** was the word that was shouted out as the bull got closest to the bullfighter. It is the idea of **COURAGE**, but Courage as a function of how **close** one allows Danger to get near. In that Real Life ***closeness to Danger*** and in that Metaphor, this work is humbly offered as a fun gift to the young Musicians who will explore it and render it!

Godspeed!

Stephen Mallie

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Querência!

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