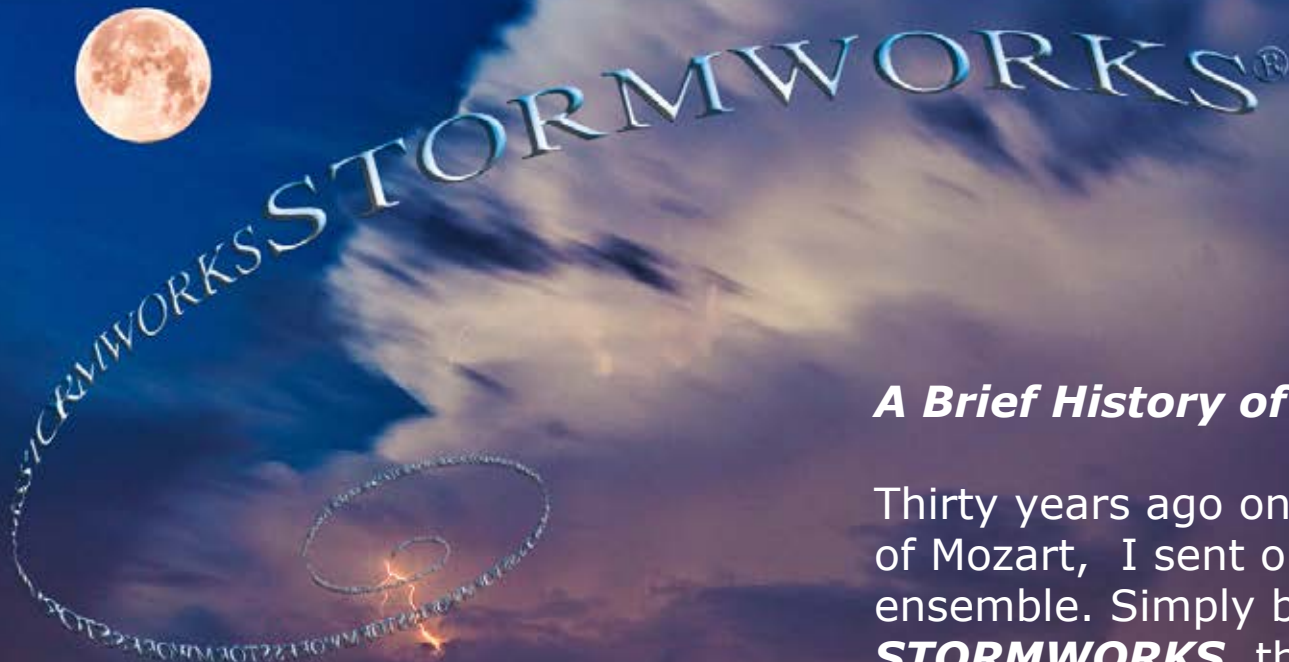


Resource Guide to Stephen Melillo & STORMWORKS®

Audience entering for the European Premiere of **Symphony IIII : Lightfall**,
in Valencia, Spain on 21 August 2022

The word "STORMWORKS" is written in a stylized, metallic, serif font, arched across the upper portion of the image. The letters have a blue and silver gradient with a beveled, 3D effect. The background is a dramatic night sky with dark, swirling clouds. A large, bright, orange-red full moon is visible in the upper left. Several bright, jagged lightning bolts are visible, including one that spirals around the word "STORMWORKS" in the lower left. In the bottom foreground, a wooden boardwalk or pier extends from the right side towards the center, leading the eye into the scene. The horizon is dark, with some distant lights visible.

A Brief History of STORMWORKS.

Thirty years ago on the birthday of Mozart, I sent one piece to one ensemble. Simply by word-of-mouth, ***STORMWORKS***, the *first-of-its-kind* self-publishing entity, is now in **80** countries!

STORMWORKS Music is rendered by the world's finest ensembles, with currently 52 albums recorded.

In addition to all 50 States, more than 186 live concert premieres include:

Brucknerhaus, Linz, Austria: Last World Standing: HEROES of PEACE: rendered by the Sinfonisches Blasorchester Ried in the Brucknerhaus, Linz, Austria. Karl Geroldinger & Stephen Melillo conducting.

Leipzig, Germany: STORMJOURNEYS: rendered by The Rundfunk Blasorchester Leipzig & Orchestra di Fiati Della Valtellina, Stephen Melillo conducting.

Rotterdam, The Netherlands: STORMWORKS Chapter 0: WALK on the WATER, rendered by The Dutch Royal Military Band in Rotterdam, Stephen Melillo conducting.

Gewandhaus, Leipzig, Germany: STORMWORKS Chapter 2: WENDE, rendered by The Rundfunk Blasorchester Leipzig in Leipzig's Gewandhaus, Stephen Melillo conducting.

Concertgebouw Amsterdam: STORMWORKS Chapter 3: WAIT of the WORLD, rendered by The Marine Band of the Royal Netherlands Navy in Amsterdam's Concertgebouw, Maurice Hamers conducting.

Tokyo, Japan: STORMWORKS Chapters 5 & 8: WRITINGS on the WALL, rendered by 143 Musicians of the Japanese Military and The Central Band of Japan Self Defense Force with choruses from Shenandoah & Old Dominion Universities in Tokyo, Japan, Stephen Melillo conducting.

Brucknerhaus, Linz, Austria: STORMWORKS Chapter 21: WON WAY, rendered by the Sinfonisches Blasorchester Ried in the Brucknerhaus, Linz, Austria. Karl Geroldinger conducting.

All 5 Islands of Japan: MUSASHI & WAIT of the WORLD rendered by The Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra in Tokyo, Japan, David Bostock conducting.

Germany: The Concerto for Violin, rendered by The Südwind Orchester from Germany, Stephen Melillo conducting.

USA: S-MATRIX & Symphony #2: At Life's Edge, and Symphony III: Lightfall, rendered by The North Carolina and Canton Symphony Orchestras, Gerhardt Zimmerman conducting.

Spain: Symphony III: Lightfall, rendered by L'Armonica Buñol, Valencia, Spain, Saül Gómez Soler conducting.

Singapore & Spain: Stephen's 1976 composition, *After the Storm*, was played to a television audience of over **2 million** as the concluding work in Singapore's 2005 salute to "Building a New Future." In December of 2011, Stephen's tribute to Roberto Clemente, **21 WON WAY** was nationally televised in Spain.



Maestro Gerhardt Zimmermann said of Symphony IIII: Lightfall.

"If you want to know what the human spirit really is, you must, Yes - Must come to the Z tonight to hear a phenomenal world premiere that will put tears in your eyes. Symphony No. IIII by Stephen Melillo is a very powerful work. I am not embarrassed to admit that when I saw the score for the first time, I was in tears. What a powerful and moving work. It was commissioned by the Canton Symphony Orchestra for the 25th anniversary of the ADA (*American Disabilities Act*). Your soul will be opened."



We have a fine Orchestra
We have a fine Conductor
We have Grammy-winning Engineers
We have the hall and the Music!

What are we missing?
YOU!
an “angel”, a sponsor, a patron.

On 29 December 2022,
Maestro Zimmermann suggested
a ***First Album*** to be made with
The Canton Symphony Orchestra;
a collection of
“Melillo Symphonies”.

***The
Zimmermann Center***
where, at the moment, the
Melillo Symphonies Album
will one day, ***with your support***,
be recorded.



ACCOLADES:

“Melillo is to wind music what Beethoven was to the symphony orchestra, and he follows a Beethovenesque design of increasing the musical tension almost to the breaking point, receding, and then reaching again. It is superlative musical craftsmanship and inspiring to hear.”

Marvin Sosna, Music Critic

“His S-MATRIX Symphony was fabulous, full of childlike wonderment as the composer intended and marvelous sounds. And they worked to maximum effect — a brilliant, original use of orchestral resources for a sophisticated, sensational, beautiful and satisfying experience.”

Nancy R. Ping-Robbins, Music Critic



First standing ovation in 40-year-history of the Meymandi Concert Hall, Raleigh, NC

During the intermission of the premiere of *S-MATRIX (Symphony # Numberless)* on 19 November 1992, a delighted Gerhardt Zimmermann summoned Stephen Melillo to his dressing room. There, *Symphony II: At Life's Edge*, was immediately commissioned.

As Maestro Zimmermann explained, “*It was the First Standing Ovation ever given in the 40-year history of the Meymandi Concert Hall in Raleigh, North Carolina.*”

“...a new voice in the direction of music, his sound – a bridge between the serious and the immediately visceral.” **Maestro Gerhardt Zimmermann, Conductor**

“...his ability to create a mood, find precisely the right touch of drama and create the needed effect was manifest... the sustained chords in the choir, the timpani’s roar, the harp’s glissandos. Melillo used them all with a sense of absolute rightness and the result was fresh, joyful and exciting... each measure scored with an unerring ear for drama and emotion... “He could become the Leonard Bernstein of this age... Everything he creates has many layers, ranging from synchronicity to the significance of numbers, from visceral emotions to the brotherhood of mankind.”

John S. Sweeney, Music Critic

**THAT WE MIGHT LIVE
& its sequel,
LAST WORLD STANDING**

Nominated for a
Pulitzer Prize in Music

Winner of **2 Telly Awards**
for History/Biography
& Music Concert

Winner of **The AVA Award**
for Music Documentary

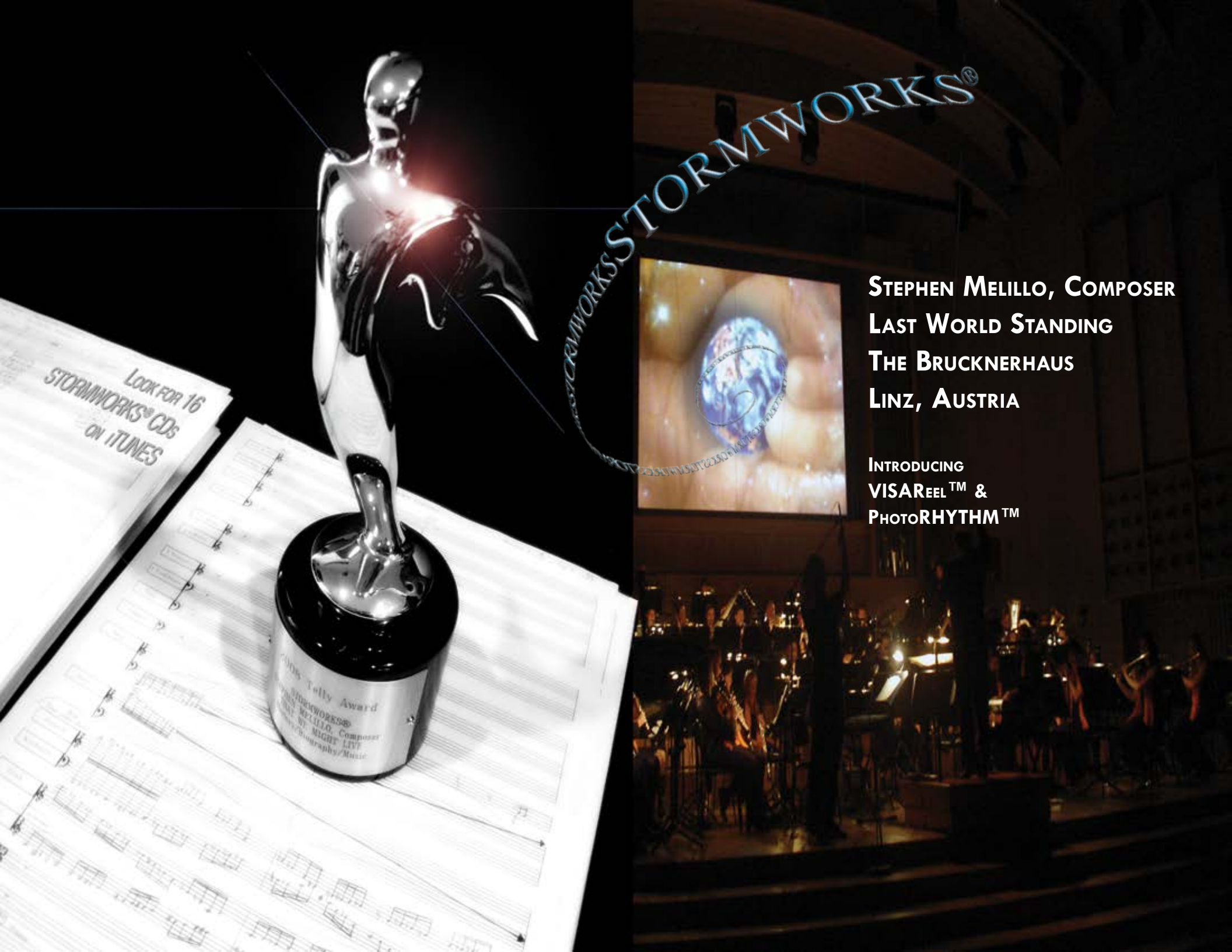
Balloted in 4 categories of the
49th Grammy Awards

Balloted for Best Long Form
Documentary in the
50th Grammy Awards

**Gala concert of the
Symphonic
Wind Orchestra Ried
in the
Brucknerhaus of Linz**

“In the program, just pieces of **Stephen Melillo**, an internationally accredited icon in Music, who proves his identity as a musician with enormous emotions and a large array of tone colors with brilliant craftsmanship. We heard “**Godspeed!**”, “**Jidaï**”, “**Cuba**”, “**Romance**” with the Violin virtuoso Johannes Meissl- and the monumental plea for peace “**Last Word Standing**”, from his catalog of about 950 pieces. Frenetic applause for the composer and the sweeping music-making of the orchestra with Karl Geroldinger followed.”

**Dr. Balduin Sulzer,
Composer and Teacher**



Look for 16
STORMWORKS® CDs
on iTunes

STORMWORKS®

STEPHEN MELILLO, COMPOSER
LAST WORLD STANDING
THE BRUCKNERHAUS
LINZ, AUSTRIA

INTRODUCING
VISAREEL™ &
PHOTORHYTHM™

2006 Telly Award
STORMWORKS®
STEPHEN MELILLO, Composer
LAST WORLD STANDING
Visuals/Choreography/Music

Music Changing the World

12 December 2022

Forza Ucraina Organization in Italy campaigns for the **Holodomor** to be Recognized by the Italian Government and Memorialized. The Film and Music of the **Holodomor** and the album, **Embracing Sorrow**, with Music written prior to and during the invasion of Ukraine, are continuing to aid the cause of Ukrainians seeking formal Remembrance.

Recently, **A Requiem of Two Poems** was written on the day Ukraine was invaded. Within **hours**, this piece was played in a church near Lviv, Ukraine. Then mere days later, it was played all around Ukraine, with Ukrainian Soldiers using it for Prayer.

https://youtu.be/_U4SiwG-8Fo

Here too is: **Plyve Kacha Po Tsyni... Little Ducklings Swimming**.

<https://youtu.be/ShLqcjP7CIA>



Basilica minore di Santa Sofia Прокатедральний Собор Святої Софії в Рим
added a new photo — at УГКЦ Харків парафія св.... - Basilica minore di...
facebook.com · 1 min read

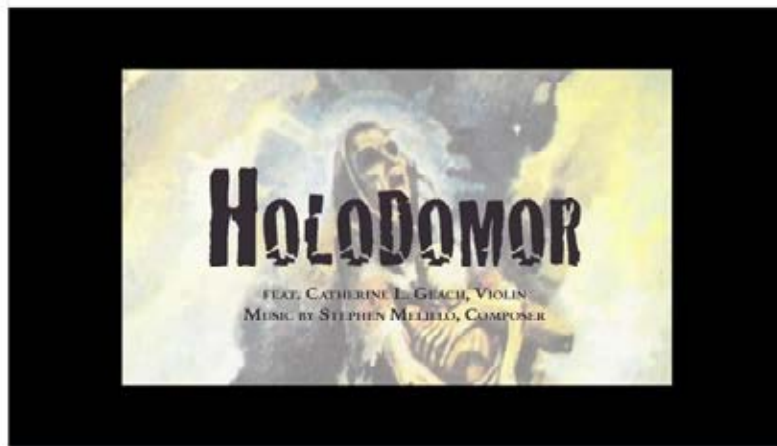


Mikulizsyn Halina
ПОМОЛИСЯ І ПОШИР
Молитва за військових
У Твої руки, Боже, поручаю сьогодні всіх тих, хто стоїть
на захисті миру та добробуту нашої Вітчизни... Altro...



Церква ХВЕ
Берездівці+Н-Розділ
Organizzazione religiosa Mi piace

More on Ukraine... and Cambodia



Holodomor, Film & Music by Stephen Melillo

youtube.com

Load previous replies



CHANRITHY HIM • 2nd

1h ...

Award-winning Author/International Speaker/Khmer Classic...

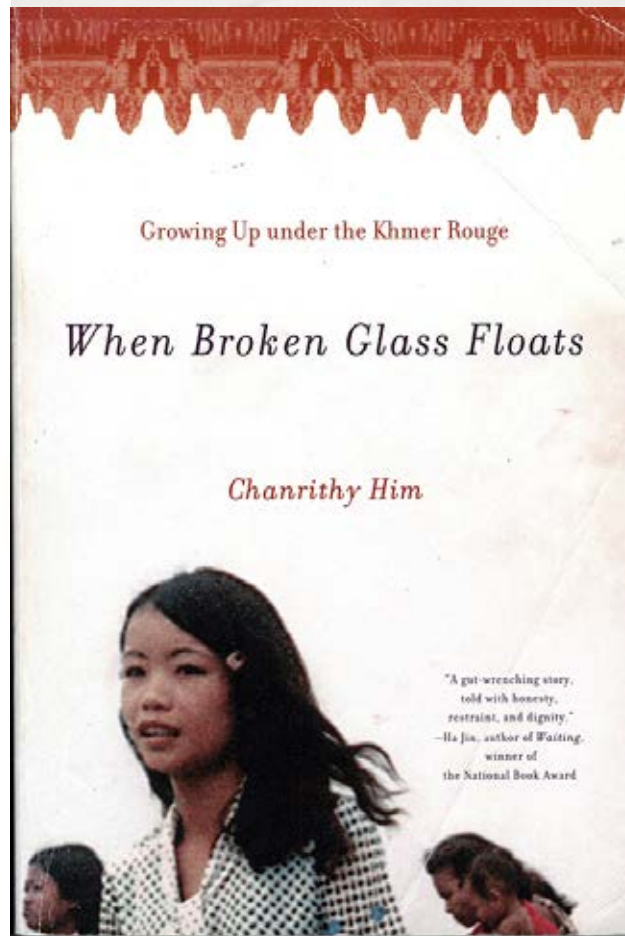
Catherine Louise Geach What beautiful souls you and Stephen Melillo are! You both are undoubtedly an instrument for God's Love, Peace, and Healing.

To both of you, thanks so much for shining light on the tragic history of Ukraine and her Beloved People. (It is hard for me to read about it.)

As a child survivor of the Cambodian genocide, who has dedicated her life to educate the world about how wicked world leaders, such as Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, have caused Cambodia and her Beloved People suffering until Now, I am THANKFUL for You Both and your work for our Human Family.

We need Peace and Healing. Surely, I need both and more and so do the Ukrainians. My love 📢 to them....

Awkun, Catherine and Stephen!!!



Chanrithy Him, author of the novel, **"When Broken Glass Floats"**, writes,

"The piece, **"When Broken Glass Floats"**, inspired by the title of my memoir is incredibly moving! It sure tugs at my heartstrings and I'm sure it will at other listeners' as it has touched yours! How amazing is Stephen's God-given gift!

I am so thankful that Stephen has composed this Piece!!! It is PERFECTLY placed within Maestro Melillo's Album, **Embracing Sorrow!**"

Holodomor can be viewed here:

WARNING, it is graphic and uses actual photographs from the *Holodomor*.

<https://lnkd.in/gHrTv7ca>

When Broken Glass Floats and **Embracing Sorrow**

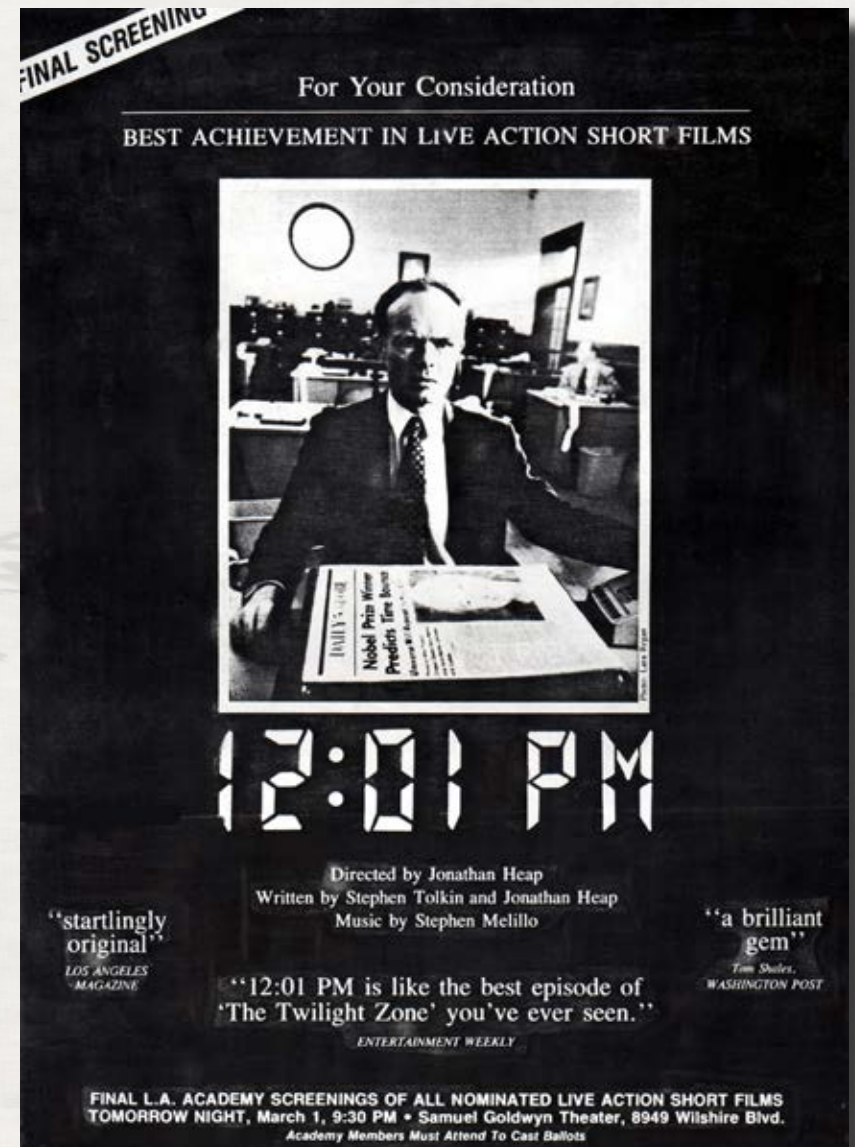
may be heard here:

<https://stephenmelillo.hearnow.com/embracing-sorrow>

More on the **HISTORY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS** of **STORMWORKS**

Events are listed in **Chronological Order**.

27 JAN 1991: The Score to the Academy-Award nominated short, "**12:01 PM**", was recorded at *Evergreen Studio* in Los Angeles.



1991: In that same year, a 2-hour Musical, "**SON of the STORM**", was composed.





"A Theme for Special Olympics" TRAILER

On the Same Date of **27 JAN, but in 1978**, the young adult novel, "**Only for Now**", was written.

This work became a 9-movement suite for extended Wind & Jazz Ensembles. It was premiered at MIT in May of 1980.

From the Suite came my first piece for band, "**A Theme for the Special Olympics.**" In **2020**, it was made the *Official Theme of the Special Olympics* by the Special Olympics Committee.

You can see that work here:
<https://youtu.be/UzGqmxjLJLU>



1991: I was in Arizona on a film project called **Benefit of the Doubt**. In the photo is the jacket given to me by Actress, Amy Irving. "**Never Had a Love Like You Before**", composed for Amy's character, became part of the end credits.



On **27 JAN 1992**, (yes, *that same date*) came the formal start of **STORMWORKS**. All **335** movements (**7600** pages of score) are commissioned by Conductors throughout the world. From "**Son of the Storm**" came the complete body of work known as **Stormworks**, now over **46 hours** of Music. **Stormworks** was/is the **FIRST** Self-publishing entity in the Music Education World.



An Ode to Humanity in Music & Story
Awaits you at
stormworld.com

1992: *Symphony Number Numberless: S-Matrix* premiered with *The North Carolina Symphony Orchestra*, Gerhardt Zimmermann Conducting. This work received the *first-ever standing ovation* in the 40 year history of *The Meymandi Memorial Auditorium* in Raleigh on 19 NOV 1992.

The News & Observer

Raleigh, N.C.

Saturday, November 21, 1992

50c

92

Symphony shines with, without Meyers

By **NANCY R. PING-ROBBINS**
Correspondent

RALEIGH — Anne Aiko Meyers stepped to center stage Thursday night for an N.C. Symphony concert at Memorial Auditorium looking like a million dollars — and she played like a million dollars, too.

Absolutely riveting in a slim, strapless, full-length red satin gown, Meyers made her violin weep in a smooth-as-silk yet dramatic Prokofiev Concerto No. 2 in G major, Opus 63. Her big, vibrant Stradivarius sound could turn into a kitten's purr in a nanosecond in this concerto, with its astringent sonorities and angular arpeggiated figures juxtaposed with quiet interludes. A world-class violinist in a late 20th-century concert world of outstanding artists, she conquered Prokofiev's uncompromising piece with im-

Review

peccable craftsmanship and musicianship.

Overall, this was an exceptional night for the symphony. Maestro Gerhardt Zimmermann announced before the first number (a world premiere) that it was chosen from some 300 others solicited from across the country. The composer, Stephen Melillo of Connecticut, had written 630 compositions before this one but "had never before had a piece performed by a major orchestra," according to the program notes.

His "S. Matrix" Symphony was fabulous, full of childlike wonderment (as the composer intended) and marvelous sounds. And they worked to maximum effect — a brilliant original use of orchestral resources for a sophisticated, sensational, beautiful and satisfying experience.

Shimmering bowed gong and a number of other intriguing sounds (the origins of which were sometimes unidentifiable from my vantage point) alternated with passages of rich strings speaking as one voice in a kind of Greek chorus that returned time and again in tones of peace and serenity.

The final movement was something like what a child's imagination might conjure up on a trip to another galaxy, particularly when three percussionists started swinging flexible tubes in circles, making them "sing" at different pitches. But always there was a return to a central core of rich strings, like a comfort zone from which the listener (the child in us) darts out to confront the unknown and the unimaginable.

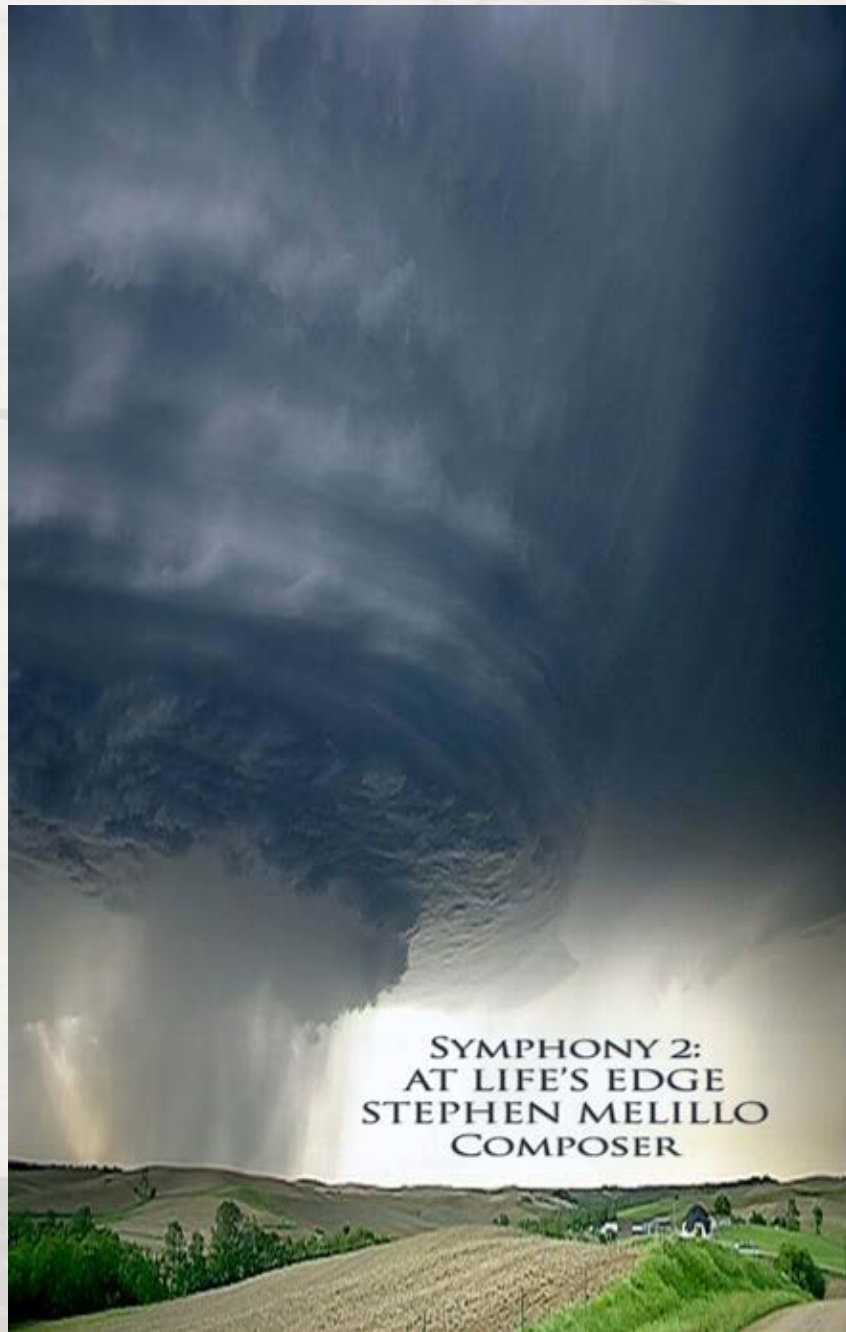
Long, sustained applause drew the composer on stage for bows afterward.

But that wasn't all: Zimmermann and the orchestra offered an excellent performance of Men-

delsohn's "Scottish" Symphony (No. 3 in A minor, Opus 56), dedicated to the late Patricia R. Hackney, former president of the symphony board.

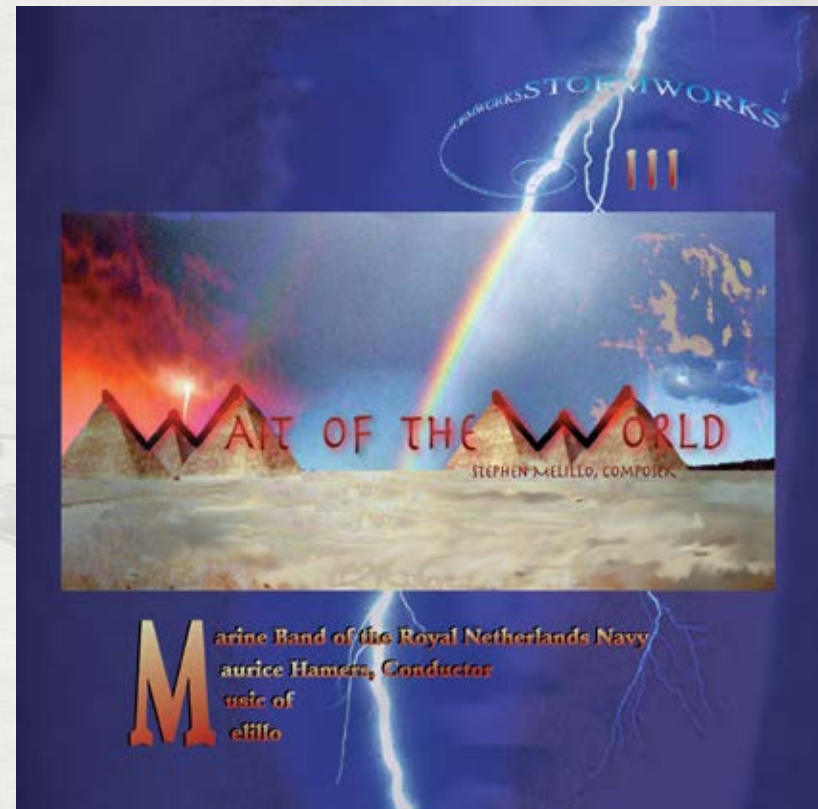
For best effect, the Mendelssohn demands a high level of performance on the part of the conductor and musicians, and, with the newly upgraded standard of the French horn section (and new first horn player), the players were fully up to the challenge.

Someone down the line of horns lip-faulted a few times, but the ensemble was tremendously improved, with added sheen from the definitive first horn. Unfortunately for those sitting toward stage right, some clod had the nerve to start snapping pictures (and his camera had a loud shutter). The most delicate, quiet passages were rudely interrupted, but Zimmermann and team brought the work to a close for a performance that was otherwise first class.



1994: [Symphony II: At Life's Edge](#) was premiered. Again a long Standing ovation led to the creation of **Symphony III: Lightfall**. A Band Transcription of this work is on **STORMWORKS Chapter 55: Way of the Wanderer**.

Symphony III is "Wait of the World" on **STORMWORKS Chapter 3: Wait of the World**.



By the end of **1994**, **STORMWORKS** Music was being played around the world by 4000 International Conductors. All of this was by "word-of-mouth" and limited pre-internet advertising.

1996: Chapter 1: Without Warning.

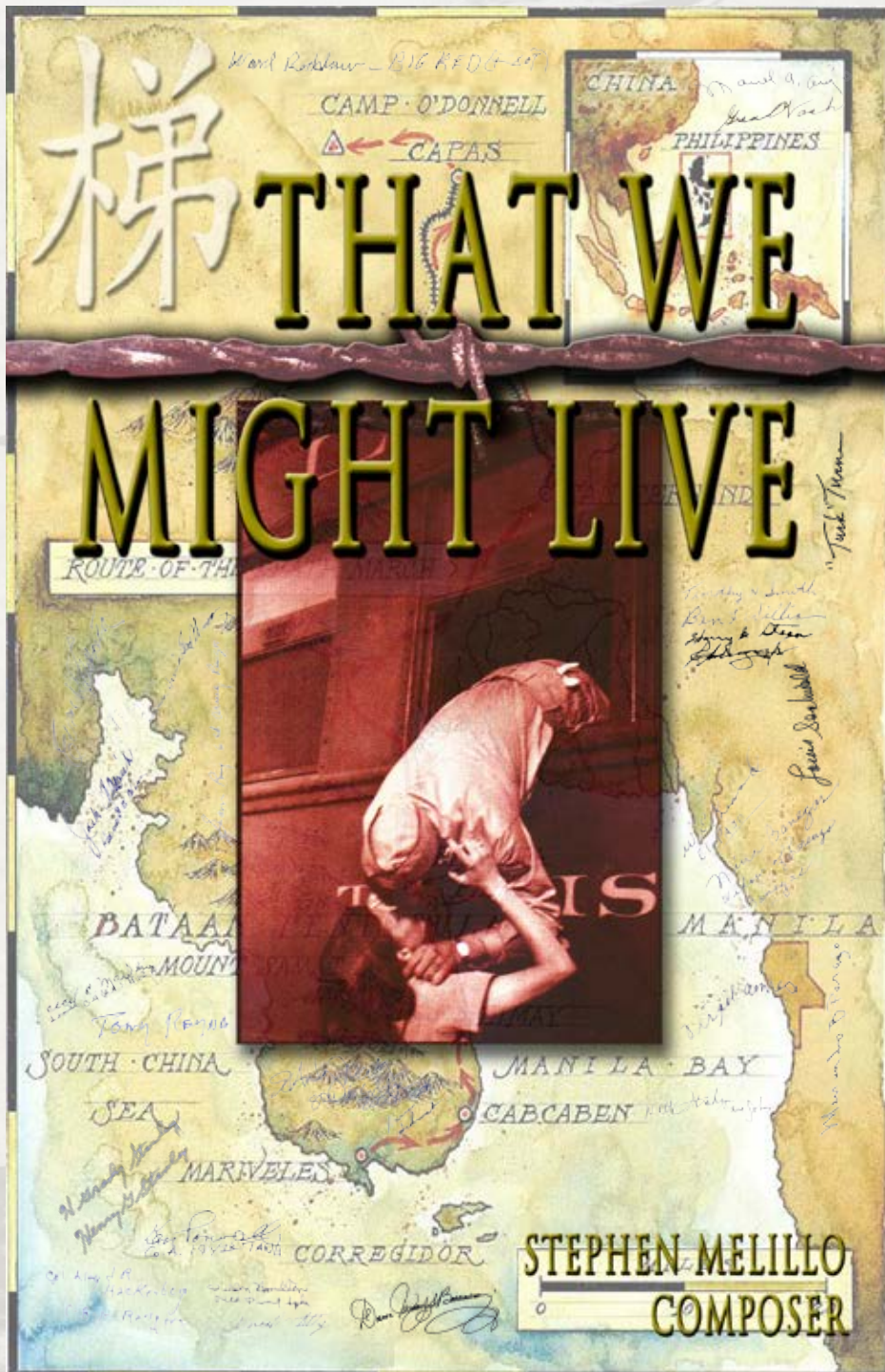
1998: Chapter 2: WENDE.

1999: Chapter 3: Wait of the World.

2000: Chapter 0: a Walk on the Water. Also in 2000, when the world of self-publishing books was in its infancy, the young adult novel, "***Only for Now***" was published.

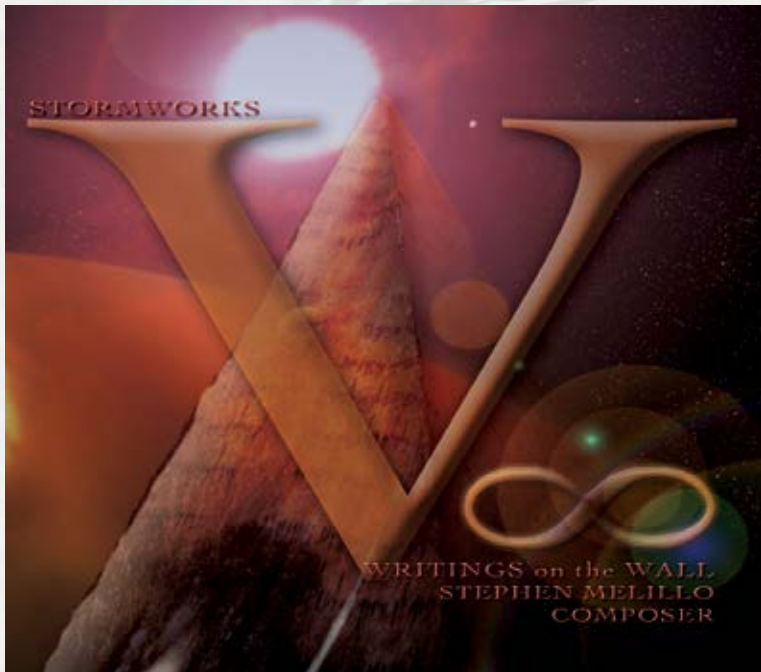
2001: Chapter STORMJourneys. My Son, Spencer, is born on 11 SEP 2001, 24-minutes before the 1st building in NYC was hit. This date will now figure prominently throughout all future **STORMWORKS** Scores.





2003: [Kakehashi: That We Might Live](#) On Chapters 5:8, but also on DVD. During this year and beyond, our house was destroyed in *Hurricane Isabel*. In addition to composing **Kakehashi: That We Might Live**, I also composed the 68-minute Score for the film, "**Retrograde**".





2005: Chapters 5-8: Writings on the Wall. (*A WORLD History Making Album*)

2006: Chapter 1-Prime: a Wish to the World & the Premiere of LAST WORLD STANDING. (*An Innovation in multi-media, pioneering [PhotoRHYTHM™](#) & [VISAReel™](#). At its premiere, this 33-minute work brought an 18-minute Standing ovation in The Brucknerhaus, Linz, Austria.*)



The Brucknerhaus, Linz, Austria

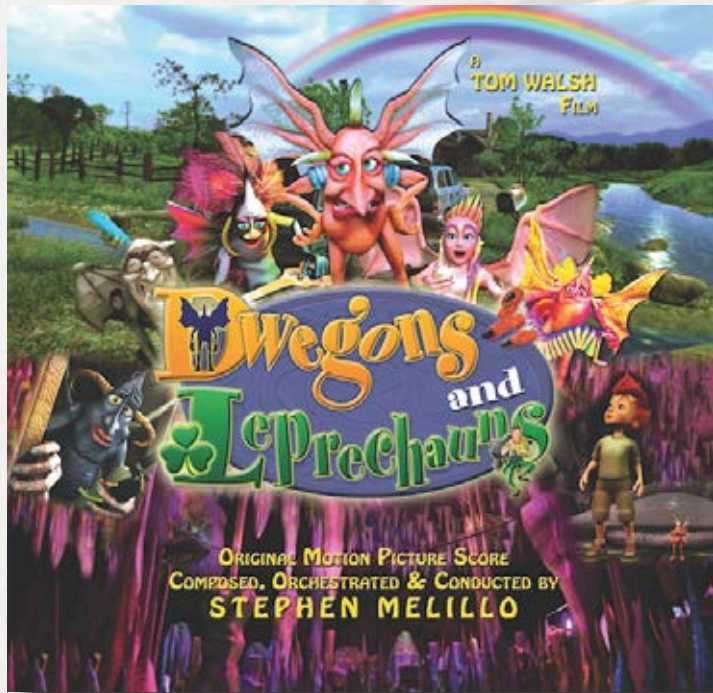


2007: The **DVD** versions of **Kakehashi: That We Might Live & Last World Standing**. (The DVD of **That We Might Live** was sent to 17 Senators and Congressmen. Several of the ex-POWS were summarily awarded **Bronze Stars** and **Purple Hearts** as a result of this **Music changing the world**.)

**Kakehashi: That
We Might Live
&
Symphony III:
Lightfall**

nominated for
*The Pulitzer
Prize in Music.*





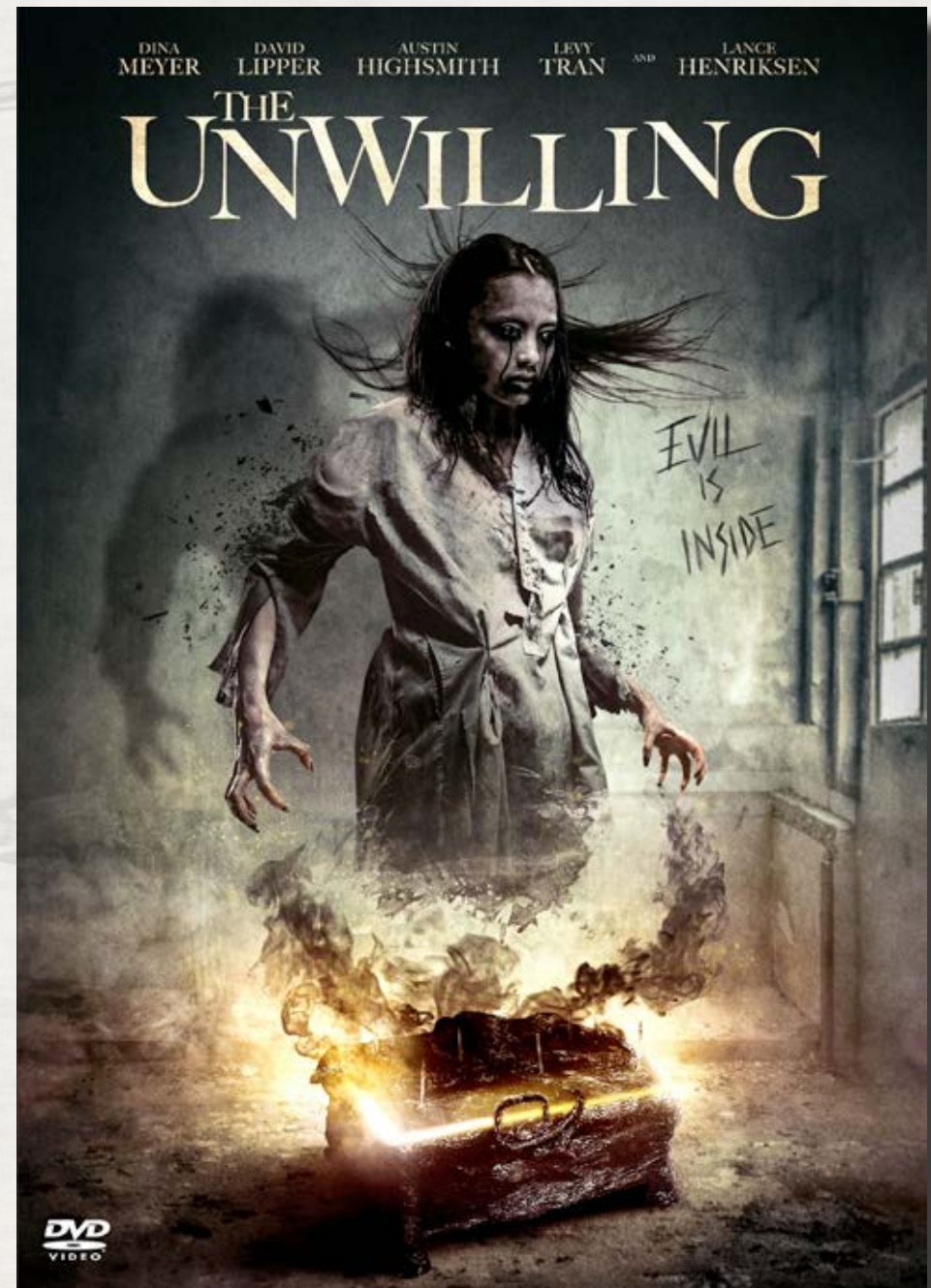
2009: [Dwegons & Leprechauns](#) Film Score

2010: Chapter 13: Whispers on the Wind.
(This libretto culminates the STORMWORKS Story to date...)

2011: Chapter 21: Won Way.

2012: "AHAB, a LOVE STORY", Screenplay Version

2016: [The UNWILLING](#) Film Score



2018: "Ahab, a Love Story"

Novel Version, and

**STORMWORKS Chapter 55:
Way of the Wanderer, and Christmas
Passion.**

**2020: "Death to Moby Dick, a Love
Story" Novel**



**2020: The GREY, and
A COLD NIGHT** (DVD with 2 Scores to One Film)

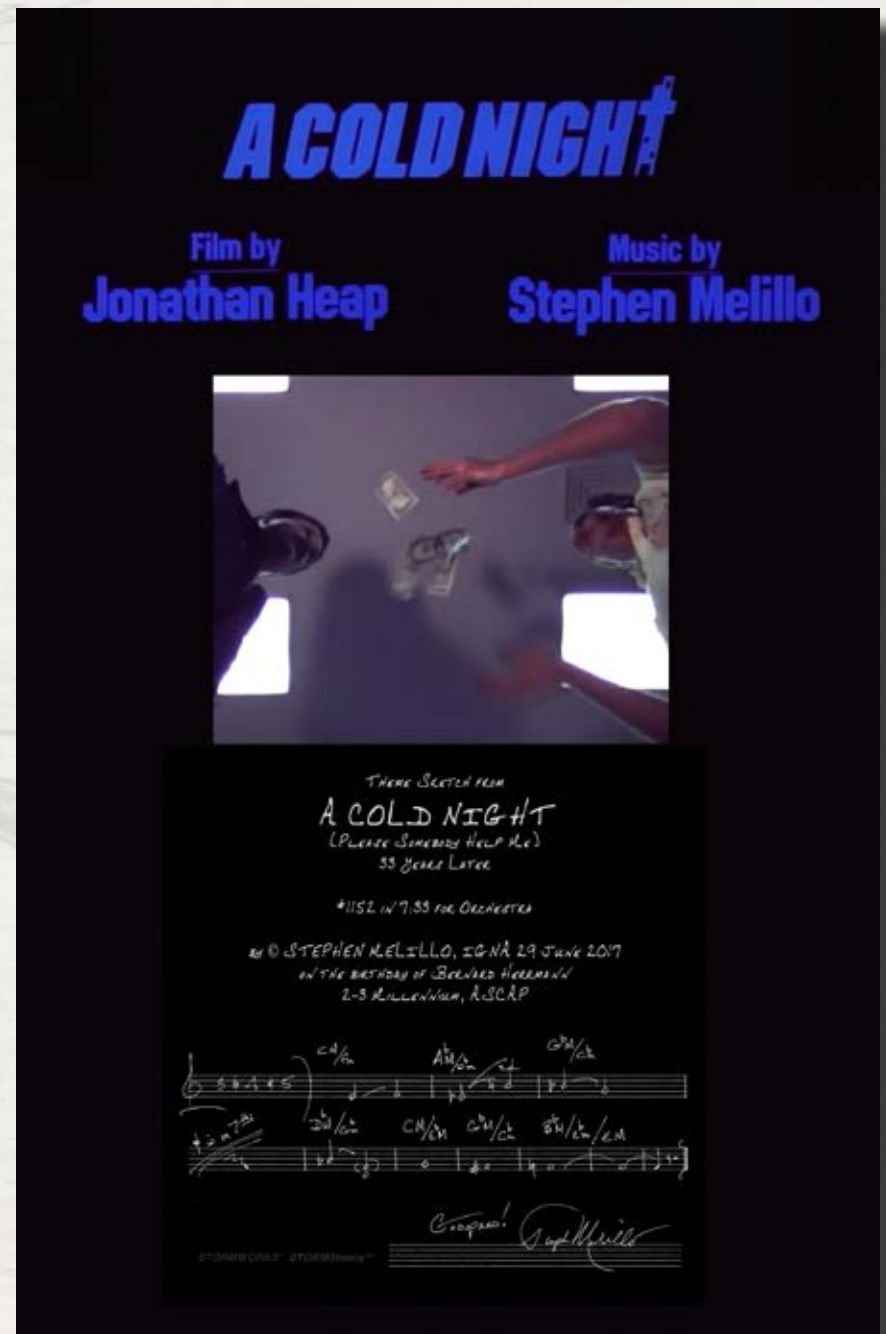


Listen to **The GREY II-III** here:

[https://stephenmelillo.hearnow.com/
the-grey-ii-iii](https://stephenmelillo.hearnow.com/the-grey-ii-iii)

Music from **The GREY (I-II-III)** is inspired by
“looking beyond” the veil of Grey in the Sky, into
our Hearts and Minds... beyond our Struggles,
Sufferings, and Hurts.

Winner of multiple *Global Music Awards*.



2021-2022: 3 Albums, all in **65th Grammys**:
Arise Together, Love Conquers All, The GREY II-III

2022: 3 Albums, *In the Hands of God, Embracing Sorrow, The Mass*

Slated for Recordings in 2023 -2024:

STORMWORKS Chapter 89:
Worlds Within the World (in Luxembourg)

STORMWORKS Chapter 144: (in Germany)

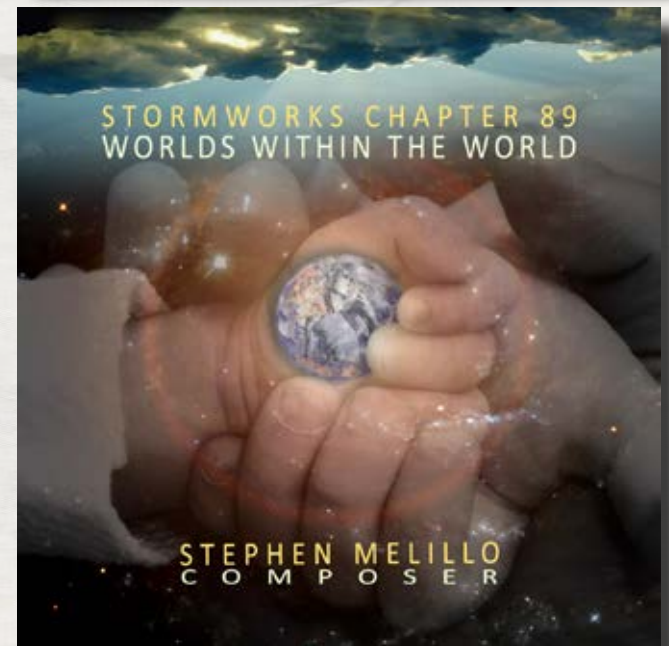
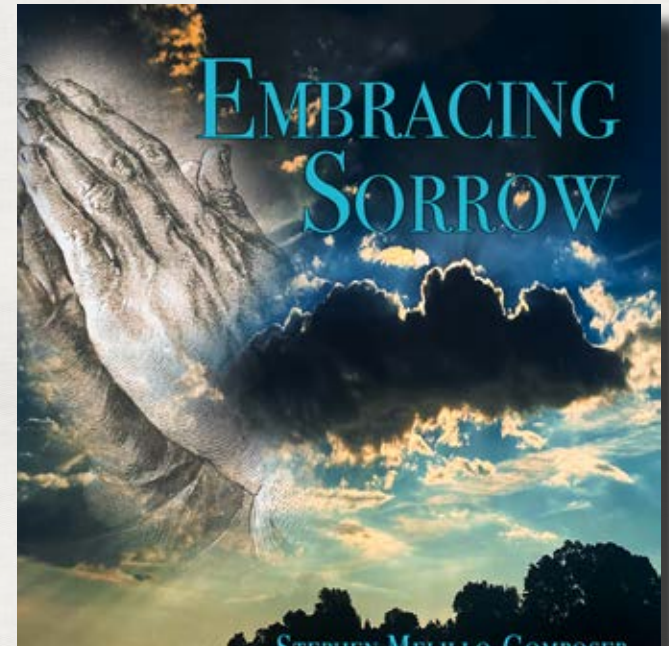
STORMWORKS Compilation: (in Norway)

and,

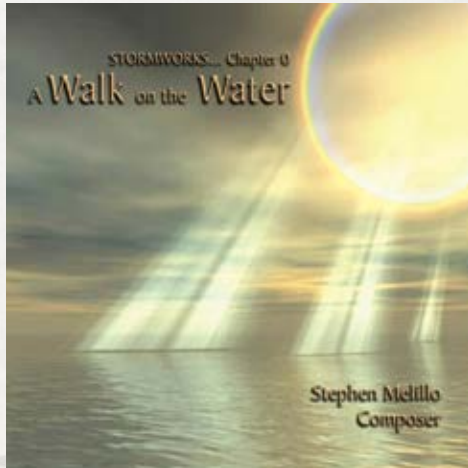
Symphonic Versions of AHAB,
Concerto for Violin & Orchestra,
Concerto for Tuba & Orchestra

Melillo SYMPHONIES #Numberless, II-III-III

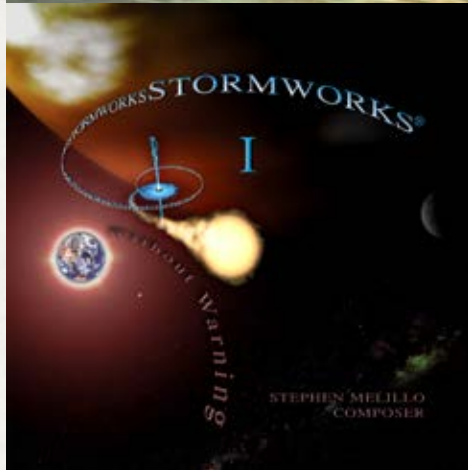
All that has been recorded to date is here:
<https://stormworld.com/tracks>



All Stormworks Albums are History-Making...



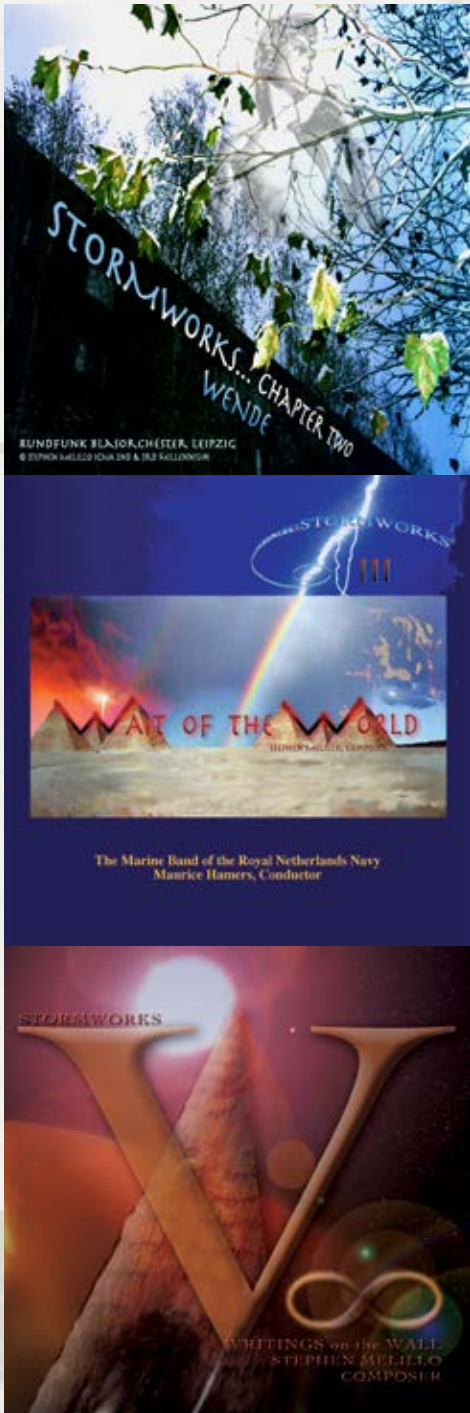
STORMWORKS Chapter 0 was the final recording made by the combined forces of ***The Dutch Royal Military Band*** with World Class Bassoonist, ***Dorian Cook***, Musicians of ***The Rotterdam Philharmonic & The Bachkoor Bach Chorus*** of The Netherlands. Music from this album has been played and recorded in 26 countries, with ***After the Storm*** rendered in Singapore to an audience of over **2 million**. (The piece, ***21:WON WAY*** from Chapter 21 received a similar nationwide broadcast in December 2011 in Spain.)



STORMWORKS Chapter 1 was a whirlwind, record-breaking sight-reading and recording session, all done in adverse conditions. In just **12** grueling hours, fine Musicians of the combined U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force & Marine Bands joined by select college and professional players, rendered this first look at the Music from ***Stormworks***. ***After 5 editions, the CDs were sold-out.*** Now you can stream at your favorite sites, or get the album directly at stormworld.com/tracks.



STORMWORKS Chapter 13^(prime) was recorded at Troy University in May of 2006. Mr. Ralph Ford not only prepared the ensemble, but experienced firsthand the merits emerging from the combined Music & ***Teaching Tools™***. Ralph has already composed for the orchestration pioneered in ***Stormworks' Band of the 3rd Millennium™*** ... and his students have requested that ***“making a STORMWORKS CD be made a part of the curriculum each year.”*** Indeed, we next recorded ***STORMWORKS Chapter 13: Whispers on the Wind***, the ***first-of-its-kind*** recording of Music for Band produced on ***Digital Music Cards***.

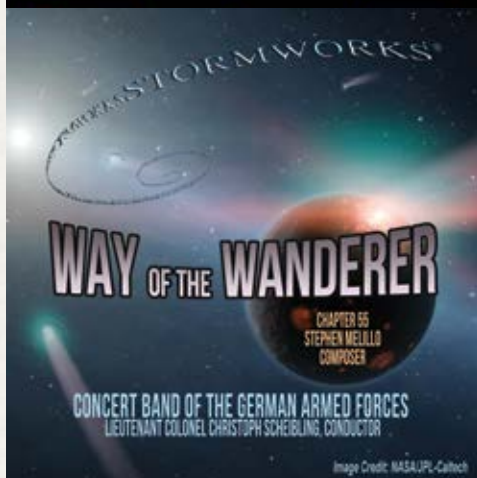
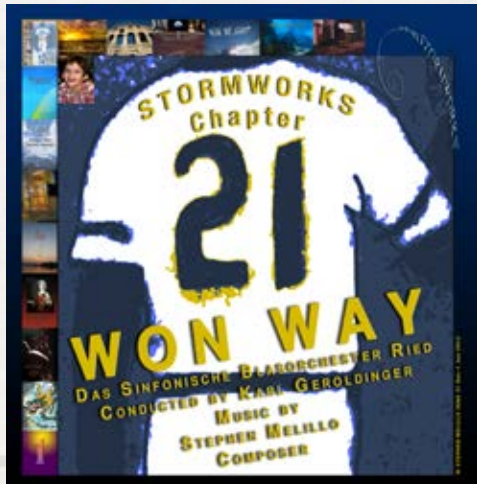


STORMWORKS Chapter 2 was recorded by an ex-East German ensemble from Leipzig, exactly **10 years** to the day, after the breaking of the Berlin Wall. This document, with its **36 Musicians**, traces the History of Oppression to Freedom. The **saxophones** were hired separately. Why? Because Adolf Hitler had banned the use of saxophones, a tradition with this ensemble, which until **Chapter 2** remained intact. **WENDE** is the German word that describes the Wall coming down. *The title was given by one of the saxophone players!*

[Link to all Digital Libretti at stormworld.com](http://stormworld.com)

STORMWORKS Chapter 3 was recorded by what was at that Time, the finest Band in the World. It was the first and *only* Time this ensemble chose to record the original Music of a single composer. **Wait of the World** represents one of the finest documents of original Music for Band yet recorded. It traces the Journey of Man, from his murky beginnings to his great Calling... into Heaven and beyond. The **Marine Band of the Royal Netherlands Navy** has requested the making of *another STORMWORKS* Album! The adventure continues!

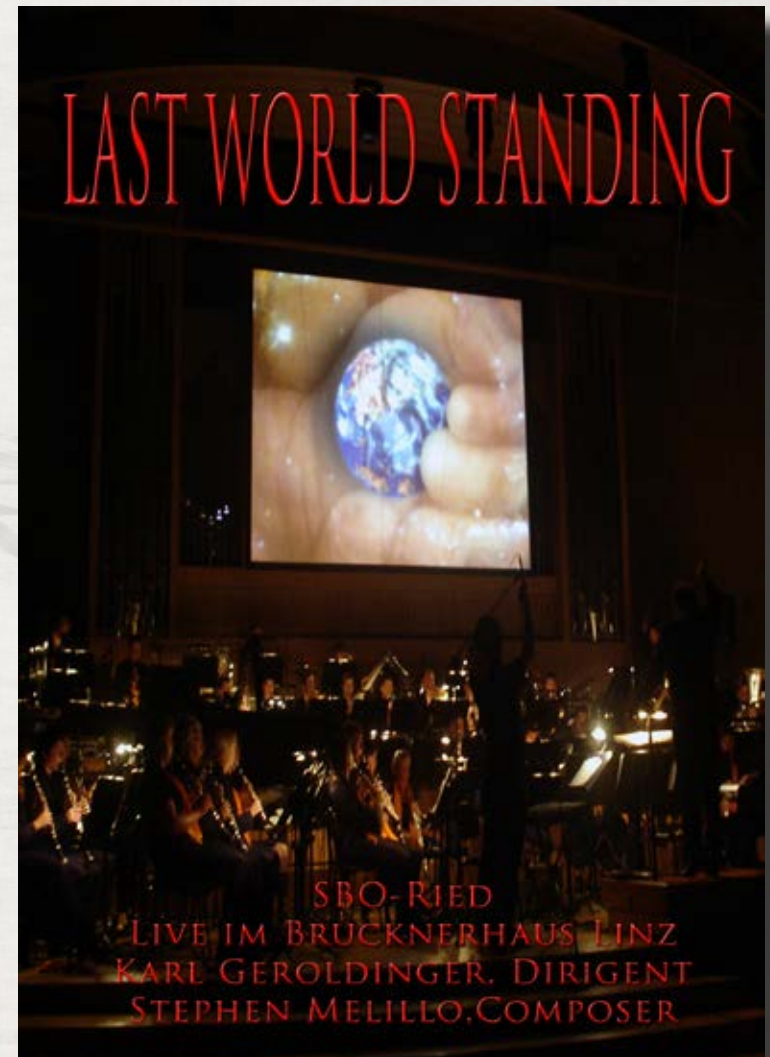
STORMWORKS Chapters 5:8 *demonstrates* the Brotherhood of Man. This World Historic document commissioned by Germans, Jews, Americans, Japanese, Austrians, Italians... and more, is rendered by **143** World Class Musicians of the **Japanese Military** joined by two Choirs from **Shenandoah** and **Old Dominion Universities**. Later, Telly & AVA award-winning visualizations, using pioneering, ground-breaking processes called [VisaREEL™](#) and [PHOTORhythm™](#) were set to DVD, sent to congress, and won **Bronze Stars** and **Purple Hearts** for ex-POWs of Bataan & Corregidor.



The 3.33 hours of Music, STORMWORKS Chapter 21: WON WAY, dedicated to the story and ideals of **Roberto Clemente**, was added to the *Stormworks* legacy during the 40th Anniversary of Roberto's Heroic passing. The Music was recorded in Austria, by Musicians ranging in ages 9-73, but also includes Musicians from across the world. Music made with such feeling elucidates the aspirations of Brotherhood and the timely ideals lived by **Roberto Clemente**. **More ground-breaking. More cutting of the cutting edge™**. A *must* for *STORM Aficionados* and newcomers alike.

STORMWORKS Chapter 55 & 89, *Symphony IIII*, *Ark of the Covenant*, *Forever Strong*, *The Concerto for Tuba*, *The New Beginning*, and *much more*, expanded around the globe and rendered by the world's finest ensembles. The *STORMAdventure* continues!

Last World Standing from STORMWORKS Chapter 13, is a 33-minute work dedicated to and inspired by the **"Heroes of Peace"**. It is an ode to the end of war, using pioneering, ground-breaking processes called **VisaREEL™** and **PHOTORhythm™**. At its 2006 premiere in *The Brucknerhaus*, Linz, Austria, the work brought an 18-minute Standing ovation.



"Your Music is so beautiful, but it is more than beautiful. It is not for European or America or Japan, but for whole world." Ms. S. Miya, Agent of Ms. Rieko Suzuki, after recording the Concerto for Violin

"Your soul will be opened..." on the premiere of Symphony III: Lightfall. Maestro Gerhardt Zimmermann Conductor, Canton Symphony

"Stephen Melillo's compositions, unlike any others, shape the musical truth and integrity of artistic expression." Edward S. Lisk Conductor & Author

"Melillo is to wind music what Beethoven was to the symphony orchestra... Superlative musical craftsmanship and inspiring to hear." Marvin Sosna Music Critic



STEPHEN MELILLO
COMPOSER



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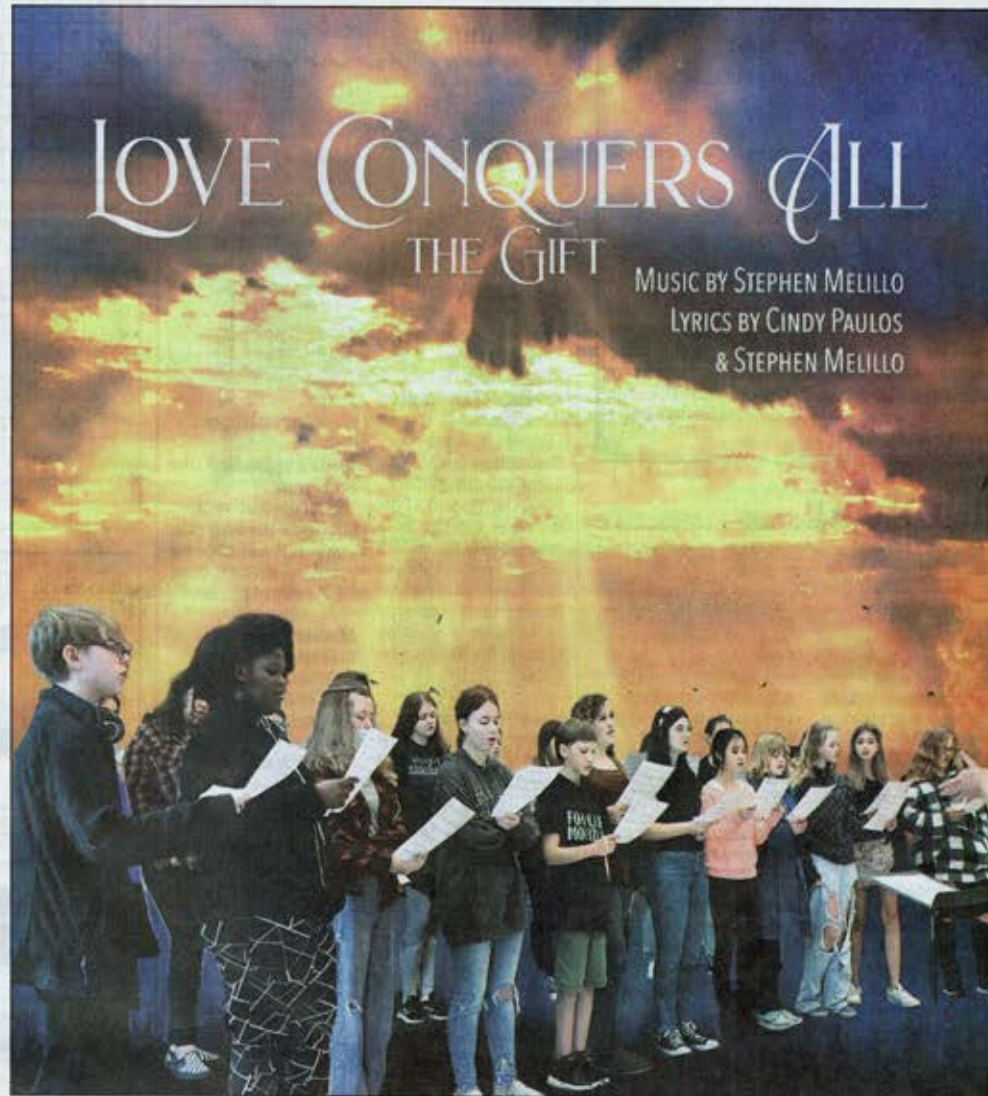
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Smithfield composer shines at Hollywood Music in Media Awards

Composer Stephen Melillo,

Smithfield composer shines at Hollywood Music in Media Awards



Composer Stephen Melillo, pictured below, recorded Smithfield High School and Smithfield Middle School students in May performing "Love Conquers All, the Gift," from his album, "Love Conquers All, When Heaven Merges With Earth." Another song from the album, titled "Reprise from Love Conquers All," recently won a Hollywood Music in Media Award. (Photos submitted by Stephen Melillo).

Christmas-themed piece wins best epic/orchestral composition

By Stephen Faleski
Staff Writer

Smithfield composer Stephen Melillo spent the evening of Nov. 16 at a friend's home eating dinner, and trying very hard to resist the urge to check Facebook to see who'd been nominated for the 65th Grammy Awards.

He'd been hoping to see his album, "The Grey II-III," a 142-minute collection of instrumental compositions, listed among the nominees. It was a long shot, but "I prayed anyway," Melillo said.

After tossing and turning in bed, he finally broke down at 1:23 a.m. the next morning and checked his phone.

As he'd expected, "The Grey II-III" wasn't nominated, but there was an unexpected message waiting for him from 2021 Grammy-winner Danai Vlasou.

"I'm at the HMMA's - congratulations my friend - you and Cindy won!" the message read.

The Hollywood Music in Media Awards, or HMMAs, serves as a red-carpet event honoring original music in film, televi-

sion, video games and other visual media across the globe. Among this year's winners were "Lift Me Up," performed by Rihanna for the blockbuster movie "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," in the category of best feature film song; Simon Franglen's "Avatar: Way of the Water" for best fantasy film score; and "Reprise from Love Conquers All" by Melillo and lyricist Cindy Paulos in the category of best epic/orchestral genre composition.

Paulos, a music producer and longtime announcer for radio stations in Hawaii and Arizona, had approached Melillo in 2020 to write music for her album, "In the Hands of God." "Reprise from Love Conquers All" is the 10th of 11 songs included in the duo's second joint album, titled "Love Conquers All, When Heaven Merges With Earth."

Melillo didn't think to enter the work in the HMMAs, but Paulos did. The album, which Melillo and Paulos produced on a zero-dollar budget, ended up winning over nine other nominees, some of whom had access to \$300,000 orchestras.

The album's mix of vocal and instrumental compositions, according to Melillo, is inspired by the Christmas story and intended for a stage musical or television production.

"It follows the timeline of the Magi, who Cindy calls 'The Astronomers' and their journey to meet the newborn Jesus Christ," Melillo said.

It was intended as "a demo of sorts," Melillo said. Paulos, he said, is forging ahead with the possibility of staging the work.

One of the album's songs, titled "Love Conquers All, the Gift," is performed by Smithfield High School and Smithfield Middle School students. Melillo recorded the students in May.

Melillo, originally from Port Chester, New York, attributes his interest in instrumental compositions to his teenage years when he first heard Austrian composer Gustav Mahler's music.

"I listened to a 20-minute excerpt from his 10th symphony 100 times without stopping. Play, rewind; play, rewind," Melillo said. "Years later, I did the math. I had listened for 33.33 hours. His music had a profound

effect on my life."

He took up writing his own music in high school, publishing his first composition with Bourne Music Publishers in the early 1990s. By 1992 he'd founded his self-publishing entity Stormworks. His now more than 1,300 works include four symphonies and 15 film scores, including the 1990 Academy Award-nominated "1201 P.M." He's also the author of several novels, including "Ahab, a Love Story," intended as a prequel to Herman Melville's "Moby Dick," and a sequel titled "Death to Moby Dick, a Love Story."

Melillo relocated to Smithfield in 1994 to work with the Langley Air Force Band, which had commissioned a composition titled "David."

Melillo's most recent compositions include "Embracing Scrooge," an album he released Nov. 26 as a tribute to the Ukrainian Holodomor, a manmade famine engineered by the former Soviet Union under Josef Stalin that killed an estimated 3.5 to 7 million Ukrainians from 1932-33, and "The MASS," which sets a Catholic mass to music.



LOVE CONQUERS ALL
WHEN HEAVEN MERGES WITH EARTH

At the event, Darlene Koldenhoven, Grammy® Winning Artist who sang the title track, captures this moment in the scroll. I had to smile as Steve "Mel" was my HS nickname..

CONCEPT & LYRICS BY CINDY PAULOS
MUSIC BY STEPHEN MELILLO

CINDY PAULOS AND STEPHEN MEL
• Reprise Love Conquers All

EPIC/ORCHESTRAL MUSIC WINNER

HOLLYWOOD MUSIC IN MEDIA AWARDS

HOLLYWOOD MUSIC IN MEDIA AWARDS

CINDY PAULOS & STEPHEN MELILLO "REPRISE LOVE CONQUERS ALL"

YouTube link to the *Latest International Premiere* of **Symphony III: Lightfall**, in Spain on 21 August 2022
<https://youtu.be/VKcoaw-2mIE>



Stephen Melillo Short BIO

A world-renowned composer, winner of multiple *Gold Global Music Awards*, and a *Hollywood Music in Media Award* for “Best Epic/Orchestral Music”, Stephen’s more than 1320 works include 4 symphonies, several concerti and over 45-hours of Music for Ensembles of the 3rd Millennium™. Stephen’s *Symphony III: Lightfall*, was nominated for the *Pulitzer* and *Nemmers Prize in Music*. Winner of three 2009 *Telly & Ava Awards* for his 2005 Visualized Concert, *Kakehashi: That We Might Live*, Stephen’s concert-version was nominated for the *Pulitzer Prize in Music*. A fourth *Telly Award* was given for “Best Use of Music” in the 2019 feature film, *One Little Finger* produced by Rupam Sarmah. A fifth *Telly Award* and *Scorpius Award* included Stephen’s work on the 2019 *Reckoning of Darkness* produced by Christopher Kulikowski. Stephen’s 15 feature film scores include the *Academy Award*-nominated *12:01PM*.

Stephen has been a recipient of the *ASCAP Concert Awards* each year since 1992. *STORMWORKS*, Stephen’s pioneering, self-publishing entity, has gone from 0 to many thousands of world-wide renderings since 1992 simply by word-of-mouth. He has 52 Albums and 9 books on varied streaming services and his novels include, *Only for Now*, *Ahab*, *a Love Story*, the prequel to Melville’s *Moby Dick*, and most recently, the sequel, *Death to Moby Dick*, *a Love Story*.

Complete BIO <https://stephenmelillo.com/bio>

WIKI Entry <https://stormworld.com/wikipedia-entry-with-images>

Digital Libretti here: <https://stephenmelillo.com/digital-libretti>

Amazon Author Page: amazon.com/author/stephenmelillo

