

A long-exposure photograph of a starry night sky. The stars have formed into numerous concentric circular trails, creating a spiral effect. The trails are primarily in shades of blue and green, with some brighter yellow and white streaks. In the lower-left foreground, the dark silhouette of a large, leafless tree is visible against the dark sky. The overall scene is a serene and ethereal representation of a night sky.

Night of the Shooting Star

STEPHEN MELILLO, Composer

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#953 in 5:00 for Young Band of the 3rd Millennium
"CHILDHOOD USED TO BE FOR CHILDREN™"

by Stephen Melillo © IGNA 23 December 2007

Commissioned by
THE NORTH PENN ELEMENTARY WIND ENSEMBLE
North Penn School District
Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Chris Thompson & Jim Marcopul, Directors

Technical

Though independent and overlapping phrase markings have been written in the opening section, it is possible to have each individual student phrase differently. A breath may be taken after *any* quarter note. An experiment creating *any* musical phrase by tapering to Silence can be done as a preparatory exercise. Do this by taking first 1, then 2, then 3, then 4, then 5, etc., quarter notes and phrasing them into Silence.

Another option for the flutes. Each quarter note (*in the opening and similar sections*) may become a 1/2 - step trill.

The Orchestra/Celeste Part is an **optional** part. **But**, if it is possible to have either a Celeste, or a 2nd synthesizer set to Celeste, or Orchestra Bells, the part will add much colour.

At measure **25**, the "feeling" of No Time is created from the conductor. However, Music is moving *through* time for the Percussionists. In this section there is an opportunity to create an extremeness in Dynamic and colour. Within the effects of what is written... each instrumental section can be further addressed with cues for individual responses to Dynamic swells and diminuendi. For instance, **1** finger would be flutes-oboe, **2** fingers would be clarinets, **3**: saxes, **4**: Horns-bassoon-low brass, **5**: trumpets. If you are familiar with **BY LOVE COMPELLED**, this same approach may be taken. (*Score notes at stormworld.com*)

Also during this section the flutes and clarinets are asked to play as fast as possible... as quietly as possible, and then with extreme, and **optional** responses to the Dynamic urged by the conductor.

Musical

I wish there was less to say. This work is connected, emotionally, to 2 other works from **STORMWORKS Chapter 13: Whispers on the Wind. ICONOCLAST and OUR TIME AS A SONG IN THE UNIVERSE**. This work began with a different title. It was called "*Pandora's Box in the Circle of Virtue.*" But something wonder-filled happened. I received a National Geographic email saying that the Geminid Meteor shower would be spectacular this year. Then I remembered... it was the *1 year anniversary*.

Unplanned, I completed this work at 3:33AM on the *1 year anniversary* of my Mother's passing... a moment I would later discover, coincided with the appearance of a large Shooting Star! *At my Mother's service I said this about her the Shooting Star. And with this, I will leave you to the Music.*

"On Thursday night, December 14th, I looked up into a crystalline night sky and saw one of the most beautiful, bright and long-burning meteors I had ever seen. At first I thought it was a crashing plane, then... a firework. Then, I saw it for what it was, an ice-blue shooting star, first burning white and then in one final spiraling gasp, becoming a bright moving candle that shed its radiant light... one last time.

Meteors, shooting stars, especially around Christmas are Signs. Miniature "Stars of the East" that remind us to feel Hope. There's something good in seeing one... I think you know what I mean? The Stars are always there, but every once in a while we must be shaken from complacency. Suddenly, we see that fast-burner, that **MOVING** Star... and it seems to tell us, "**You've forgotten the skies for too long. Look up! Look up!**"

The Goodness that was *our* Mother lives in all of us who have known her. She is alive in us like the memory of a Shooting Star that appeared briefly from the Darkness. It burned long and bright, giving its Light to all who would simply look up... and see it.

And like the Shooting Star, our Mom is consumed by the very Light she gave to others. *We* are left with a smoky wisp, a once fiery trail, a memory, a painful hole and a further *test* of Goodness. But this day, this night and into forever and especially at Christmas, the *Heavens* are more bright than they have ever been before." Godspeed. Stephen Melillo

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IGNA 23 DECEMBER 2007, 2-3 MILLENNIUM

In Mystery @ 50

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Flute 1 *mp, fluid*

Flute 2 *mp, fluid*

Oboe *mp, fluid*

Bassoon *mp, soloistic*

Clarinet 1 *mp, fluid*

Clarinet 2 *mp, fluid*

Clarinet 3 *mp, fluid*

Bass Clarinet in B_♭ *mp, dark*

Alto Sax 1 *mp, fluid*

Alto Sax 2 *mp, fluid*

Tenor Sax *mp, fluid*

Bari Sax *mp, fluid*

Horn 1 *mf*

Horn 2 *mf*

Trumpet 1 *mf*

Trumpet 2 *mf*

Trumpet 3 *mf*

Baritone *mf*

Euphonium *mf*

Trombone 1 *mf*

Trombone 2 *mf*

Tuba *mf*

PAD Bass *mf*
play in lowest octave, plus 8VB

Timpani *mfz*

Chimes *mp*
use 4 mallets or 2 players

Orch Bells/Celeste or KB 2 *mp*

Wind Chimes *mf*
Random single chimes w/metal beater or finger cymbals

Finger Cymbals *mp*

Suspended Cymbal *mp*

Crash Cymbal

Bass Drum

Gong