

SYMPHONY 2: AT LIFE'S EDGE
STEPHEN MELILLO
COMPOSER

Composer's Notes
Symphony II; At Life's Edge
PART I: Betrayal... & a Prayer for Innocence
PART II: At Life's Edge

by © Stephen Melillo IGNA 31 December 1993 - 1 January 1994

It is Christmas. The work has not yet been completed. I pause to write this personal letter. Amidst falling snow outside the frosted window... and the death of friend, a truly great man who has lived so much, I am targeting the signing of my name just before the stroke of Midnight of the new year... 1994.

AT LIFE'S EDGE, shall symbolically join the end points of two different times, two different worlds.

I write to you this personal note, which like the music, is a kind of prayer for all of us. If only I could share with you those things I did *not* write. So much swirled in heart and mind prior to the selection of notes offered in this humble work.

What I have chosen to say... in my own mind and heart, *needed* to be said. Though I feel brave about offering something so simple, that bravery is made small by still, yet a greater bravery, that of Gerhardt Zimmerman's championing. It is further made safe by an audience who loved *S-Matrix, Symphony #Numberless*.

I am still that same boy... and perhaps, I shall always be, offering back what I deeply believe touches all of us. I am certainly the littlest of the "*little drummer boys*".

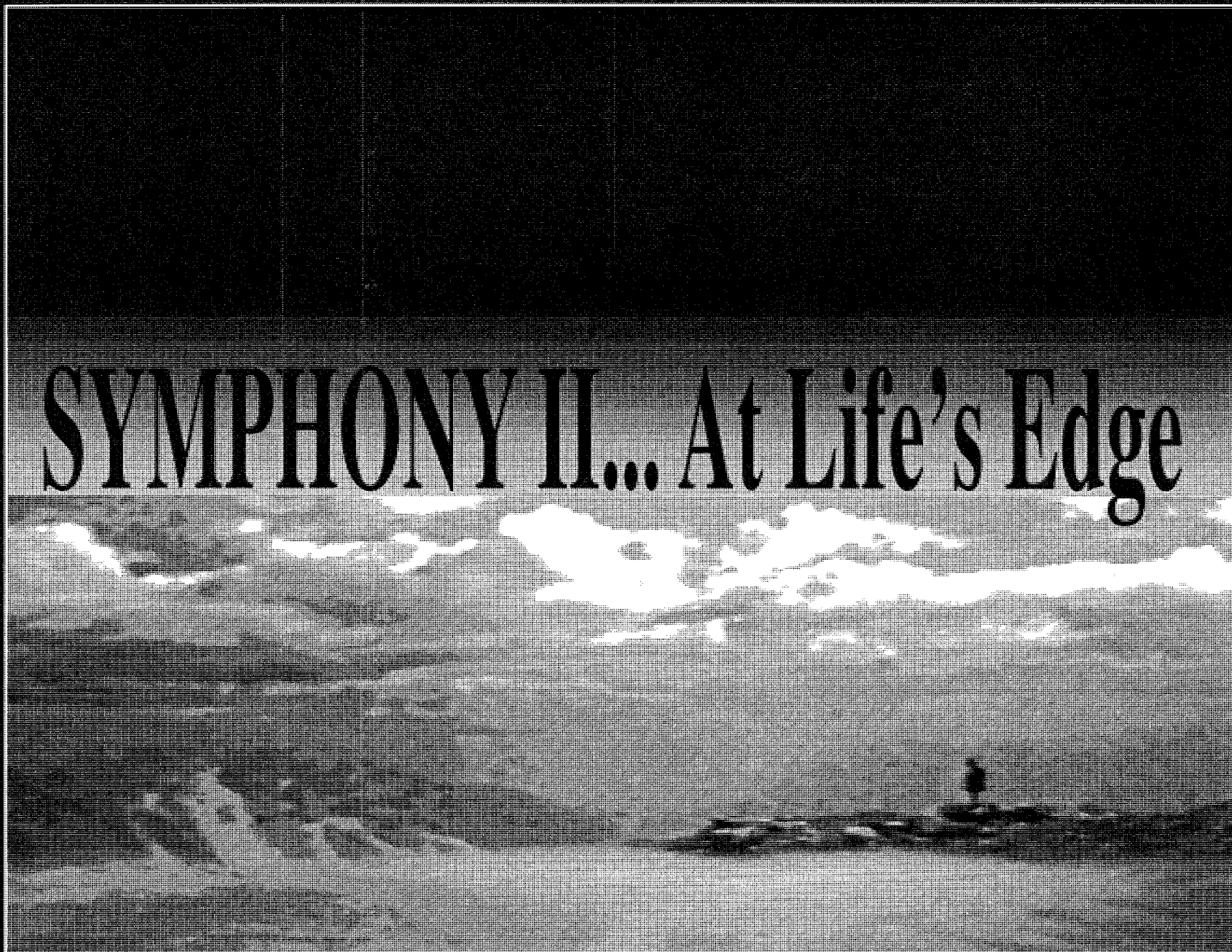
I cannot think of the contest to be won, the gigantic idea to capture, the glorious to be glorified. I can only think, as each note touches paper, that I am writing for a cause far more important... *you*, my children in the Future. It is as though each note were a word in a letter.

Beyond the "sound", there are the many unspoken notes, the ones *not* written, the ones which, like the silence of the falling snow, seem to speak the strongest.

What was it I hoped you would hear? That question, when asked, makes you the best of Listeners.

Without a listener there *is* no Music. So thank you, Gerhardt, thank you, symphony musicians and thank you, dear listener, for helping me to "write" this music.

Godspeed. Stephen Melillo



SYMPHONY II... At Life's Edge

#725 at 25:00 by © Stephen Melillo IGNA 31 December 1993 - 1 January 1994

HAMMERED - VIOLENT

SWIPE!

Symphony 2, Part One

Musical score for Symphony 2, Part One, page 1. The score is written for a full orchestra and includes the following parts:

- Flutes:** Piccolo (Pic), Flute 1 (Fl 1), Flute 2 (Fl 2)
- Clarinets:** Clarinet 1 (Cl 1), Clarinet 2 (Cl 2), Bass Clarinet (B Cl)
- Bassoons:** Bassoon 1 (Bsn 1), Bassoon 2 (Bsn 2), Bassoon 3 (Bsn 3)
- Horns:** Horn 1 (Hn 1), Horn 2 (Hn 2), Horn 3 (Hn 3), Horn 4 (Hn 4)
- Trumpets:** Trumpet 1 (Tpt 1), Trumpet 2 (Tpt 2), Trumpet 3 (Tpt 3)
- Timpani:** Timpani 1 (Tim 1), Timpani 2 (Tim 2), Bass Drum (B Tim)
- Other Percussion:** Tuba, Snare Drum (Snare), Crash Cymbal (Crash), Glockenspiel (Glock)
- Strings:** Violin 1 (Vln 1), Violin 2 (Vln 2), Violin 3 (Vln 3), Viola (Vla), Cello (Clo), Bass

The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs. Performance markings include *ff* (fortissimo), *f* (forte), *fp* (forzando piano), and *swipe!*. A tempo change is indicated at the bottom left: *♩ = 136 / MOLTO AGITATO*. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, with measure numbers 1, 2, 3, and 4 visible at the top of the staves.