

James M. Stephenson

In Memoriam: Stephen Paulus

No Thing Can Die as Others Do
for SATB chorus

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Music

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No Thing Can Die as Others Do

text: Edna St. Vincent Millay

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The logo for Stephenson Music features a large, stylized, blue cursive letter 'S' on the left. To the right of the 'S', the word 'Stephenson' is written in a blue, sans-serif font, and the word 'Music' is written below it in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

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No Thing Can Die as Others Do

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Composer's Notes:

(in a letter sent to friends after Stephen Paulus' passing)

"Dear Friends: As I imagine is the case with many of you, I am having a really difficult time coming to grips with Stephen's passing. I have found myself in tears on several occasions, and frankly, again, right now. Stephen and I met in 2007, when we both had music played on the same program. Now - I say we met... but, the truth is, he was the one who initiated the contact. I knew of him and his music, of course, and was pretty much a "deer in headlights" when near him that day. Well - true to Stephen's form (as I would subsequently come to discover) - he found me, was extremely nice and complimentary, and we had a long conversation. Every time I saw him thereafter, it was like seeing an old friend - he was funny, curious about what was going with me and my career, and also offering advice, which I still follow to this day.

In many ways, I relate to him very much. (and this was confirmed listening to the radio broadcasts and archived interviews with him over the past couple of days). Actually, it's almost scary - and please mind you, I'm not making artistic comparisons as if I'm his equal - but he would call his music neo-romantic, but quickly diffuse the negative connotation that exists currently; he would describe his music as both rhythmic and lyrical. He liked joking around. He loved text. He's self-published (one of the first success stories in that regard that I can think of). All of these things I would use to describe a lot of my characteristics, both personally and musically. (plus we're both thin with brown hair - but he had more hair!)

In the days since his passing, I have read many tributes, where people have spoken with such eloquence. I have never been blessed with the ability to speak as such, and so I have found myself these past few days really struggling with how to express my sadness. The only way I know how to express my thoughts is through music. And so - last night - I wrote a little SATB choral score in Stephen's honor, and in his memory. The words come from something I read that Stephen's collaborator, Michael Dennis Browne, shared, as he thought of Stephen's passing:

by Edna St Vincent Millay about the death of a poet:
"No thing that ever flew, / Not the lark, not you, / Can die as others do."

I owe Steve so much, and this is the only way I could think to try to repay some of what he gave to me. I knew I could count on seeing him every December at the Midwest Clinic here in my hometown of Chicago, and I will be so sad when I'm there this year, to only be reminded again that he is gone!

Jim Stephenson; October 22, 2014

Performance Time: 3'

About the composer:

Chicago area composer James Stephenson's works have been performed by leading American orchestras and wind ensembles around the world, and have been hailed by critics as having "straightforward, unabashedly beautiful sounds" and "Stephenson deserves to be heard again and again!" (Boston Herald). His music incorporates a fresh and energizing sound scape that engages the audience while maintaining integrity and worthwhile challenges for the performing musicians. This rare combination has rewarded Stephenson with a host of ongoing commissions and projects.

His original orchestral works have been performed by the Atlanta Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Detroit Symphony, Florida Orchestra, L.A. Philharmonic, Minnesota Orchestra, Oregon Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Rochester Philharmonic and more. Additionally, his symphonic arrangements receive performances by nearly 100 orchestras annually. His 2nd trumpet concerto ("Rextreme") has been performed on five continents since its premiere in Australia by Rex Richardson in 2010. His growing catalog now boasts concertos and sonatas for nearly every wind instrument, and additionally the violin (2) and piano. Commissions for solo works have come from principal players in the the symphonies of Chicago, Boston, NY Phil, Philadelphia and Minnesota Orchestra, Washington DC (National), Oregon, Dallas, among others.

In the concert band world, Stephenson has had premieres occurring at major venues such as the Midwest Clinic, TMEA (Texas Music Educators) and the ABA (American Bandmasters Association) convention, the latter with the US "President's Own" Marine Band. In the spring of 2014, his music was premiered/performed at four consecutive CBDNA and ABA regional conferences. In 2014/15, his new bassoon concerto - "Dialogue of Self and Soul" - will have been performed at the University of Minnesota, University of Michigan (including a CD recording), Eastern Michigan University, University of Wisconsin/Madison, Merit School of Music, University of Texas, and Ohio State University. Stephenson's immediately successful Soldier's Tale sequel - "The Devil's Tale" - has garnered multiple performances since its 2013 premiere, in addition to a forthcoming CD release with Western Illinois University.

His landmark educational work, Compose Yourself!, has now been performed over 250 times since its creation in 2002, and will see performances by many more orchestras in the near future as well. Recently having added conducting to his musical palette, Stephenson has already been engaged on several occasions with orchestras in Charleston, Modesto, Ft. Myers, Wyoming, Bozeman and the Chicago area.

Before moving to Lake Forest, IL, as a full-time composer/conductor, Stephenson spent 17 seasons with the Naples (FL) Philharmonic as a trumpeter, a position he won immediately upon graduating from the New England Conservatory of Music. When not writing music, he enjoys spending time with wife, Sally, and four children, or doing almost any sporting activity!

Stephenson is currently enjoying a position of Composer-in-Residence with the Lake Forest Symphony.
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Peacefully, Simply, Freely

Soprano *p* *poco* *p* *poco*
 No thing that e - ver flew, No thing that e - ver flew,
 Alto *p* *poco* *p* *poco*
 thing that e - ver flew, thing that e - ver flew,
 Tenor *p* *poco* *p* *poco*
 thing that e - ver flew, No thing that e - ver flew,
 Bass *p* *poco* *p* *poco*
 thing that e - ver flew, thing that e - ver flew,

6 *p* *pp* *mp*
 S Not the lark, not you, No
 A *p* *pp* *mp*
 Not the lark, not you, No
 T *p* *pp*
 Not the lark, not you,
 B *p* *pp*
 Not the lark, not you,

11 *mf* *mp*
 S thing that e - ver flew, Not the lark, not you, Not the
 A *mf*
 thing that e - ver flew, Not the lark, not you,
 T *mp* *mf*
 thing that e - ver flew, Not the lark, not you,
 B *mp* *mf*
 Not the lark, not you,

17

S lark, _____ not you, _____ Not the lark, _____ *p*

A *mp* Not the lark, _____ not you, _____ *mp* Not the lark, _____ not

T *mp* Not the lark, _____ not you, _____ *p* Not the lark, _____

B *mp* Not the lark, _____ not you, _____ *p* Not the lark, _____

23

S not you, _____ *pp* No thing _____ *p* e - ver flew, _____ Can

A you, _____ *pp* No thing _____ e - ver flew, _____

T not you, _____ *p* No thing _____ that e - ver flew, _____

B not you, _____ *pp* No thing _____ e - ver flew, _____

poco a poco piu mosso

29

S die _____ as o - thers do. _____ *mp* Can die _____ *mf*

A *p* Can die _____ *mp* o - thers do. _____ *mf* Can die _____

T *p* Can die _____ *mp* o - thers do. _____ *mf* Can die _____

B *p* Can die _____ *mp* o - thers do. _____ *mf* Can die _____

slowing al fine

34 *f* *mp*

S — as o - thers do. Can die as o - thers

A — o - thers do. die

T — as o - thers do. Can die

B — o - thers do. Can die

39 *p* *pp*

S do. No thing Not the lark,

A do. No thing lark, Can

T do. No thing Not the lark,

B do. No thing Not the lark,

45 *pp* *ppp* *a niente*

S Can die as o - thers do.

A die o - thers do.

T Can die as o - thers do.

B do.