The background is a complex collage. At the top, a window shows a snowy, mountainous landscape. Below it, a piano is visible, with its keyboard and keys. The entire scene is overlaid with a pattern of musical notes and staves, creating a rich, artistic texture.

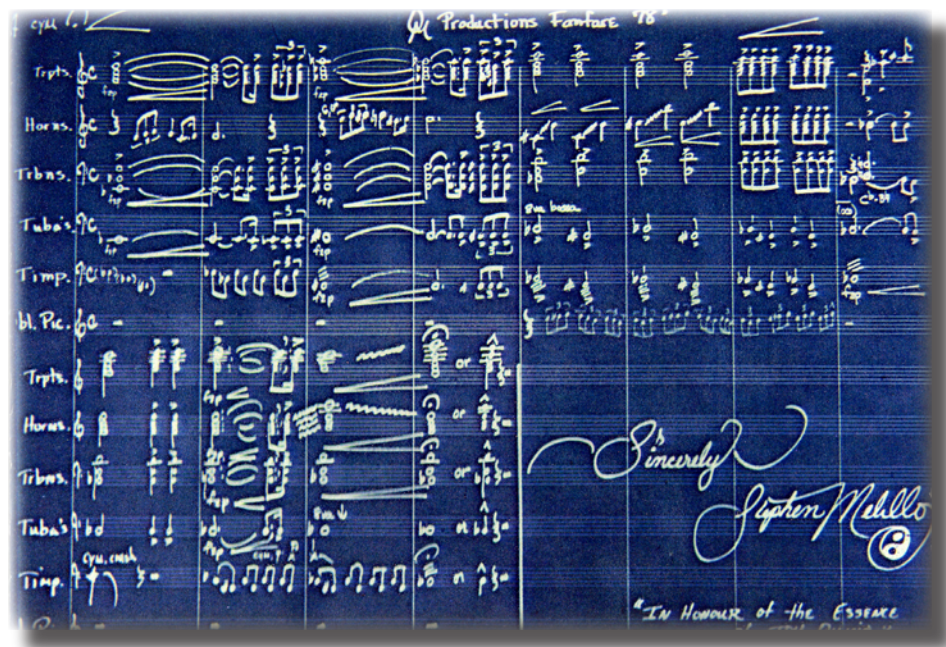
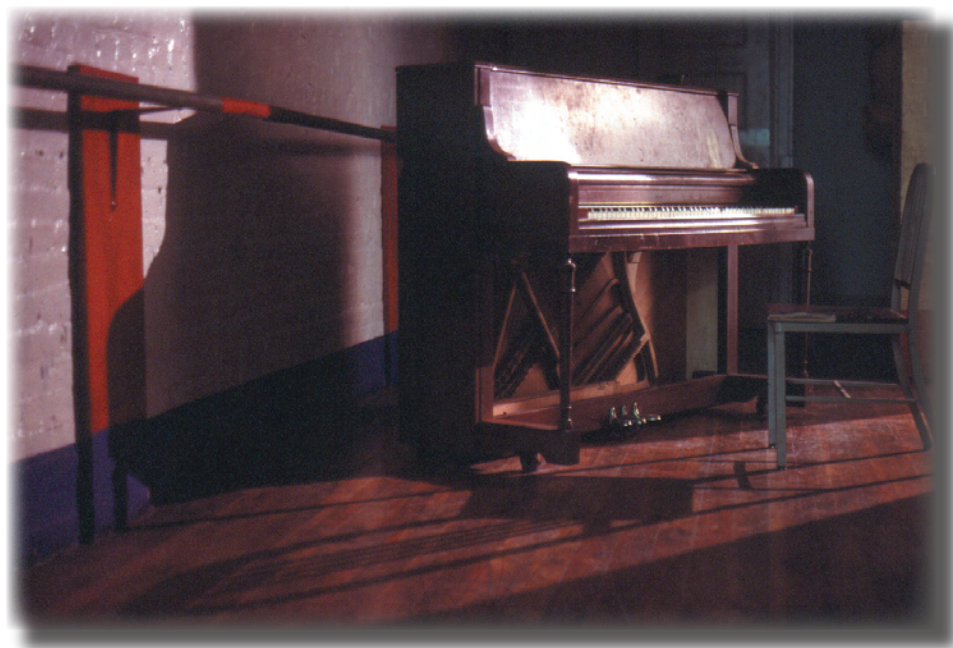
# A THEME FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

STEPHEN MELILLO  
COMPOSER

# A THEME FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

#1, Yes, #1 for Band M3 in 3:40 by © Stephen Melillo IGNA 3 February 1979, 2nd & 3rd Millennium  
Resurrected and Commissioned on 21 February 2007, Ash Wednesday...  
by the Good Graces of the Bunnell High School Music Department  
G. James Miller, Conductor

Behold our cast of characters!



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21 February 2007  
Ash Wednesday...

Dear Compatriot...

Fortunately, there are a *few* things I'm very glad about, most especially because when living out the Story of one's Life, you can't go back and change events the way you might in a fiction.

I'm glad indeed, that the **first** piece I wrote for band was motivated by a desire to Give. That seems consistent with the experience of Band, with the legacy of Music, with the mission of Teaching... with the desire to compose and to share. And so... yes, I'm glad that an unplanned urge to offer something I had not yet done overtook logic.

Interestingly enough, when I began STORMWORKS, the result of being rejected by publishers for 11 years, I used the phrase, "*Sometimes you must Give to the World by Storm.*" And for those of you who followed the evolution of STORMWORKS from its humble beginnings, you might recall this excerpt from the early, pre-website newsletters:

"Sometimes you must GIVE to the world by Storm." Boston 1978. Still unpacked, I was practicing the clarinet and watching television. A commercial requesting help for the Special Olympics aired. Filled with boyish enthusiasm and unparalleled naivete, I decided to send the ultimate Gift. I would compose a piece of Music! Yes! A Theme for the Special Olympics! With adventure, I descended to the Boston Conservatory Dorm Room Basement, there to find in the 88 keys of the un-tuned piano a Theme worthy of the Special Olympic athletes! This would be my first piece.

Needing to test my orchestration, I asked Chester Roberts, principal Tuba with the Boston Symphony, and our brass ensemble conductor if he would read down a 12-measure fanfare. My little tape recorder went on. Encouraged, I proceeded to create my first work for Wind Ensemble... a Gift. In 3 days, I ventured to the Boston Conservatory Wind Ensemble rehearsal. "Mr. Corley? Would you please read this piece for me?"

He did. I taped it on an old Panasonic tape-recorder. I packaged the cassette with a nice letter and sent it... and never heard anything more about it.

Here is that piece, even now, a Gift. It is a reminder that rejection has nothing to do with Music. We make it because we must... and accepted or not, it remains the honest expression of one of our greatest traits... the desire to Give.

And that's why, after all these years, it has been resurrected. Formally accepted or not, this Music is a Gift to the athletes of the Special Olympics and all those who face the inward struggle with the Heart of a Hero.

To such Souls, I remain a simple documentarian... encapsulating their great Living in Song.

Godspeed!

Stephen Melillo  
Composer

# A THEME FOR THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS

BY © STEPHEN MELILLO, COMPOSER  
IGNA 3 FEBRUARY 1979, 2-3 M  
PIECE #1 FOR BAND

1 Explosive, mm@72

This musical score is for a band piece titled "A Theme for the Special Olympics" by Stephen Melillo. It is marked "Explosive, mm@72" and is the first piece in a set for band. The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of 16 staves. The instruments included are Piccolo, Flutes 1-2, Flute 3, Oboe, Clarinet in Eb, Bb Clarinet 1, Bb Clarinet 2, Bb Clarinet 3, Bb Bass Clarinet, Bassoons 1-2, Eb Alto Saxophone, Bb Tenor Saxophone, Eb Baritone Saxophone, Horns 1-2, Horn 3, Bb Trumpets 1-2, Bb Trumpet 3, Trombone & Euphonium 1-2, Bass Trombone, Tuba, PAD Bass, Timpani, Orchestra Bells, Chimes, Bass Drum, Crash Cymbals, Sus Cymbal, Chorus, and Harp. The score features a variety of musical notations, including triplets, sixteenth-note runs, and dynamic markings such as *fz*, *ff*, *ppp*, and *pp*. There are also performance instructions like "Double everything 8VB..." and "sneak in! Yarn". The piece is divided into four measures, with trills and other ornaments indicated above the notes in the first three measures.