

Despite All Else...

#986 in 10:21 Scored for Wind Symphony of the 3rd Millennium
by © Stephen Melillo IGNA 31 December 2009 - 1 January 2010
2nd & 3rd Millennium

Commissioned by
Sound of the South
Troy University

in Dedication & Tribute to
Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr.

And on 9 April 2011
Dedicated to the People of Japan



Sketches for *Despite All Else* were composed during the 5-days of “rest” enjoyed *after* completing **Reel 5** of an animated feature score. It was written *before* completing **Reel 6** on 31 July 2009. During a previous “break,” *Here We Stand*, was completed on **6 June 2009, D-Day plus 65**. Musical ideas from both parts of this combined work, *Despite All Else... Here We Stand*, were played for the film’s Director. He enjoyed the Music so much he asked for, “a Concert in Reel 6.” The Music served as source material for further developed orchestrations in the score. There are so many expansive layers of connection and Story to extend the experience.



The 5 days encompassing the sketching of *Despite All Else* were filled with synchronicity and feelings conveyed in this Music. It was Anne Frank’s **80th Anniversary**. Eighty was also *Two* times the anniversary of the Moon-landing! Anne was just 15 years old on **15 July 1944** when she wrote in her diary.

*“It’s really a wonder that I haven’t dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them, because **in spite of everything**, I still believe that people are really good at heart. I simply can’t build up my hopes on a foundation consisting of confusion, misery, and death. I see the world gradually being turned into wilderness. I hear the ever approaching thunder, which will destroy us too. I can feel the suffering of millions and yet, if I look up into the heavens, I think that it will all come right, that this cruelty too will end, and that peace and tranquility will return again.”*



Three weeks after writing this, their hiding place was found and the Nazis sent all of the inhabitants to concentration camps. Seven months later Anne died in the camp at Bergen-Belsen.

On **20 July 1973**, at age 33, Bruce Lee, a Man with a vast vision and sweeping influence let us go. I find it forever interesting that this personal Hero, a Man for whom the piece *WU* was written, left this world on the very date... now **40 years ago**, that Humankind would put a Man... on the **Moon!** Of all the things that bring chills, I am still amazed that people armed with slide-rules and guts put a Man on another world. As an 11-year-old boy, I can still vividly see Walter Cronkite on a wood-enclosed, black & white television with a 12-inch screen.



Concluding the work during the Christmas season and the advent of the New Year, I reflect on these original inspirations. In the book-ends of *Anne Frank & NASA*, we find the sorrowful, hope-filled emotions of this piece. Those emotions are fitting for **Dr. Jack Hawkins Jr.**, who once fought and led Marines during the Vietnam War. In the spirit of *Musashi*, that *same* Man, a Warrior dedicated to self-sacrificing liberation returned years later to that *same* country, now as a University Chancellor dedicated to establishing schools and providing for the general welfare and Future of the people he helped liberate. **Wow. Read that again.**

For what *Dr. Hawkins* embodies with his Life, and... *Despite all else...* our pains and hurts, our injustices to and from, our crazed Pasts and potentially nightmarish, possibly wonder-filled futures... *Here we stand...* ready to make sure that Good things have *their* chance as well.

On **9 April 2011**, Ryo Hashimoto of the Natori Symphonic Winds in Sendai contacted me via email and shared what all of the world had seen on TV. Because of the generosity of Mr. Ralph Ford and all involved, this work’s purpose is lovingly amended to include the following dedication.

To the People of Japan. We Stand with You! Godspeed! Stephen Melillo



Photos by Ichiro Asuke

Despite All Else...

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IGNA 31 December - 1 January 2010
2-3 Millenium
ASCAP

Slowly, w/reserved Hope...

Into the Struggle...

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Flute

Piccolo/Flute 3
Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe
Bassoon
Clarinet 1
Clarinet 2
Clarinet 3
Bass Clarinet in B \flat
Alto Sax 1
Alto Sax 2
Tenor Sax
Bari Sax
Horn 1
Horn 2
Horn 3
Trumpet 1
Trumpet 2
Trumpet 3
Baritone
Euphonium
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Bass Trombone
Tuba
PAD Bass
VOICES
Piano
Harp
Timpani
Chimes
Snare Drum
Crash Cymbal BD
Suspended Cymbal
Gong/Side Strike
GUITAR

