## stanley grill



Ahimsa
for orchestral ensemble

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## VOCAL MUSIC

| The Snow Begins (W.C. Williams) | 1975 |
| :---: | :---: |
| Earth and Sea (Eskimo texts) | 1975 |
| Prelude (T.S. Eliot) | 1978 |
| 6 Songs (W.B. Yeats) | 1983 |
| To a Child (W.B. Yeats) | 1987 |
| Crazy Jane Sings (W.B. Yeats) | 1999 |
| Vignettes/Flowers (W.C. Williams | 2002 |
| Love Poems (W.C. Williams) | 2003 |
| Vignettes/Trees (W.C. Williams) | 2004 |
| Thinking of You (John MacKenzie) | 2005 |
| Ariettas Without Words | 2005 |
| Scetate (Ferdinando Russo) | 2005 |
| In Their Flight (Mark Doty) | 2006 |
| 5 Rilke Songs | 2009 |
| 4 Songs to Poems by Hart Crane | 2010 |
| Seasons (W.C. Williams) | 2010 |
| Sonnets to Orpheus (R.M. Rilke) | 2012 |
| Songs of Loss and Remembering (R.M. Rilke) | 2012 |
| Rozmowa z kamieniem (W. Szymborska) | 2013 |
| 2 Love Songs (H. Heine) | 2015 |
| A Collection of Songs (C.F. Cilliers) | 2017 |
| The Violin Sings in a Common Language | 2017 |
| Collected Villanelles (various poets) | 2018 |
| La selva de los relojes (Federico Garcia Lorca) | 2018 |
| Der Februar (Erich Kastner) | 2018 |
| Vier Gedichte (Inborg Hoflehner) | 2018 |
| La Lay de Plour (Guillaume Machaut) | 2018 |
| Selections from Les Roses (R.M. Rilke) | 2019 |
| Blossoms (Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger) | 2019 |
| This Hour (Rose Ausländer) | 2019 |
| The Aim was Song (Robert Frost) | 2019 |
| Two Ballads (Richard Leach) | 2019 |
| The Whirr of Wings (various poets) | 2020 |
| Dust Song (Richard Leach) | 2020 |
| Selections from Words for Music Perhaps (W.B. Yeats) | 2020 |
| An Incalculable Loss (Richard Leach/Norman Fischer) | 2020 |
| Say their names (words from the news) | 2020 |
| To Pain (Peter Levitt) | 2020 |
| Artist (Madhu Raghavendra) | 2020 |
| 1918 (Ellen Bryant Voigt) | 2020 |
| Les Fugitifs (R.M. Rilke) | 2020 |
| Schnee und Eis (Rose Ausländer) | 2020 |
| Moot! | 2020 |
| 4xM and Other Blues (Richard Leach) | 2021 |
| 2 Sonnets (William Shakespeare) | 2021 |
| Several Simple Songs | 2021 |
| Idilio (Federico Garcia Lorca) | 2021 |


| soprano, piano | 3 min |
| :---: | :---: |
| soprano, piano | 3 min |
| soprano, violin, cello | 10 min |
| soprano, piano | 15 min |
| soprano, string quartet | 20 min |
| soprano, fl, vn, va, vc, pn | 25 min |
| SATB, cello | 18 min |
| SSAA | 10 min |
| sop, mezz sop, 2 cellos | 15 min |
| soprano, cello, harp | 7 min |
| soprano, cello, harp | 9 min |
| SSATTBB | 6 min |
| sop, mezzo, violin, cello | 6 min |
| soprano, viola d'amore, cello | 15 min |
| tenor, piano | 35 min |
| SATB | 11 min |
| tenor, piano | 35 min |
| soprano, viola d'amore, viola, cello | 12 min |
| soprano, 2 violins, cello | 15 min |
| countertenor, va, vc, theorbo | 4 min |
| soprano, piano | 18 min |
| soprano, violin | 13 min |
| SATB | 16 min |
| mezzo soprano, cello, piano | 21 min |
| soprano, viola d'amore | 4 min |
| mezzo soprano, viola d'amore | 6 min |
| contralto, fl, vn, vc, piano | 40 min |
| soprano, oboe, violin | 9 min |
| soprano, viola d'amore, cello | 22 min |
| soprano, tenor, vn, va, vc, harpsichord | 11 min |
| soprano, cello | 3 min |
| soprano, Bb clarinet, viola, cello, piano | 8 min |
| chorus, flute, viola, cello | 24 min |
| soprano, piano | 3 min |
| mezzo soprano, baritone, piano | 8 min |
| soprano \& cello | 12 min |
| voice \& piano | 6 min |
| baritone \& piano | 4 min |
| soprano \& piano | 3 min |
| mezzo soprano, vn, 2 va, vc | 20 min |
| mezzo soprano, viola | 5 min |
| soprano, viola | 6 min |
| 9 voices | 3 min |
| baritone \& piano | 11 min |
| soprano, flute, clarinet, viola | 9 min |
| soprano \& piano | 10 min |
| soprano \& piano | 3 min |

## MUSIC FOR STRINGS ALONE

6 Contrapuntal Pieces 1986

For Laura 1987
The Beckoning Stars 2001
Imaginary Dances

| string quartet | 20 min |
| :--- | :--- |
| string quartet | 25 min |
| string quartet | 13 min |
| violin solo | 18 min |


| Short Stories | 2003 | vn, va, vc, db | 18 min |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Passion (a love duet) | 2003 | viola, cello | 9 min |
| Pavanne (for a world without war) | 2005 | string orchestra | 8 min |
| Meditations | 2006 | string orchestra | 8 min |
| American Landscapes | 2007 | string quartet | 24 min |
| Motet | 2008 | string orchestra | 7 min |
| Ecstasy | 2009 | viola solo | 9 min |
| Transformations | 2009 | viola da gamba | 12 min |
| Sonatine | 2010 | 3 violins | 9 min |
| Lieder ohne Worte | 2011 | 2 va , vc, theorbo | 12 min |
| Middle Ground | 2012 | $\mathrm{vn}, 2 \mathrm{va}$, vc | 25 min |
| O mystery! | 2012 | viola solo | 5 min |
| Music for Viol Consort | 2013 | 6 viols | 20 min |
| Afterwards, there were no more wars | 2013 | string quartet | 21 min |
| At the Center of All Things | 2013 | string quartet | 17 min |
| 4 Nocturnes | 2013 | violin, viola | 19 min |
| Lonely Voices | 2013 | string quartet | 26 min |
| Trance Music | 2014 | string orchestra | 22 min |
| The Time is Past | 2016 | string quartet | 15 min |
| Dreaming of a Better World | 2016 | string quartet | 15 min |
| Trio Sonata | 2017 | vn, va d'amore, cello | 10 min |
| Transfiguration | 2017 | viola quartet | 14 min |
| Duets | 2018 | 2 viola d'amore | 7 min |
| Aphorisms I | 2019 | string quartet | 15 min |
| Airs and Dances | 2019 | strings | 6 min |
| Border Crossings | 2019 | 2 violins | 6 min |
| Sea and Sky | 2019 | 2 violas | 11 min |
| Ode to Theia | 2020 | string quartet | 22 min |
| Trio Sonata - 2020 | 2020 | viola, viola d'amore, cello | 10 min |
| Drift | 2021 | string orchestra | 12 min |

## CHAMBER MUSIC

| Three for Three | 1992 | violin, cello, piano | 16 min |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Civil War Songs | 1992 | viola, piano | 18 min |
| Take Five | 1993 | piano quintet | 25 min |
| Serenade | 1999 | $\mathrm{fl}, \mathrm{vn}, \mathrm{va}$, vc | 11 min |
| Distant Music | 2000 | cl, vn/va, vc, pn | 20 min |
| Driven by the Wind | 2001 | flute, cello, piano | 25 min |
| Nonet (for New York) | 2002 | $\mathrm{fl}, \mathrm{ob}, \mathrm{cl}, \mathrm{hn}, \mathrm{bn}$, string quartet | 35 min |
| A Little Sweet | 2003 | flute, cello | 10 min |
| On the Edge of Sleep \& Dreaming | 2003 | horn, cello, harp | 31 min |
| 5 Pastoral Scenes | 2004 | ob, bn, vn, va, vc | 30 min |
| I was dreaming of the sea... | 2004 | vn ( orfl ), vc, pn | 7 min |
| Little Tales of Mirth \& Woe | 2004 | vn ( or fl), vc, pn | 6 min |
| An Ode to the Possibility of Piece | 2005 | clarinet, violin, cello | 15 min |
| Elements | 2006 | $\mathrm{fl}, \mathrm{ob}, \mathrm{cl}, \mathrm{hn}$, bn | 11 min |
| Motet for Brass Instruments | 2006 | $2 \mathrm{tp}, \mathrm{hn}, \mathrm{tb}, \mathrm{tu}$ | 7 min |
| 4 Caprices | 2014 | violin, piano | 14 min |
| Melville's Dream | 2017 | alto flute, viola, cello | 12 min |
| Music for Loud Band | 2018 | 2 cornettos \& 2 tenor sackbuts | 5 min |
| Fanfare | 2018 | 4 sackbuts (or tenor trombones) | 3 min |
| the children are crying | 2018 | saxophone quartet | 6 min |
| the children are still crying | 2018 | saxophone quartet | 6 min |
| Aphorisms II | 2019 | viola \& piano | 21 min |
| Divisions | 2019 | $\mathrm{vn}, \mathrm{vc}, \mathrm{pn}$ | 13 min |


| Aphorisms IV | 2019 | cello \& piano | 19 min |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| Remember | 2020 | viola \& piano | 10 min |
| The Whirr of Wings (instrumental suite) | 2020 | flute, viola, cello | 19 min |
| Dance | 2020 | flute | 3 min |
| Echo | 2020 | flute, oboe, clarinet, violin | 4 min |
| Freedom Song | 2020 | saxophone quartet | 6 min |
| The Stars Circle Above, Indifferent to Our Foolishness | 2020 | flute quartet | 7 min |
| Traumstücke | 2020 | viola d'amore, piano | 11 min |

## ORCHESTRAL MUSIC

| Morning Music | 2001 | clarinet, string orchestra | 22 min |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Two Sad Songs (W.B. Yeats) | 2002 | soprano, string orchestra | 15 min |
| Invisible Ballet | 2003 | string orchestra \& diverse instruments | 33 min |
| Dark Matter (Pluto) | 2005 | orchestra | 15 min |
| Ophelia Songs (Shakespeare) | 2005 | soprano, harp, string orchestra | 12 min |
| Love's Little Pleasures (various poets) | 2008 | soprano, string orchestra | 15 min |
| The Four Elements | 2009 | viola, string orchestra | 22 min |
| Mystical Songs (Fernando Rielo) | 2009 | soprano, viola, string orchestra | 18 min |
| In Praise of Reason | 2012 | cello, 2 horns, string orchestra | 13 min |
| Against War | 2018 | soprano, orchestra | 23 min |
| Season of Rain | 2018 | orchestra | 38 min |
| Summer | 2018 | orchestra | 43 min |
| Declaration of Peace | 2019 | chamber orchestra | 12 min |
| Everything Passes | 2019 | soprano \& chamber orchestra | 16 min |
| Gaia's Lament | 2019 | violin, orchestra | 21 min |
| Serenade | 2019 | oboe, string orchestra | 13 min |
| The Silence of Winter | 2020 | 3 flutes, string orchestra | 13 min |
| The Bridge | 2020 | viola \& orchestra | 70 min |
| Fantasy | 2020 | piano, string orchestra | 15 min |
| Die Erste Elegie (R.M. Rilke) | 2020 | soprano, orchestra | 38 min |
| The Mystic Trumpeter | 2021 | trumpet, string orchestra | 24 min |
| 24 september 1945 (Nazir Hikmet) | 2021 | soprano \& string orchestra | 3 min |
| 28 october 1945 (Nazir Hikmet) | 2021 | soprano \& string orchestra | 4 min |
| Canzione d'Amore (various poets) | 2021 | soprano \& string orchestra | 22 min |
| Ahimsa | 2021 | orchestral ensemble | 22 min |
| PIANO MUSIC |  |  |  |
| Simple Sketches | 2015 | piano | 12 min |
| Skirmishes | 2016 | piano 4 hands | 10 min |
| Preludes for Piano, 1-6 | 2016 | piano | 10 min |
| Preludes for Piano, 7-12 | 2017 | piano | 10 min |
| Aphorisms III | 2019 | piano | 17 min |

## Ahimsa

The older \| get, the more I find myself thinking about the concept of ahimsa, which in its simplest sense, means not to inflict harm on others through thought, word or action. An ancient concept, yet one which has not caught on sufficiently in our troubled world. Humankind is not only in endless violent conflict within itself, but by and large we fail to recognize that we are part of all of life on this earth and all that life is a part of us. Thus, we inflict the same violence, if not worse, on the innocent lives of all Earth's creatures, as we do upon ourselves.

As | thought about it recently, | decided to write music that reflects this basic principle for living, in sections honoring those who, for me, were guiding lights for how to live your life in this way. The words that introduce each movement are meant to be read aloud before the music sounds if or when this music is performed before an audience. It begins with my maternal grandfather, who although | doubt he would have ever run across the word, taught me the same precepts in his own way, sitting around the dinner table in the Bronx. Live your life, pursue your dreams, but never at the expense of others. This introduction is followed by the words of Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and John Lennon - all of whom died while in the pursuit of holding up the candle of ahimsa for all to see. Writing this in 2021, it is hard to think of any who are their match today, but those with their intensity are sorely needed.

## INTRODUCTION

what my grandfather taught me

As a young child, my grandfather, who fled Poland in 1905 to come to the United States, without saying as much (he was no philosopher), taught me the importance of living your life and pursuing your dreams without bringing harm of any kind to others. It was not until decades later that I understood this lesson in life to be his own understanding, arrived at from his own experience fleeing Europe to find freedom in America, of the concept of a word he likely would never have heard - and that word is ahimsa.



Tbn. 2

Vc.
D.B.



Hn. 1

Bb Tpt.

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2




Tbn. 2
D.B.








Tbn. 2

Vc.
D.B.



Bb Tpt.

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Vc.
D.B.



Tbn. 2

Vla.

Vc.
D.B.



## MAHATMA GANDHI

And Gandhi said:
Ahimsa is not merely a negative state of harmlessness but it is a positive state of love, of doing good even to the evil-doer. But it does not mean helping the evil-doer to continue the wrong or tolerating it by passive acquiescense. On the contrary, love, the active state of ahimsa requires you to resist the wrong-doer by dissociating yourself from him even though it may offend him or injure him physically.

The path of Truth is as narrow as it is straight. Even so is that of ahimsa. It is like balancing oneself on the edge of a sword. By concentration an acrobat can walk on a rope. But the concentration required to tread the path of Truth and ahimsais far greater. The slightest inattention brings one tumbling to the ground. One can realize Truth and ahimsa only by ceaseless striving.















## MARTIN LUTHER KING

## And Martin Luther King said:

Nonviolent resistance is an internal matter. It not only avoids external violence or external physical violence, but also internal violence of spirit. And so, at the center of our movement stood the philosophy of love. The attitude that the only way to ultimately change humanity and make for the society that we all long for is to keep love at the center of our lives.

Nonviolent resistance is based on the conviction that the universe is on the side of justice. Consequently, the believer in nonviolence has deep faith in the future. This faith is another reason why the nonviolent resister can accept suffering without retaliation. For he knows that in his struggle for justice he has cosmic companionship.

Lento $d=52$












## JOHN LENNON

## And John Lennon said:

The unknown is what it is. And to be frightened of it is what sends everybody scurrying around chasing dreams, illusions, wars, peace, love, hate, all that...it's an illusion.

When it gets down to having to use violence, then you are playing the system's game. The establishment will irritate you - pull your beard, flick your face - and make you fight. Because once they've got you violent, then they know how to handle you. The only thing they don't know how to handle is non-violence and humour.

Peace is possible, and it isn't just inevitable to have violence. Not just war - all forms of violence.






Tbn. 2






















# A few words about (and by) the composer 

## STAN GRILL

Raised in the Bronx, Stan has been obsessed with music since the age of six, when his mother took him to Carnegie Hall and he was astonished and awestruck by a performance of "La Mer." While that obsession first took the form of playing piano at every possible moment (when not otherwise engaged in activities typical of a kid growing up in the Bronx of the 1950's and '60s), it was Stan's music theory studies at the Manhattan School of Music that converted that obsession to writing music - and to finding his own musical voice.

He learned the craft from extraordinary musicians: among others - Robert Helps, Leon Kushner, Ursula Mamlok and Joseph Prostakoff. Stan's passion for medieval and Renaissance music has greatly influenced his writing - a contemporary expression of ageless techniques based on melody, modal harmonies, and contrapuntal, extended, interweaving lines. Two main themes permeate many of his works - music composed in an attempt to translate something about the nature of the physical world, and music composed to inspire and promote world peace.

Stan's music has been performed the world over - from Ecuador to Poland; Toulouse to Tokyo; Brooklyn to Vienna - by such artists as Camerata Philadelphia, Camerata Arkos, Englewinds, the Pandolfis Consort, the Bronx Arts Ensemble, One World Symphony, violists Brett Deubner and Ralph Farris, and violinist Jorge Avila. Major works include three symphonies, ten string quartets, a nonet, concerti for violin, viola and cello, and numerous song cycles for voice and various instruments.

Stan's discography includes "afterwards..." with the Camerata Philadelphia string quartet, "and I paint stars with wings" with Camerata Philadelphia, "Rustling Flights of Wings" with soprano Nancy Allen Lundy, pianist Stephen Gosling and violinist Ralph Farris and "At the Center of All Things" with music performed by the Diderot String Quartet.
"As I see it, as much as we strive to find reason and purpose in our having been born into this amazing, mysterious and awe-inspiring universe, that attempt is largely futile. It is however, the best part of our nature that obliges us to make the attempt, though the most we can hope for is to gain some small degree of understanding of the world around us, and, more importantly, of ourselves. To achieve this, we each approach the problem in our own way, uniquely shaped by our cultural background, innate talents and abilities, education and so on. For some, science may be the window through which they best perceive and interpret the world, for others, religion. For those to whom the world seems to express itself most clearly and beautifully through sound, music is the voice that speaks to us and through which we, in turn, best express ourselves. №w, I can write notes that will make pretty music because I've been trained to do so - but the best of my music has arrived, rather inexplicably, as part of a personal effort to understand the world and myself. It is, in a way, an act of translation. The world says something, I try to understand it, and then translate it into musical language. The particular musical language which I speak, is, of course, a product of my conservatory training and personal musical tastes, 6ut hopefully, the outcome, imperfect a translation as it may be, will convey to others something of its original intent."

Stan's music is melodic, modal, contrapuntal, characterized by extended, interweaving lines. His musical influences span the centuries, and include Machaut, Josquin, Palestrina, Monteverdi, Lassus, Britten, Ives, Vaughn Williams and Shostakovich.

Complete scores are available at www.stangrillcomposer.com. Stan Grill is a member of ASCAP.

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