# stanley gríll

Ahimsa

### for orchestral ensemble

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#### VOCAL MUSIC

$T_{1}$ , $C_{1}$ , $T_{2}$ , $T$	1075		2
The Snow Begins (W.C. Williams)	1975	soprano, piano	$3 \min_{2}$
Earth and Sea (Eskimo texts)	1975 1978	soprano, piano	$3 \min$
Prelude (T.S. Eliot) 6 Songs (W.B. Yeats)	1978	soprano, violin, cello soprano, piano	10 min 15 min
To a Child (W.B. Yeats)	1985		$20 \min$
	1987	soprano, string quartet	20 min 25 min
Crazy Jane Sings (W.B. Yeats)	2002	soprano, fl, vn, va, vc, pn	18 min
Vignettes/Flowers (W.C. Williams Love Poems (W.C. Williams)	2002	SATB, cello SSAA	$10 \min$
Vignettes/Trees (W.C. Williams)	2004	sop, mezz sop, 2 cellos	15 min 7 min
Thinking of You (John MacKenzie) Ariettas Without Words	2005	soprano, cello, harp	7 min
	2005	soprano, cello, harp	9 min
Scetate (Ferdinando Russo)	2005	SSATTBB	6 min
In Their Flight (Mark Doty)	2006	sop, mezzo, violin, cello	6 min
5 Rilke Songs	2009	soprano, viola d'amore, cello	15 min
4 Songs to Poems by Hart Crane	2010	tenor, piano	35 min
Seasons (W.C. Williams)	2010	SATB	11 min
Sonnets to Orpheus (R.M. Rilke)	2012	tenor, piano	35 min
Songs of Loss and Remembering (R.M. Rilke)	2012	soprano, viola d'amore, viola, cello	12 min
Rozmowa z kamieniem (W. Szymborska)	2013	soprano, 2 violins, cello	15 min
2 Love Songs (H. Heine)	2015	countertenor, va, vc, theorbo	4 min
A Collection of Songs (C.F. Cilliers)	2017	soprano, piano	18 min
The Violin Sings in a Common Language	2017	soprano, violin	13 min
Collected Villanelles (various poets)	2018	SATB	16 min
La selva de los relojes (Federico Garcia Lorca)	2018	mezzo soprano, cello, piano	21 min
Der Februar (Erich Kastner)	2018	soprano, viola d'amore	4 min
Vier Gedichte (Inborg Hoflehner)	2018	mezzo soprano, viola d'amore	$6 \min$
La Lay de Plour (Guillaume Machaut)	2018	contralto, fl, vn, vc, piano	40 min
Selections from Les Roses (R.M. Rilke)	2019	soprano, oboe, violin	9 min
Blossoms (Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger)	2019	soprano, viola d'amore, cello	22 min
This Hour (Rose Ausländer)	2019	soprano, tenor, vn, va, vc, harpsichord	11 min
The Aim was Song (Robert Frost)	2019	soprano, cello	3 min
Two Ballads (Richard Leach)	2019	soprano, Bb clarinet, viola, cello, piano	8 min
The Whirr of Wings (various poets)	2020	chorus, flute, viola, cello	24 min
Dust Song (Richard Leach)	2020	soprano, piano	3 min
Selections from Words for Music Perhaps (W.B. Yeats)	2020	mezzo soprano, baritone, piano	8 min
An Incalculable Loss (Richard Leach/Norman Fischer)	2020	soprano & cello	12 min
Say their names (words from the news)	2020	voice & piano	6 min
To Pain (Peter Levitt)	2020	baritone & piano	4 min
Artist (Madhu Raghavendra)	2020	soprano & piano	$3 \min$
1918 (Ellen Bryant Voigt)	2020	mezzo soprano, vn, 2 va, vc	20 min
Les Fugitifs (R.M. Rilke)	2020	mezzo soprano, viola	5 min
Schnee und Eis (Rose Ausländer)	2020	soprano, viola	6 min
Moot!	2020	9 voices	3 min
4xM and Other Blues (Richard Leach)	2021	baritone & piano	11 min
2 Sonnets (William Shakespeare)	2021	soprano, flute, clarinet, viola	9 min
Several Simple Songs	2021	soprano & piano	10 min
Idilio (Federico Garcia Lorca)	2021	soprano & piano	3 min

#### MUSIC FOR STRINGS ALONE

6 Contrapuntal Pieces	1986	string quartet	20 min
For Laura	1987	string quartet	25 min
The Beckoning Stars	2001	string quartet	13 min
Imaginary Dances	2001	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	vn, 2 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 **Civil War Songs** Take Five Serenade **Distant Music** Driven by the Wind Nonet (for New York) A Little Sweet On the Edge of Sleep & Dreaming 5 Pastoral Scenes I was dreaming of the sea... Little Tales of Mirth & Woe An Ode to the Possibility of Piece Elements Motet for Brass Instruments 4 Caprices Melville's Dream Music for Loud Band Fanfare the children are crying the children are still crying Aphorisms II Divisions

1992	violin, cello, piano	16 min
1992	viola, piano	18 min
1993	piano quintet	25 min
1999	fl, vn, va, vc	11 min
2000	cl, vn/va, vc, pn	20 min
2001	flute, cello, piano	25 min
2002	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn, string quartet	35 min
2003	flute, cello	10 min
2003	horn, cello, harp	31 min
2004	ob, bn, vn, va, vc	30 min
2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	7 min
2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	6 min
2005	clarinet, violin, cello	15 min
2006	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn	11 min
2006	2 tp, hn, tb, tu	7 min
2014	violin, piano	14 min
2017	alto flute, viola, cello	12 min
2018	2 cornettos & 2 tenor sackbuts	5 min
2018	4 sackbuts (or tenor trombones)	3 min
2018	saxophone quartet	6 min
2018	saxophone quartet	6 min
2019	viola & piano	21 min
2019	vn, vc, 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**

piano 4 hands	10 min
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piano	10 min
piano	10 min
piano	17 min
	piano piano

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Flutes (2) Alto Flute English Horn Bb Clarinet Bassoon F Horns (2) Bb Trumpet Trombones (2) Violins Violas Celli Basses

## Ahimsa

The older | get, the more | 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 I thought about it recently, I 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 I 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*.

























#### 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 *ahimsa* is far greater. The slightest inattention brings one tumbling to the ground. One can realize Truth and *ahimsa* only by ceaseless striving.





























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#### 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.





















## 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.































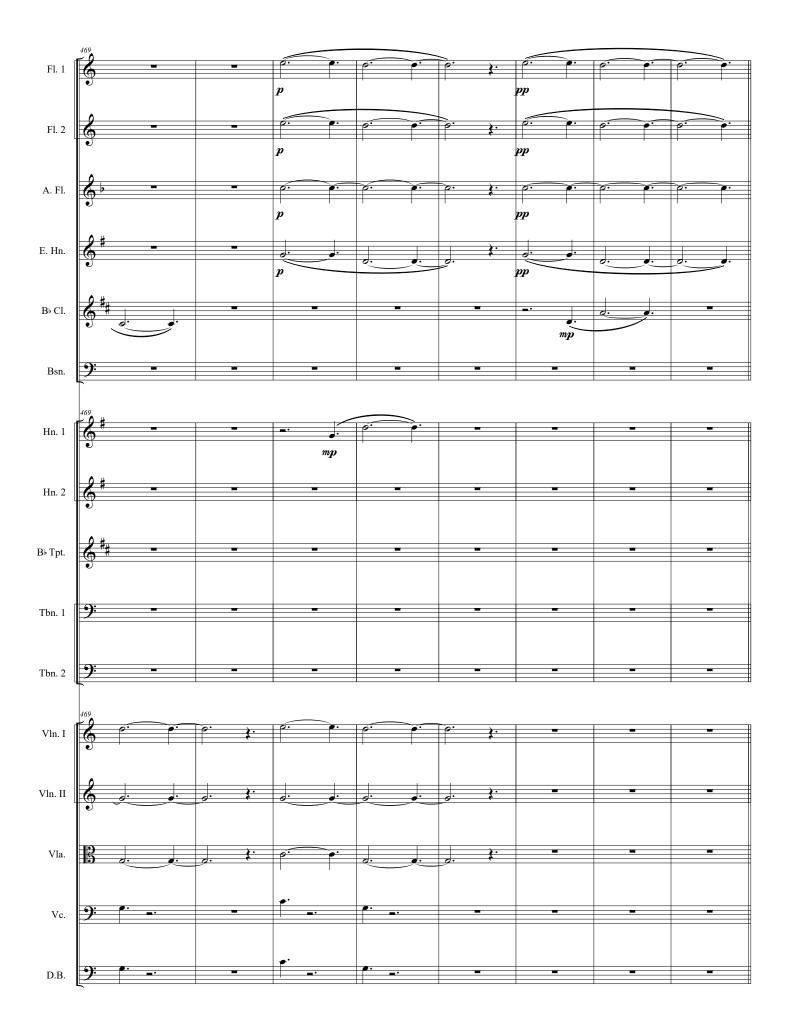




















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## A few words about (and by) the composer

## 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. Now, 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, but 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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