stanley grill

Sara's wedding music

viola solo

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MUSIC BY STAN GRILL

		VOCA	AL MUSIC	
The Snow Begins (W.C. Williams)		1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Earth and Sea (Eskimo texts)		1975	soprano, piano	3 min
Preludes (T.S. Eliot)		1978	soprano, violin, cello	10 min
6 Songs (W.B. Yeats)		1983	soprano, piano	15 min
To a Child (W.B. Yeats)		1987	soprano, string quartet	20 min
Crazy Jane Sings (W.B. Yeats)		1999	soprano, fl, vn, va, vc, pn	25 min
Vignettes/Flowers (W.C. Williams)		2002	SATB, cello	18 min
Love Poems (W.C. Williams) Vignettes/Trees (W.C. Williams)		2003	SSAA	10 min 15 min
Thinking of You (John MacKenzie)		$\frac{2004}{2005}$	2 voices, 2 cellos soprano, vc, harp	7 min
Ariettas without words		2005	soprano, ve, harp soprano, ve, harp	9 min
Scetate (Ferdinando Russo)	2005	SSATT		<i>J</i> 111111
In Their Flight (Mark Doty)	-000	2006	soprano, mezzo soprano, vn, vc	6 min
Rilke Songs		2009	soprano, va d'amore, vc	15 min
4 Songs to Poems by Hart Crane		2010	tenor, piano	12 min
Sonnets to Orpheus (Rilke)		2012	tenor, piano	35 min
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17	MUS		STRINGS ALONE	
6 Contrapuntal Pieces		1986	string quartet	20 min
For Laura		1987	string quartet	25 min
As Easy as 1,2,3		1987	string trio	10 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	va, vc	9 min
Pavanne (for a world without war)		2005	string orchestra	8 min
Meditations for String Orchestra		2006	string orchestra	8 min
American Landscapes		2007	string quartet	24 min
Motet for String Orchestra		2008	string orchestra	7 min
Ecstasy		2009	viola solo	9 min
Transformations Sonatine		2009 2010	viola da gamba solo 3 violins	12 min 9 min
Soliatine		2010	3 violins	9 111111
CHAMBER MUSIC				
Three for Three		1992	vn, vc, pn	16 min
Civil War Songs		1992	va, pn	18 min
Take Five		1993	2 vns, va, vc, pn	25 min
Serenade		1999	fl, vn, va, vc	11 min
Distant Music		2000	cl, vn/va, vc, pn	20 min
Driven by the Wind		2001	fl, vc, pn	25 min
Nonet (for New York)		2002	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn, 2vns, va, vc	35 min
A Little Sweet		2003	fl, vc	10 min
On the edge of sleep & dreaming		2003	hn, vc, harp	31 min
5 Pastoral Scenes		2004	ob, bn, vn, va, vc	30 min
I was dreaming of the sea		2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	7 min
Little Tales of Mirth & Woe		2004	vn (or fl), vc, pn	6 min
An Ode to the Possibility of Peace		2005	cl, vn, vc	15 min
Elements Motet for Brass Instruments		2006	fl, ob, cl, hn, bn	11 min
Motet for Brass Instruments		2006	2 trp, hn, trb, tu	7 min
ORCHESTRAL MUSIC				
Appalachian Songs		1988	chamber orchestra	25 min
Morning Music		2001	cl, string orchestra	22 min
Two Sad Songs (W.B. Yeats)		2002	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
Invisible Ballet		2003	strings & diverse instruments	33 min
Pluto		2005	orchestra	15 min
Ophelia Songs (Shakespeare)		2005	soprano, harp, string orchestra	12 min
Love's Little Pleasures		2008	soprano, string orchestra	15 min
The Four Elements		2009	va, string orchestra	22 min
Mystical Songs		2009	soprano, va, string orchestra	18 min

on a May morning...

(processional)

stan grill



Exuberance





A few words about (and by) the composer

Stan Grill was raised in the Bronx, studied at the Bronx House School of Music, and later graduated from the Manhattan School of Music with undergrad and graduate degrees in music theory. He studied piano with Robert Helps and Leon Kushner and composition with Ursula Mamlok and Joseph Prostakoff. Major works include music for string orchestra and voice, string orchestra and clarinet, a nonet for winds and strings, and several song cycles for mixed voices and chamber ensemble. Performances have been produced by the composer, as well as presented by the Composers Guild of New Jersey, the St. Paul's Church Festival of the Arts, the Leonia Chamber Players, the New York Composers Circle, the Northern New Jersey Camerata, the Bronx Arts Ensemble and the Duo + Ensemble. During the 2004-06 seasons, he was composer in residence of One World Symphony, a New York City based orchestra. One World Symphony has premiered several major works, including "Invisible Ballet" for orchestra, "Two Sad Songs" setting poems by W.B. Yeats for soprano & string orchestra, and a cycle of songs for two cellos and two mezzo sopranos setting poems by the New Jersey poet William Carlos Williams. In 2006, One World commissioned three works – a setting of the Ophelia songs from Shakespeare's "Hamlet" for soprano, harp and string orchestra, an orchestral work, "Pluto," for a program featuring Holst's "The Planets," and a setting of poetry for a concert honoring those who lost their lives on 9/11. Recent works include "The Four Elements" for viola and string orchestra commissioned by violist Brett Deubner and "Mystical Songs" for soprano, viola and string orchestra commissioned by the Universidad Tecnica Particular de Loja. In 2009, an entire program of music by Stan Grill was performed in Tokyo by the Duo + Ensemble. He currently works in Philadelpia, and lives happily in New Jersey with his wife, cats and piano.

"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. Two main themes permeate many of the pieces - music intended to influence the minds and hearts of those who hear it in such a way as to encourage thoughts about the possibility of world peace - and music composed in an attempt to translate something about the nature of the physical world.

Complete scores are available in the American Music Center's on-line library. Please go to Stan's web page at **American Music Center**.

