

stanley grill



vignettes ~ trees

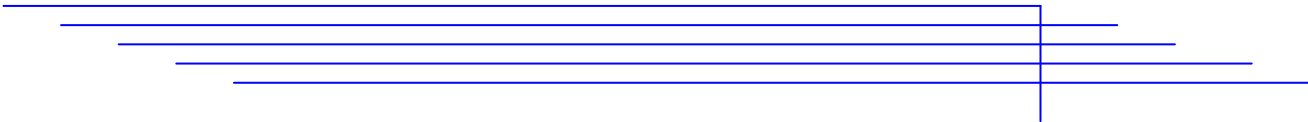
musical settings of poems
by William Carlos Williams

for 2 voices and 2 cellos

Love Song
The Botticellian Trees
The Soughing Wind
Epitaph
Winter Trees
The Bare Tree
Love Song

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MUSIC BY STAN GRILL

VOCAL 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)	2003	SSAA	10 min
Vignettes/Trees (W.C. Williams)	2004	2 voices, 2 cellos	15 min
Thinking of You (John MacKenzie)	2005	soprano, vc, harp	7 min
Ariettas without words	2005	soprano, vc, harp	9 min
Scetate (Ferdinando Russo)	2005	SSATTBB	6 min
In Their Flight (Mark Doty)	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

MUSIC FOR 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	2009	viola da gamba solo	12 min
Sonatine	2010	3 violins	9 min

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	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

Vignettes-Trees is a companion piece to my cycle ***Vignettes-Flowers*** – the latter setting poems about flowers for SATB with solo cello accompaniment, and the former setting poems which have trees as a central image for 2 cellos and 2 voices. The poems in both works are all by the wonderfully unique New Jersey poet, William Carlos Williams. Of course, these poems are not really about trees at all – but use the image of trees to say something important about the usual subjects of poetry – love, for instance.

Stan Grill

1 - Love Song

Allegro

mf

mf

5

9

13

p

p

17

mf Sweep the house — clean, hang fresh cur-tains on the

mf Sweep the house clean, hang fresh cur-tains on the

mf

mf

21

win-dows put on a new dress and come with

win-dows put on a new dress and come with

26

me! The

me! *p* The elm — is

mp

p

mp

p

30

elm _____ is scat-ter-ing its lit - tle loaves of sweet smells from ____

scat-ter-ing its lit - tle loaves of sweet smells from _____ a white sky! ____

34

____ a white sky! ____ *mf* Who _____ shall

____ *mf* Who _____ shall

38

hear of us in - the time to come?

hear of us in - the time to come?

42

Let him say there was a burst of fra-grance

Let him say there was a burst of fra-grance

46

from black branch - es.

from black branch - es.

p

52

p

pizz.

2 - The Botticellian Trees

Allegretto

pizz. *mp* *rit.* *arco* *a tempo*

4

8

mp The al - pha-bet of the trees —

mp The al - pha-bet of the trees —

8

p *p* *mp* *pizz.* *a tempo* *mp*

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It begins with a piano introduction in the bass clef, marked 'Allegretto' and 'mp'. The introduction features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, with 'pizz.' (pizzicato) and 'arco' (arco) markings. The tempo changes from 'Allegretto' to 'rit.' (ritardando) and then to 'a tempo'. The piano introduction is followed by a vocal melody in the treble clef, which begins with the lyrics 'The al - pha-bet of the trees —'. The vocal melody is marked 'mp' and 'a tempo'. The piano accompaniment continues in the bass clef, with 'p' (piano) and 'mp' markings. The score includes a repeat sign and a 'pizz.' marking in the piano part. The tempo changes from 'Allegretto' to 'rit.' and then to 'a tempo'.

rit. *a tempo*

12

— is fad - - - ing fad - - - ing in the song _____ of the

— is fad - - - ing fad - - - ing in the song _____ of the

rit. *a tempo*

12

15

trees

trees

15 *arco*

arco

18

22

p The cross - ing bars of the thin _____ let - ters that spelled

p The cross - ing bars of the

25

win - ter that spelled win - ter and the cold have been il -

thin _____ let - ters that spelled win - ter and the cold have been il -

29

lu - mined with point - ed green by the rain and

lu - mined with point - ed green by the rain and

33

sun *pp* The strict sim - ple prin - ci - ples of straight

sun *pp* The strict sim - ple prin - ci - ples of straight

33

pp

pp

38

branch - es are be - ing mod - i - fied — by — pinched - out ifs of

branch - es are be - ing mod - i - fied by pinched - out ifs of

38

42

co - lor de - vout con - di - tions the

co - lor de - vout con - di - tions the

42

46 *rit.*

smiles of love _____

smiles of love _____

46 *a tempo* *p* *pizz.*

49 *mp* *rit.* *a tempo*

un - til the stript _____ sen - - - ten - ces move _____ as a

un - til the stript _____ sen - - - ten - ces move _____ as a

49 *a tempo* *pizz.* *mp* *rit.* *a tempo*

52

wo-men's limbs _____ un - der cloth

wo-men's limbs _____ un - der cloth

52 *arco* *arco*

55

58

p and praise _____ from _____

p and

58

62

se - cre-cy quick _____ with de - sire quick _____ with de - sire with de -

praise _____ from _____ se - cre-cy quick _____ with de - sire with de -

62

65

sire *pp* Love's _____ as - cen - dan-

sire *pp* Love's _____ as - cen - dan-

65

pp

pp

69

cy in sum - mer In sum - mer the song _____ sings _____ it - self

cy in sum - mer In sum - mer the song _____ sings it - self

69

73

a - - - bove the muf - fled words

a - - - bove the muf - fled words

73

75

a - bove the muf - fled words.

a - bove the muf - fled words.

75

79

rit.

a tempo

pizz.

p

mp

pizz.

pizz.

mp

82

rit.

arco

a tempo

f

f

3 - The Sougning Wind

Adagio

The musical score is written for piano and voice. The piano part is in 3/4 time, marked 'Adagio'. It begins with a series of eighth notes and triplets, marked 'pp'. The vocal part enters at measure 6 with the lyrics 'The leaves hang late,'. The piano accompaniment continues with a steady eighth-note pattern and triplets. The vocal part continues with the lyrics 'some fall some fall be - fore the first' starting at measure 9. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line with triplets and a rhythmic eighth-note pattern.

pp The leaves hang late,

pp The leaves hang late,

some fall some fall be - fore the first

some fall some fall be - fore the first

11

frost so goes

frost so goes

13

so goes the tale of win - ter branch - es and old bones.

so — goes the tale of win - ter branch - es and old bones.

16

22

4 - Epitaph

Andante

Andante

arco

pizz.

p

3

6

sfz

p

3

6

sfz

pizz.

sfz

arco

p

6

sfz

p

3

6

sfz

pizz.

sfz

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The top staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a common time signature (C). It contains six measures. The first measure has a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The second measure has a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The third measure has a dynamic marking of *sfz* (sforzando) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The fourth measure has a dynamic marking of *fffz* (fortissimoforzando) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The fifth measure has a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The sixth measure has a dynamic marking of *pizz.* (pizzicato) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The bottom staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#), and a common time signature (C). It contains six measures. The first measure has a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The second measure has a dynamic marking of *mf* (mezzo-forte) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The third measure has a dynamic marking of *sfz* (sforzando) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The fourth measure has a dynamic marking of *fffz* (fortissimoforzando) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The fifth measure has a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure. The sixth measure has a dynamic marking of *pizz.* (pizzicato) and a slur over a sixteenth-note figure.

[illegible]

9

An old wil - low _____ with

An old _____ wil - low _____

9

p *arco* *V*

11

hol - low branch - es

with hol - low branch-es

11

13

f slow - ly swayed his few high bright ten - drills____

f slow - ly swayed his few high bright

13 *pizz.* *f* *arco* *p* 6 6

mf

15

and sang:

ten - drills ___ and sang:

15

mp

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is written on a single staff, starting with a quarter note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a quarter note B4. The accompaniment is written on a single staff, starting with a quarter note G3, followed by a half note A3, and then a quarter note B3. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The melody features a series of eighth notes and a final quarter note. The accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note pattern. The score is marked with a 'pp' (pianissimo) dynamic.

19

p Love is a young green wil - low shim - mer-ing at the bare wood's

p Love is a young green wil - low shim - mer-ing at the bare wood's

19

21

edge. *pp* at the bare wood's edge.

edge. *pp* at the bare wood's edge.

21

p 3 6 *ff* *pizz.*

p *ff*

5 - Winter Trees

[illegible]

28

and the dis - at - tir - ing are com - plet - ed!

and the dis - at - tir - ing are com - plet - ed!

28

arco

mf

arco

5

mf

36

mp

mp

44

mp

A li - quid moon _____ moves gen - tly a - mong the long _____ branch - es.

3

mp

A li - quid moon _____ moves gen - tly a mong the long _____ branch - es.

3

44

mp

52

pizz. *arco* *p*

4+5/16 4+5/16

59

mf *mf*

4+5/16 4+5/16

65

mf *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*

4+5/16 4+5/16 2/4 2/4

71

p Thus hav-ing pre - pared their buds a - gainst a sure win - ter

p Thus hav-ing pre - pared their buds a - gainst a sure win - ter

2/4 2/4

71

p

2/4 2/4

6 - The Bare Tree

Adagio

pp

pp

p The bare cher-ry tree

p The bare cher-ry tree

f

f

f

12 high - er than the roof last year pro - duced a - bun - dant fruit

12 high - er than the roof last year pro - duced a - bun - dant fruit

12

17

but how speak of fruit con-front-ed by that ske-le-ton?

but how speak of fruit con-front-ed by that ske-le-ton?

p

p

21

mp Though live it may be though live it may be though

mp Though live it may be though live it may

mp

mp

23

live it may be there is no fruit

be though live it may be there is no

p

p

25

on it. There-fore chop it

fruit on it.

f *p*

28

down and use the wood a -

There-fore chop it down and use the wood a -

f *p*

30

gainst this bit - ing cold.

gainst this bit - ing cold.

f *mp* *p*

7 - Love Song

Allegro

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a 2/4 time signature and an 'Allegro' tempo marking. The piano introduction consists of two staves of bass clef music. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern, while the left hand plays a more melodic line with some eighth-note runs. Dynamic markings include *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 5, 11, and 17 indicated. At measure 11, the vocal melody enters on a treble clef staff. The lyrics 'I lie here think-ing of you:____' are written below the notes. The vocal melody features a triplet of eighth notes. The piano accompaniment continues with various dynamics including *f*, *p*, and *pp* (pianissimo). The score concludes with a final chord in the piano part.

mf

f

5

11

mp I lie here think-ing of you:____

mp I lie here think-ing of you:____

11

f

p

p

pp

21

the stain _____

the

21

p

p

28

— of love is up - on _____

stain of love is up - on _____

28

32

— the world! Yel - low,

— the world!

32

p

p

37

yel-low it eats in -

yel - low, it eats in

p

p

42

to the leaves,

to the leaves,

p

46

smears with saf-fron saf-fron

smears with saf - fron

p

p

p

p

55 *mf* smears with saf - fron the horn - ed bran - ches that lean hea - vi -

55 *mf* smears with saf - fron the horn - ed bran - ches that lean hea - vi -

58 ly a - gainst a smooth pur - ple sky! *mp*

58 ly a - gainst a smooth pur - ple sky! *mp*

62 *mp* There is no light

62 *mp* there is no light

62 *p*

62 *p*

67

on - ly a no - ney - thick stain that

on - ly a ho - ney - thick stain

67

drips from leaf and limb

that drips to leaf to limb

71

75

spoil - ing the co - lours _____ of the whole _____ world

spoil - ing the co - lours _____ of the whole _____ world

75

p

p

82

p you far off

p you far off

p

pp

89

there un - der the wine - red sel - vage of the

there un - der the wine - red sel - vage of the

3

95

west!

west!

p

pp

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 Philadelphia, 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](#).



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