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Dear Conductor... Thank you for believing in, and investing in the body of work called STORMWORKS. Once you’ve tasted the possibilities and experienced the reactions from your students and audiences, a large body of interrelated work awaits you. If you’ve invested in the whole package or Suite... Bravo. It was the best way to go. The STORMSite at www.stormworld.com provides up-to-date info on all that is happening with STORMWORKS®. Thanks so much for championing this Music and Godspeed in the journeys ahead.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

One wouldn’t think of buying software without having the appropriate hardware. With this same common-sense thinking, conductors rendering “Storm” Works should be properly equipped.

In the Band of the 3rd Millennium, the orchestration employed in the body of work called Stormworks, we find the standard wind and percussion ensemble augmented by the use of 2 synthesizers. A seemingly innocent leap, it is replete with functionality. The generic sounds ascribed to the synthesizers are: PAD Bass, (sometimes Piano and/or Chorus) and Harp. Comments about the types of sounds and manner of interpreting the varied notation may be found in the Brief Intro to the Music of Stephen Melillo... with FAQs residing on the STORMSite at stormworld.com.

In 1980, the cost for such an undertaking was significant. Now, for a cost-effective, multi-useful investment, your program can be readily equipped. Of course, this is only if you are completely un-equipped right now! Most music programs will have at least one student who owns a synthesizer, or at least knows someone who does. In the early 1980s, I was able to recruit a great number of students simply by suggesting that there was a place for them in the “electronics” section! I invite you, now with Music that calls for it, to be champions of a wider and fuller Music Education.

On the STORMWORKS CDs, you will hear how these sounds, placed in a stereo field around the band... as in the diagram on the seating chart page... enhances the overtone hierarchy and resonance of the band while remaining somewhat “traditional” in its orchestral usage. Two speakers, lying flat on the floor, should be placed so that the sound is directed back into the ensemble.

As we approach all of the new tomorrows, students need to play Music, that while serving the cause and purpose of Music Education, excites them... Music which sonically competes with the inundation of supremely produced sounds they hear in their every day lives.

A vast variety of interrelated and graduated pieces as well as accompanying Teaching Tools await you.

Now, as always, it’s up to you. Only you can be the guide your students need, and only you can deliver this Music to that limitless realm we refer to as Music. To that Quest, noble and honorable, Godspeed!

Stephen Melillo, Composer
As always, there is a tremendous dichotomy in the Music I write, a duality that at one moment demands exact, relentless, unyielding pulse... and then suddenly notes are not to be read precisely, but as splashes of colour and rendered in a manner that would be harp-like. Just think of these sounds as harp-like. The Musician in question would be expected to perform this sound in the way a harpist would. After all, this is a harp-like passage. Therefore, the Musician should be aware of how to respond to harp notation. A 7-note figure with a harp-like graphic notation represents a gliss across the whole keyboard. Do not exceed C5 as this will sound uncharacteristic. Gissandi only occur across the white keys, a strategy which allows for all ages to create sounds more often associated with the Orchestra. Fast rhythmic figures are designed to work as tremolos between the two hands. The faster written rhythms, sextuplets or 32nd notes are not to be read precisely, but as splashes of colour and rendered in a harp-like manner.

Percussion of Choice: One 18" Medium- Thin and one 16" Paper-Thin Zildjian Suspended Cymbals, one 22" Medium-Heavy German Symphonic Zildjian Crash, one Tambourine with German Silver Jingles, one Piccolo Snare, tightly tuned with coated batter head, Deagan Silver Chimes, Large Orchestral Bass Drum, and of course, the highest possible quality of Timpani. The designation “Glockenspiel” always means “Orchestra Bells”.

As always, there is a tremendous dichotomy in the Music I write, a duality that at one moment demands exact, relentless, unyielding pulse... and then suddenly calls upon the sensitive breath-like phrasing of an insightful Conductor. To your sensitive vision, I leave these languid moments... those whispers which, indeed, are the essence... and the very reason for everything else. Godspeed!

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