

GODSPEED!

#855 at 5:55 by © Stephen Melillo IGNA 10 May 1998
Commissioned by The Muncie Central High School Symphonic Band, Mr. Bill Pritchett, Conductor

TECHNICAL

Suggested tempi produces the proper inner architecture of the piece, and allows the players to move through otherwise long-winded passages with greater ease.

For those fascinated by such matters, "Godspeed" is formed in the Fibonacci Series. There are 33 meter changes, and in this work, the real-timing of 3:33 happens at m78... the "golden mean".

At m1, the woodwinds have the repeated flourish phrase. **Trill fingerings** may be used to facilitate the delivery of this section and its recurrence later in the work.

If breath is needed during this passage, I would suggest having the players stagger breath throughout the section, taking a breath on any of the staccato eighth notes.

The same, possible challenge and solution exists at m9 for the trumpet section, m22 for the clarinet section, then again at m98 for the trumpets, and then again at m138 for the flutes and clarinets.

Please be sure to read the **BRIEF INTRO TO MELLILLO MUSIC** in order to best interpret the **PAD Bass, Synthesized Harp and Percussion** requirements.

Unmarked eighth notes, such as appears in m20 suggest a more legato, jazz-style phrasing.

Conduct **m46-m82** as felt. Use **m82** as an "escape hatch", a measure to kick off the **tempo to mm=160**.

MUSICAL

There is no better way to express the Music of this work than to allow you to read a letter sent to me by Mr. Pritchett. His love has inspired this work.

"I haven't really had a chance to put this into words, but this is what I want to say. Every morning I marvel at how lucky I am to stand in front of the kids I have. It is really a pleasure for me to have the opportunity to conduct a high school band of this quality. I've worked with a college band and sure, the group is better, but not necessarily better for me! It's hard to explain, except to say that I really love the kids at Muncie Central, and that I have loved working with them for the last 17 years. We have the kind of kids that aren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and get dirty... sweat... work. I want them to feel a sense of ownership in this work. The notes they play won't last nearly as long as this composition will last. All of these kids should feel as if they were a part of something meaningful. Can you help me put this into words?"

Bill... I just did.

And now, let me share something with you, my friends. This is not for the Program Notes. It's just between me and all of you. Ever since high school, I've signed my many letters, "Godspeed... Sincerely, Stephen Melillo." People used to laugh at me for signing this way! I still don't know why. Now, I sign Music, my most personal letters, in the same fashion.

After today, I shall never write that word again without hearing it as Music!

Godspeed was written on 10 May 1998. On that day, **Symphony #1** premiered. Dimiri Tiomkin and Max Steiner were born. I love these souls, composers of great and innocent Giving. My offering is small, but it comes to you, hands outstretched, in the same manner implicated by Mr. Pritchett's beautiful words.

Within its Time-compressed boundaries of 5:55, *mm=9* happens. There is youthful exhilaration, the flight of an inviolable spirit, hectic confusion and innocent zeal. Amidst the flurry and flash, comes a reverent prayer and an ode to that which is forever quiet and most still. There is the confident assertion of ideals and an ever-abiding vow to take on Life's challenges. There is Hope and during, introspection and sorrow. Fun is married to Courage, Darkness overwhelmed by Light. And in its final hour, it is the indomitable will of the forever stalwart that rises in victorious Triumph!

While possible to write notation, **Music** is forever left to the uncapable center of our Humanity. That Music is for you to find, for you to deliver and enjoy as you offer it to others.

The **pseudo-professionals**... whom I sometimes call "the music masters"... would be fatigued by such a piece, *imposed* upon by such demands to Give! **THAT** is what Mr. Pritchett means when he says, "I've worked with a college band and sure, the group is better, but not necessarily better for me." He means that you guys have the Heart and the Soul to make Music. For that reason, I am honored to have been asked to write this piece. It is for you.

GODSPEED!!!

Stephen Melillo

Musical score for page 1 of 'Godspeed!' by Stephen Melillo. The score is for a symphonic band and includes parts for Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe, Eng Horn, Bassoon, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Clarinet 3, Bass Clarinet, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bari Sax, Horn 1, Horn 2, Horn 3, Horn 4, Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trumpet 3, Euph, Thone 1, Thone 2, Bass Thone, Tubu, PAD Bass, Harp, Timpani, Chimes, Orch Bells, Vibes, and a Percussion section with High Hat, Open Clap, Snare, Bass Drum, and Cym. The score is marked with a tempo of mm=160 w/Spectacle! and includes a 'Trill' marking at the beginning.

Musical score for page 2 of 'Godspeed!' by Stephen Melillo. The score continues from page 1 and includes parts for Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe, Eng Horn, Bassoon, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Clarinet 3, Bass Clarinet, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bari Sax, Horn 1, Horn 2, Horn 3, Horn 4, Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trumpet 3, Euph, Thone 1, Thone 2, Bass Thone, Tubu, PAD Bass, Harp, Timpani, Chimes, Orch Bells, Vibes, and a Percussion section with High Hat, Open Clap, Snare, Bass Drum, and Cym. The score includes a 'Trill' marking and a 'Largo Tim.' marking at the end.

Musical score for page 3 of 'Godspeed!' by Stephen Melillo. The score continues from page 2 and includes parts for Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe, Eng Horn, Bassoon, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Clarinet 3, Bass Clarinet, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bari Sax, Horn 1, Horn 2, Horn 3, Horn 4, Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trumpet 3, Euph, Thone 1, Thone 2, Bass Thone, Tubu, PAD Bass, Harp, Timpani, Chimes, Orch Bells, Vibes, and a Percussion section with High Hat, Open Clap, Snare, Bass Drum, and Cym. The score includes a 'Trill' marking and a 'Largo Tim.' marking at the end.