Into the Silent Land
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RUSI
Steve Danyew

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### Into the Silent Land

# Originally written for wind band, the work was commissioned in 2018 by a consortium of schools and individuals led by Dr. Jared Chase and Nazareth College:

Arnold Alconcel, James B. Castle High School Brenton F. Alston, Florida International University Wind Ensemble Daniel A. Belongia, Arkansas Tech University Symphonic Wind Ensemble Michael Black, Franklin College Wind Ensemble Trae Blanco, University of Southern Maine Wind Ensemble Jared Chase, Nazareth College Wind Symphony OREFERIORMANCE Reed Chamberlin, The Nevada Wind Ensemble, University of Nevada, Reno Max E. Chernick, Bloomington High School Wind Symphony, Bloomington, Illinois Randall Coleman, University of Alabama Jacquie Dawson, University of Manitoba Wind Ensemble Christopher Dobbins, Washington and Lee University Matthew R. Doiron, Western Connecticut State University Symphonic Band Chad Dempsey, Edinburg North High School, Edinburg, Texas Michael P. Flynn, Conductor Branden Hansen, Roseburg High School Wind Ensemble Duane Hill, Texas Tech University Concert Band Gregory J. Kane, Canandaigua Academy Wind Ensemble Daniel Kirk, Reinhardt University Wind Ensemble Eric M. Laprade, South Shore Conservatory Summer Music Festival Matthew M. Marsit, Dartmouth College Wind Ensemble Rick Murphy, Tupelo High School Bands John Oelrich, University of Tennessee at Martin Wind Ensemble Andy Pease, Hartwick College Anthony Rivera, Santa Clara University Wind Ensemble Lauren Reynolds, University of Delaware Wind Ensemble Joshua Roach, The College of New Jersey Wind Ensemble Mark Davis Scatterday, The Eastman Wind Ensemble Robert M. Schwartz, Washburn University Wind Ensemble Timothy Shade, Wichita State University Mark Spede, Clemson University Aaron Staebell, Greece Central Schools District Honor Band Todd Stalter, Eureka High School Band William Tiberio, University of Rochester Wind Ensemble Steven D. Ward, Abilene Christian University Kelly Watkins, Eastern Connecticut State University Wind Ensemble Matthew Westgate, University of Massachusetts - Amherst Wind Ensemble

### Into the Silent Land (2018)

# **Duration:** 9 minutes **Instrumentation**

2 Flute (Flute 1 doubles piccolo)
1 Oboe\* (can be doubled if there are multiple players)
2 Bassoon\*\*
2 Clarinet in Bb
3 Trumpet in Bb

4 Horn in F 3 Trombone Tuba

Timpani

Percussion 1 (Glockenspiel, Crotales, Tam-tam, 2 low tenor drums) Percussion 2 (Marimba [5 octave], Suspended cymbal, Bass drum) Percussion 3 (Chimes, Suspended cymbal) *Optional* Percussion 4 (Vibraphone, Suspended cymbal) *Optional* Percussion 5 (Crotales, Snare drum, bass drum)

Suspended cymbals should be dark sounding, not sizzle.

Narrator (*should be amplified*)

Strings

\*Oboe: if oboe is not available, essential oboe lines have been cued into other parts (see score). Those cues should only be played if there is no oboe.

\*\*Bassoon: bassoon pitches are covered in other instruments, and one exposed moment is cued in the viola. The bassoon color adds a great deal to the piece, but the work can be done without bassoon if necessary.

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#### Notes for the Conductor:

- 1. Ideal instrumentation and related notes are listed above. The piece is scored in such a way that it <u>can</u> be performed without oboe, bassoon, and percussion 4 and 5 (although the piece would benefit greatly from these instruments).
- 2. The narrator should read the lines provided during mm. 99-112. The pace of the reading is somewhat suggested by the placement of the text in the score throughout the section. Those are not strict placements, but rough suggestions exact pacing is left up to the narrator and the conductor. But the poem should *not* simply be read from start to finish without taking care to read with thoughtful pacing. The narrator should not feel rushed. If necessary, the narrator may continue past m. 112. The narrator should read the provided text once.
- 3. The final fermata should be long approximately 8-10 seconds. The music should gradually fade away during the fermata. After the music has faded away, the conductor should <u>not</u> immediately signal the end of the piece. Rather, there should be several seconds of silence before the conductor indicates that the piece is finished.

#### Narrator Text - selected lines from "Remember" (public domain) by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Remember me when I am gone away, Gone far away into the silent land; When you can no more hold me by the hand,

Remember me when no more day by day You tell me of our future that you plann'd: Only remember me; you understand

Remember me when I am gone away, Gone far away into the silent land.

#### **Program Note**

On December 14, 2012, twenty children and six educators were killed by a gunman at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Sandy Hook, Connecticut. Having grown up in Sandy Hook just a mile from the school, this is where I attended grades 3-5. For the past several years, I have thought about writing a piece of music that would reflect on this tragedy, but I have struggled to know where to start. Even after beginning to sketch out ideas for this piece, I felt unsure of where the piece should go and what it should communicate. In an effort to find a clearer sense of direction, I searched for poetry that reflected how I was feeling. When I came across "Remember," a moving poem by Christina Rossetti, I found the direction I was looking for. Through the simple idea of remembering—not forgetting that this happened, not forgetting these children, not forgetting the grief that their families must feel—I realized this is what I wanted and needed to communicate through music. "Into the Silent Land" was commissioned by a consortium of schools and individuals led by Dr. Jared Chase and Nazareth College.

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## Into the Silent Land

Transposed Score Duration: 9 minutes

Commissioned by a Consortium led by Dr. Jared Chase and the Nazareth College Wind Symphony

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Snare Drum

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