Our Reply

Commissioned by the East Stroudsburg, PA High School Band
Kanye Clogg, Director

Grade 4+
This work is inspired by the famous statement from Leonard Bernstein, "This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before."

The piece begins with a somber chorale in the woodwinds, with harmonic language inspired by Vincent Persichetti. After the brass choir plays the theme, we hear a harsh, dissonant chord followed by a silence. Suddenly, the band alternates between violent chord strikes and a statement of the familiar hymn tune "Wonderous Love," presented in the octatonic mode (alternation of whole steps and half steps). There are 28 chord strikes, equaling the number dead in the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, CT.

The second variation on "Wonderous Love," brings in syncopated, dance-like rhythms around a statement of the tune in the solo alto saxophone, changing the emotion from rage to urgency. There is also a prominent solo line in the bongos of 50 strikes, which is the number killed in the Pulse night club shooting in Orlando, FL.

The final variation is a collective call to action, in which the ensemble brings together the opening chorale melody, the hymn tune in the trumpets and trombones, and an energetic, pulsing rhythmic groove which builds and finally culminates in a bold, brilliant and powerful close.

Carl Holmquist
April 2018

Carl Holmquist is a composer, conductor, and music educator, currently in his twelfth year as Director of Bands at the H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program in Arlington, VA, where he teaches concert bands, jazz bands, percussion ensemble and AP music theory and serves as Fine Arts Department Chair. He earned a BM in Music Education from St. Olaf College, where he studied conducting and composition with Timothy Mahr and Steven Amundson. He also earned a MM in Instrumental Conducting from George Mason University, where he studied with Mark Camphouse and Anthony Maiello.

As a composer, he has written numerous works for concert band, orchestra, chamber ensembles, and vocal ensembles, and has been commissioned by middle school, high school, University and community ensembles across the country. His works have been published by C. Alan Publications, Alfred Publishing, Grand Mesa Music Publishers and Bandworks Publications. Holmquist contributed a chapter to Volume 4 of the Composers on Composing for Band series, edited by Mark Camphouse and published by GIA Publications. He was one of three composers to participate in the 2008 Young Composer Mentor Project, sponsored by the National Band Association. He also received first prize in the 2006 Claude T. Smith Memorial Composition Contest for his work, Play!, which was included in Volume 8 of the Teaching Music Through Performance in Band series.

In addition to his teaching at H-B Woodlawn, he maintains an active schedule serving as guest conductor, composer and clinician with numerous school, community, and honor ensembles. Carl lives in Annandale, VA with his wife, Elizabeth, and two sons, William and Nathan.

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Carl Holmquist (2016)

Largo (\( \dot{\nu} = 52 \))

Piccolo
Flute
Oboe
Bassoon
Clarinet 1 in B-
Clarinet 2 and 3 in B-
Bass Clarinet
Alto Saxophone 1 and 2
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone
Trumpet 1 in B-
Trumpet 2 and 3 in B-
Horn 1 and 2 in F
Horn 3 and 4 in F
Trombone 1 and 2
Bass Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba
String Bass
Timpani

Mallet Percussion 1
(Xylophone, opt. Glockenspiel)
Mallet Percussion 2
(Marimba, Chimes, opt. Vibraphone)
Percussion 1
(Snare Drum, Bongo)
Percussion 2
(Bass Drum)
Percussion 3
(Suspended Cymbal, Ride Cymbal)
Percussion 4
(Triangle, Crash Cymbal)
Percussion 5
(Brake Drum, Egg Shaker, Hi-Hat, Tam-tam)

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