



## 15 one-minute selections on the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War for West Point Woodwind Quintet

**Fifteen Minutes of Fame** is a collection of 15 one-minute acoustic works composed specifically for a specific performer or ensemble. Vox Novus places a call-for-scores and 15 pieces are chosen from the works submitted.

The West Point Woodwind Quintet of the West Point Band is made up of members of the Concert Band. The group performs at many different events, such as military social functions, school presentations, and formal recitals. The West Point Woodwind Quintet has supported the United States Recruiting Command with tours of high schools and colleges to promote Army bands and audition prospective candidates. Tours have taken the quintet to Connecticut, Pennsylvania, North Dakota, New Jersey and Florida.

In support of military requirements, the quintet has entertained the United States Corps of Cadets and performed for many visiting dignitaries and heads of state. These performances have included annual receptions hosted by the Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, presidential receptions in New York City, and the 40th Anniversary of the United Nations.

Outside the realm of the military, residents of local communities have regularly enjoyed the quintet on recitals as part of the West Point Band's chamber music series. The West Point Woodwind Quintet has been a staple ensemble for many years, and continues to be an important musical emissary of the West Point Band and the United States Army.

## **From Manassas to Appomattox**

Born in London in 1948, Malcolm Dedman was initially self-taught, having started to compose when he was 12. He had formal composition lessons with Patric Standford at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1974-75, and he gained a Masters Degree in Composing Concert Music in 2005. "*From Manassas to Appomattox*" is a commemoration of the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, the first battle being that of Manassas and the last being Appomattox. The five instruments initially play independent themes, suggesting the conflict, alternating with slow music, suggesting surrender of the various battles, and eventual resolution.

## **Malcolm Dedman**

## **General Grant's Whiskey Dance**

Andy Francis (b. 1986) is currently working on his DMA in composition at Michigan State University. He has done many interesting things, some of which might be deemed impressive. For more information, please visit [www.andyfrancismusic.com](http://www.andyfrancismusic.com). "Tell me what brand of whiskey that Grant drinks. I would like to send a barrel of it to my other generals." - Abraham Lincoln

## **Andy Francis**

## **Battle Cry of Freedom**

Stanley M. Hoffman (b. 1959, Cleveland, Ohio) holds degrees in Music Composition from Brandeis University (Ph.D.), New England Conservatory of Music (M.M.) and Boston Conservatory (B.M.). His music is published by ECS Publishing, Oxford University Press, Wehr's Music House and Fatrock Ink. He is currently Chief Editor at ECS Publishing. I chose the tune "Battle Cry of Freedom" by George Root as the basis for this composition because, not only is it of the Civil War era, but it is also included in the song "They Are There" by Charles Ives, to whom I pay homage with an alternative ending.

## **Stanley M. Hoffman**

## **On a Wednesday in May**

Francis Kayali is a Franco-American composer currently living in the San Francisco Bay area. Recently performed works include the pocket quartet "That's a New Dog" (Choreodography No. 1) and Astronomies of the Mind, for symphony orchestra. "On a Wednesday in May" is based on two irreconcilable songs from the end of the American Civil War: a Union song mocking Jefferson Davis and a Confederate song bitterly cursing the Yankees and what they stood for.

## **Francis Kayali**

## **When Freedom Cried**

Daniel J. Knaggs's music is heard in concert halls, churches, and radio broadcasts throughout Europe and the Americas. He is currently a full-time Spanish teacher at Fr. Gabriel Richard High School in Ann Arbor, Michigan. "When Freedom Cried" portrays a snapshot of battle and the death of General James S. Wadsworth at the Battle of the Wilderness (1864) for whom the song Sleep Sweetly was written (by M.B. Ladd)... a fragment of this song is used to close this brief episode.

## **Daniel J. Knaggs**

## **The Dred Scott Decision**

Tim Labor is an award winning LA-based composer and sound designer whose classical music credits include "Blomidon: tone poem with sound design" for the Nova Scotia Youth Orchestra and "Olivia" for the Mira Costa Symphony. Tim is a faculty member in the Music Department at the University of California, Riverside. The Dred Scott Decision was a Supreme Court ruling in which a black slave sued for freedom on a variety of grounds and was denied because of legal paradox. This reification of the institutionalization of slavery ignited the Panic of 1857 and proved the futility of peaceful legal racial debate.

## **Tim Labor**

## **Elegy for the Dead at Gettysburg**

I was born in Princeton, West Virginia and raised in Brooklyn, New York. I graduated from Long Island University with a Communications degree. My compositions have been performed by music students and professionals. My career as a professional writer includes working as a New York Post reporter and a speech writer. "Elegy for the Dead at Gettysburg" was inspired by Timothy O'Sullivan's photograph "The Harvest of Death" which depicts dead soldiers on the battlefield at Gettysburg. The quintet's theme is played immediately by the flute, but the quintet incorporates the songs "Dixie" and "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" representing both sides for this tribute.

## **David Miller**

## **Brief**

Peter Nickol was born in 1946. He studied originally at York University, later at Exeter and Manchester, with a PhD in Composition awarded in 2008. He is based in Exeter, Devon (UK). Recent successes include Ultramarine, chosen by Texas-based Madera Wind Quintet as one of their featured pieces for 2012. English people don't generally know that much about the American Civil War, beyond a general concept of North against South. But we know some of the songs - great tunes! - and my one-minute piece maps one of these through a texture that gradually builds in density.

## **Peter Nickol**

## **If My Grandfather Fought in the Civil War...**

Michael Pepper resides in New Orleans, LA as a Music Composition and Mathematics major at Tulane University. He has been composing over two years and has received MTNA distinction as best in Louisiana two years in a row as well as a national finalist. He also composes independent film scores. My grandfather, Col. Fred Riggle, fought in the Vietnam War as a pilot in the Air Force. In this piece, I explore the scenario of him fighting in a different war, the bloodiest in American history, and the almost inevitable fate he and my family would have experienced.

## **Michael Pepper**

## **Field Notes**

James SOE NYUN did graduate composition studies at the University of California, San Diego. For two decades after leaving school he moved towards working in the visual arts. Recent explorations in video have seen him moving towards time-based work, and a re-exploration of his musical roots. This little suite opens with the 1861 Overture, and next visits Gettysburg. It ends with the Sherman's March, which quotes from Stephen Foster, a Northern-sympathizer who nonetheless has been criticized for writing songs that romanticized slave life, suggesting that while the Civil War ended slavery, it left much unresolved.

## **James Soe Nyun**

## **Born Equal**

Juan Maria Solare, born 1966 in Argentina, works currently in Germany as composer, pianist (contemporary & tango) and teaching at the University of Bremen and at the Hochschule fuer Kuenste Bremen. His music has been performed in five continents. Nine CDs of different performers include at least one piece of him. I associate the Civil War mainly with elimination of slavery. Even if we are really born equal, other people and the world make us unequal. Only through commitment (and law) we can regain a certain equality. Much can still be done to improve the social weakness of "second class citizens".

## **Juan Maria Solare**

## **Themes of Conflict**

Pasquale Tassone was a resident at the Atlantic Center for the Arts, where he worked with the composer, Olly Wilson. In June 2004, some of Tassone's choral music was performed at the Artama Choral Festival in the Czech Republic. Currently Tassone is working on his first opera. "Themes of Conflict" is made up of themes from songs popular during the Civil War. The melodies utilized are: The Vacant Chair (Flute), Just Before the Battle Mother (Oboe), Brother Tell Me of the Battle (Clarinet), When this Cruel War is Over (F Horn), The Bonnie Blue Flag (Bassoon).

## **Pasquale Tassone**

## **Fragments of Johnny**

Audun G. Vassdal is 26 years old, born and raised in Oslo, Norway. He started playing the piano at the age of 8, being very fascinated by music. His fascination grew and studied music through "High School" and at the University of Oslo, where he achieved a Bachelors degree in musicology. Audun G. Vassdal currently works for the Norwegian Music Publisher ("Norsk Musikkforlag AS") and Oslo Concert House. This work is based on my favorite song from the civil war; When Johnny Comes Marching Home.

## **Audun G. Vassdal**

## **Shimmer**

Douglas Wagoner is a composer and conductor based in Newton, Massachusetts. His formal education was at Berklee College of Music, Boston University and New England Conservatory in composition, film-scoring and conducting. More of his work and contact information can be found at <http://www.douglaswagoner.com> "Shimmer" is invoked the hazy buzz of a lazy summer afternoon in a wheat field at Gettysburg as if two armies were not about to hurl themselves upon each other with devastating consequences.

## **Douglas Wagoner**

## **Hurrah**

David Wolfson is an eclectic, versatile composer of songs, concert music and music for theatre. Please visit his website, [www.davidwolfsonmusic.net](http://www.davidwolfsonmusic.net). "Hurrah" takes the Civil War-era tune "When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again" for a starting point. I imagined what coming home from the Civil War might actually have felt like.

## **David Wolfson**