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ANGELS IN THE ARCHITECTURE

FOR CONCERT BAND

FRANK TICHELI

INSTRUMENTATION

- I Full Score (oversize, IIxI4", included with set)
- I Piccolo
- 4 Flute I
- 4 Flute 2
- I Oboe I
- 1 Oboe 2 (doubling English Horn)
- 3 Bb Clarinet I
- 3 Bb Clarinet 2
- 3 Bb Clarinet 3
- 3 Bb Clarinet 4
- 2 Bb Bass Clarinet
- I Bb Contrabass Clarinet
- I Bassoon I
- I Bassoon 2
- 2 Eb Alto Saxophone I
- 2 Eb Alto Saxophone 2

- I Bb Tenor Saxophone
- I Eb Baritone Saxophone
- 2 Bb Trumpet I
- 2 Bb Trumpet 2
- 2 Bb Trumpet 3
- 2 Bb Trumpet 4
- I F Horn I
- I F Horn 2
- 1 F Horn 3
- I F Horn 4
- 2 Trombone I
- 2 Trombone 2
- 2 Trombone 3
- 3 Euphonium B.C.2 Euphonium T.C.
- 4 Tuba

- I String Bass
- I Soprano (or Boy Soprano)
- Celesta
 (if Celesta is unavailable, play on piano an octave
 higher than notated)
- I Organ (optional)
- I Timpani (also plays Bell Tree)
- 2 Percussion I tuned Whirly (Eb), Marimba, Three Tom Toms, Chimes
- 2 Percussion 2 Two tuned Whirlies (Bb and C), Snare Drum, Vibraphone (motor off), Suspended Cymbal (Ig.), Triangle (Ig.)
- 2 Percussion 3
 Two tuned Crystal Wineglasses (C and F),
 Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Triangle (med. Ig.),
 Bass Drum (shared with Perc. 4), Suspended
 Cymbal (med.), Two Chinese Cymbals
- 3 Percussion 4 (2 players)
 Two tuned Crystal Wineglasses (Eb and G), Suspended Cymbal (med. Ig.), Four Temple Blocks,
 Tam Tam, Slapstick (Ig.), Pedal Bass Drum, Snare
 Drum, Crash Cymbals, Ratchet, Vibraslap, Bass
 Drum (shared with Perc. 3)

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MANHATTAN BEACH MUSIC



ANGELS IN THE ARCHITECTURE

was commissioned by Kingsway International
and received its premiere performance at the Sydney Opera House on July 6, 2008
by a massed band of young musicians from Australia and the United States,
conducted by Matthew George.

PROGRAM NOTE

NGELS IN THE ARCHITECTURE was commissioned by Kingsway International, and received its premiere performance at the Sydney Opera House on July 6, 2008 by a massed band of young musicians from

Australia and the United States, conducted by Matthew George. The work unfolds as a dramatic conflict between the two extremes of human existence—one divine, the other evil.

The work's title is inspired by the Sydney Opera House itself, with its halo-shaped acoustical ornaments hanging directly above the performance stage.

Angels in the Architecture begins with a single voice singing a 19th-century Shaker song:

I am an angel of Light
I have soared from above
I am cloth'd with Mother's love.
I have come, I have come,
To protect my chosen band
And lead them to the promised land.

This "angel" — represented by the singer—frames the work, surrounding it with a protective wall of light and establishing the divine. Other representations of light—played by instruments rather than sung—include a traditional Hebrew song of peace ("Hevenu Shalom Aleichem") and the well-known 16th-century Genevan Psalter, "Old Hundredth." These three borrowed songs, despite their varied religious origins, are meant to transcend any one religion, representing the more universal human ideals of peace, hope, and love. An original chorale, appearing twice in the work, represents my own personal expression of these aspirations.

In opposition, turbulent, fast-paced music appears as a symbol of darkness, death, and spiritual doubt. Twice during the musical drama, these shadows sneak in almost unnoticeably, slowly obscuring, and eventually obliterating the light altogether. The darkness prevails for long stretches of time, but the light always returns, inextinguishable, more powerful than before. The alternation of these opposing forces creates, in effect, a kind of five-part rondo form (light—darkness—light).

Just as Charles Ives did more than a century ago, *Angels in the Architecture* poses the unanswered question of existence. It ends as it began: the angel reappears singing the same comforting words. But deep below, a final shadow reappears — distantly, ominously.

F O R M

LIGHT

m. 1	Offstage soprano: Shaker song, "Angel of Light"	E-flat major
	DARKNESS	
m. 2 m. 23 m. 84 m. 107	Transitiondark forces begin to overtake "Darkness music" (main motive) Darkness theme Return of darkness section	A pedal C minor E minor G minor
LIGHT		
m. 149 m. 175 m. 183	"Chorale of light" "Hevenu Shalom Aleichem" (Traditional Hebrew) Darker forces begin to overtake	E-flat major C minor Tonalities clash
DARKNESS		
m. 208 m. 272 m. 281	"Darkness music" returns Slow section, uncertain, questioning Long transition, growing from darkness	E-flat minor C minor C pedal, chromatic harmony
LIGHT		
m. 314 m. 328 m. 332	Return of "Chorale of Light" (tutti) Church bell effect transition Quote: "Old Hundredth" (16th-century Genevan Psal	Polytonal (D-flat/B-flat)
m. 341	Offstage soprano returns. "Angel of Light"	E-flat major, A in bass at end

REHEARSAL NOTES

Soprano Solo

Angels in the Architecture begins and ends with a simple 19th-century Shaker melody, "Angel of Light," to be sung by a soprano soloist, or, alternatively, by a boy soprano. At the premiere performance in Sydney, we used a boy soprano; at the American premiere at Interlochen, we used a young female soprano. Both options were equally successful, and I have no strong personal preference one way or the other. What matters most is that the song be sung clearly, beautifully and expressively with little or no vibrato. The expressive quality should be pure and celestial, not operatic or dramatic. In other words, a very good choral singer would probably be a better choice than a trained opera singer or vocal soloist.

The singer represents an angel, and should therefore not be placed on the stage, but at some higher point in the performance hall. At the premiere performance, we placed the singer in the choir loft directly behind and above the onstage performers. At the American premiere, we placed the singer in a side balcony towards the front of the hall. This was particularly effective, as the audience remained unaware of the singer's presence until she stood at the work's beginning.

Celesta

If celesta is unavailable, the part may be played by piano an octave higher than written. The most crucial celesta passages have also been cued into vibraphone and glockenspiel, in the unlikely case that neither celesta nor piano is available.

Tuned Wineglasses and Whirlies

The tuned wineglasses and whirlies are played by the percussionists (and/or auxiliary performers) at the beginning and end of the piece as an accompaniment to the singer. These exotic, magical sounds immediately transform the mood of the performance space, and enhance the character of the singer as an angelic, other-worldly being.

If there aren't enough percussionists available to handle all of the whirly and wineglass pitches, recruit non-percussionists if possible. Otherwise, use whatever pitches are obtainable to achieve the desired magical effect. In the end, the objective is to sustain all, or at least some of the pitches of the E-flat pentatonic scale, in any octave available. Experiment!

Crystal Wineglasses

Crystal wineglasses are readily available, and no single brand is necessarily better than another. I have found glasses with thin rims to be more responsive than those with thick rims. Water is added to the glass to achieve the desired pitch. (Add water to lower the pitch, remove water to raise the pitch.) Once the exact desired pitch is found, mark the water level and pitch name on the glass with a felt-tip pen.

Wineglasses are played by rubbing a finger around the rim of the glass. Both the finger and the rim should be wetted. The hands should be washed and free of oils and lotions of any kind. If there are enough percussionists (or auxiliary performers) to assign one wine glass per player, the player may hold the glass bottom in one hand and play with the other hand. If there are fewer players than wineglasses, two wine glasses may be mounted or taped onto a chair, stand, or other stable surface, enabling pairs to be played by one player.

Whirlies

Tuned whirlies are simply flexible, corrugated rubber or plastic tubes or hoses with an average diameter of approximately one to two inches, and — once cut — a length of approximately three to four feet. (Anything shorter lacks pitch focus, and anything longer becomes clumsy and unwieldy.)

Corrugated tubing may be found at a number of retail stores, including toy stores, garden supply stores, and/or pool supply stores. Pool drain hoses or pool vacuum hoses usually work. Whirles from toy stores are often suitable, for the E-flat pitch. The tubing must be cut to the desired length with household scissors. Tune them carefully using a piano or other reliable pitch source, and be careful not to cut too much at a time. (You can always cut more length off to raise the pitch, but if you over-cut, you can't add back tubing to lower the pitch!) Note that the tubing must be corrugated, i.e. ribbed (with a series of rings or ridges), in order for sound to be produced.

Whirlies are held by the hand at one end and twirled above the head to achieve the desired pitch. (To prevent collisions, be sure to allow sufficient distance between the players.) Whirlies are capable of sounding several pitches of their overtone series, depending on how quickly and forcefully they are twirled. The 2nd and 3rd partials are the easiest to sound and control. (The fundamental pitch, or 1st partial, is not playable, and the 4th partial tends to be too loud.)

I strongly prefer that the whirlies be twirled above the head (like a helicopter blade). When played in this manner, each whirly will look like a halo floating above the player's head, thus enhancing the angelic appearance.

Measure 2

The conductor begins conducting at measure 2 while the singer is still singing the song in measure 1. The ensemble slowly overtakes the singer, drowning her out completely near the end of the Shaker melody. After the singer is finished, the ensemble continues to grow in volume, culminating in the massive unison/octave shout of the "dark motive" at measure 23.

Trombone Plunger Mute Effects (measure 57-59 and elsewhere)

Trombones 1 and 2 must have plunger mutes. The plunger is to be moved in and out from the bell as indicated, and combined with a flutter tongue to produce a raw, raucous, jazzy sound. The resulting sound may resemble a multiphonic (two or more tones sounding at once) rather than a pure single tone. If this happens, it is okay, and even desired.

Jet-Whistle Effect in the flutes (m. 65 and m. 253)

The jet-whistle effect is achieved by covering the blow-hole of the flute entirely with the lips and blowing as hard and violently as possible into the instrument, as though you are trying to blow out a hundred candles with one short and powerful burst of air. The resulting sound should resemble something like the sudden release of steam from a powerful engine. If players find themselves taking a full second or several seconds to release all the air from their lungs, they are not blowing with the proper force. The effect will only last a fraction of a second if done properly. There should be no attempt to sound any specific pitch.

Measure 341 to the end

At measure 341, the tuned wineglasses and whirlies return along with the soprano soloist. Added to this, however, is a perfect-fifth diad, hummed by members of the ensemble. It is crucial that these two pitches (E-flat and B-flat) be sung only in the octave notated. Most men will probably sing the E-flat, and likely in falsetto. (No lower octaves!) Most of the women will likely sing the B-flat, but some may be assigned the E-flat to achieve proper balance. As in the work's beginning, the desired effect at the end is one of celestial, other-worldly beauty.

The final bar should fade slowly to silence. The listener should not be able to tell where the sound stops and the silence begins. However, it is important to remember that a gradual slowing down of the whirlies will not create a desired *diminuendo*, but rather an undesired change in pitch! In my own performances, I have experimented with the final bar in a number of ways, such as having the whirlies release first — either together or in a staggered way — and then fading the others a few seconds later. In some halls this works well, whereas in others, it has proven more effective to have all players fade together to silence. In short, experiment!

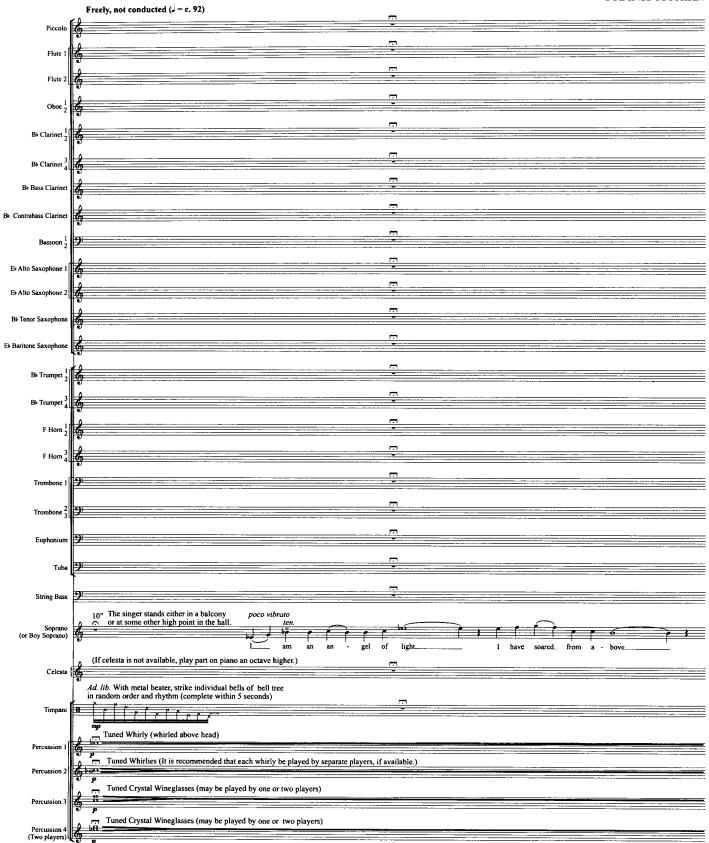


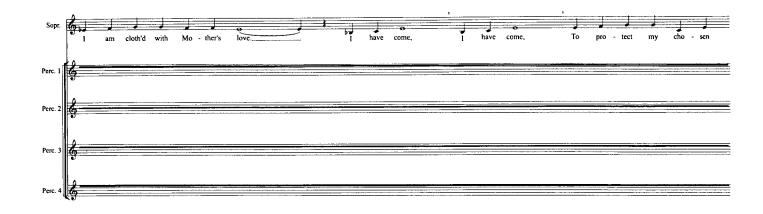
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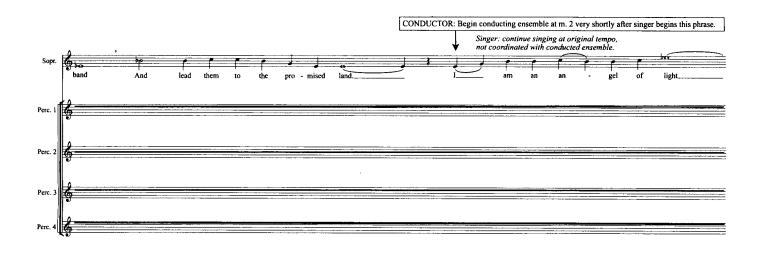
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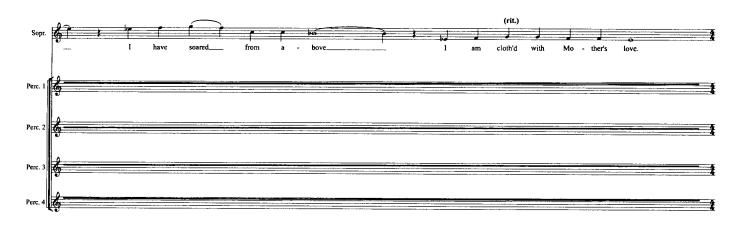




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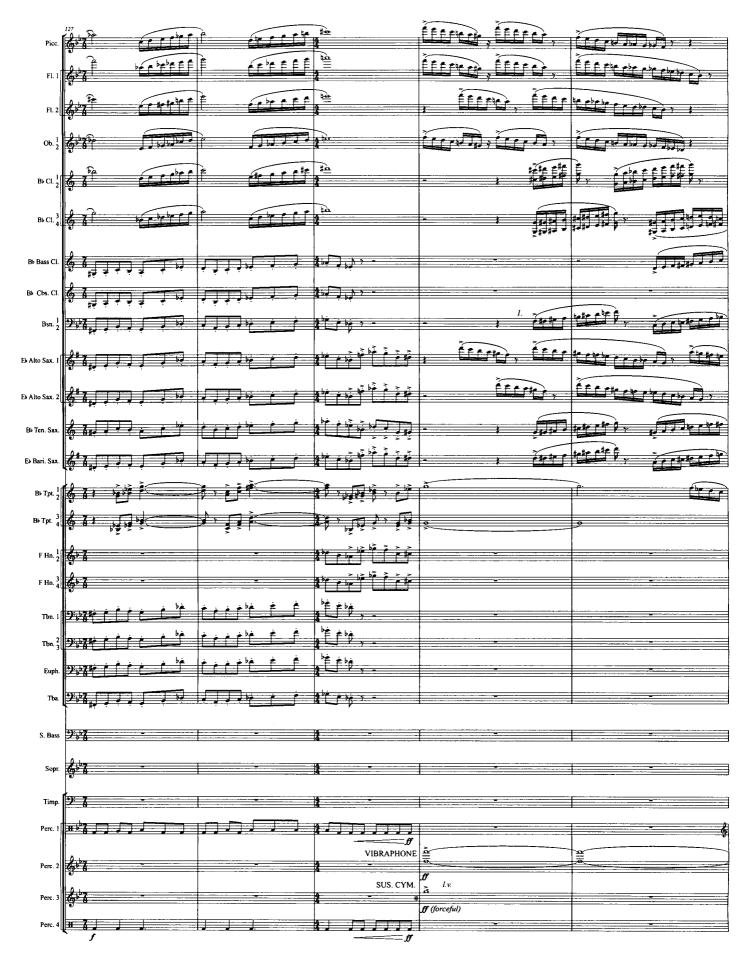


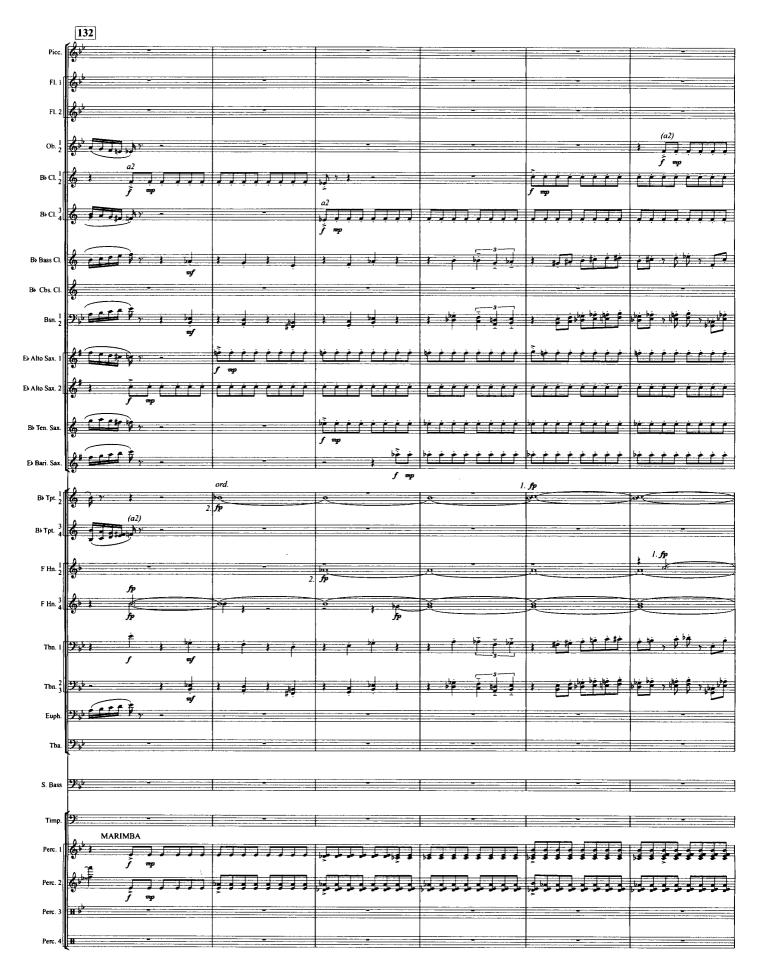






















FRANK TICHELI

WORKS FOR CONCERT BAND

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Abracadabra (5 minutes, grade 3)

Amazing Grace (5 minutes, grade 3)

Amen! (3 ½ minutes, grade 2)

An American Elegy (11 minutes, grade 4)

Angels in the Architecture (14 ½ minutes, grade 5)

Ave Maria / Schubert (4 1/2 minutes, grade 3)

Blue Shades (10 minutes, grade 5)

Cajun Folk Songs (6 ¾ minutes, grade 3)

Cajun Folk Songs II (10 ½ minutes, grade 4)

Fortress (5 ½ minutes, grade 3)

Gaian Visions (9 1/2 minutes, grade 6)

Joy (2 ½ minutes, grade 2)

Joy Revisited (3 ½ minutes, grade 3)

Loch Lomond (6 ½ minutes, grade 3)

Nitro (3 minutes, grade 4)

Pacific Fanfare (5 ½ minutes, grade 5)

Portrait of a Clown (2 ¾ minutes, grade 2)

Postcard (5 ¼ minutes, grade 5)

Sanctuary (12 minutes, grade 5)

A Shaker Gift Song (2 minutes, grade 2)

This work is a separate publication of the third song from Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs

Shenandoah (6 ½ minutes, grade 3)

Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs (9 minutes, grade 3)

Sun Dance (5 minutes, grade 3)

Symphony No. 2 (21 minutes; mvts. 1 & 2 are grade 6, mvt. 3 is grade 5)

Movement 1, "Shooting Stars," Movement 2, "Dreams Under a New Moon," and Movement 3, "Apollo Unleashed" may be separately performed

Vesuvius (9 minutes, grade 4)

Wild Nights! (6 ½ minutes, grade 4)

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