## "...along a sunlit path..."



Ouachita Baptist University, Arkadelphia, Arkansas (Photo by Stephen Hill)

String Orchestra (Grade 3-4)

Stephen Hill (ASCAP)

SARAHTIM Music Publishing



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## Instrumentation

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
String Bass

Duration - ca. 4:35



www.stephenhillcomposer.com stephenhillmusic@icloud.com (562) 412-0906 <u>About the Work...</u> "...along a sunlit path" was composed June 26-27, 2021, as a gift for the Omaha Conservatory of Music. "...along a sunlit path" is an impression of a picture I have of a path with rays of sunlight breaking through the trees.

The gently flowing music opens with Violins 2 and Violas pulsing back and forth between a bi-tonal passage of C major and D major. The Cellos and Basses enter with a simple outline of C major followed by a lightly chirping Violin 1.

The music is intentionally gentle, optimistic, and punctuated with lyrical melodic lines. The composition passes the themes back and forth between each section of the orchestra and reaches a full tutti at measure 82. The work returns to the gentleness of the opening passage of Violin 2 and Viola and grows in energy to its final cadence on a G major chord.

About the Composer... Stephen Hill (b.1958) was born and raised in Southern California. His compositional lineage includes the likes of Roy Harris, Ingolf Dahl, Clifton Williams, Bernard Rogers, and Howard Hanson through study with Philip Westin (Cerritos College, 1976-1978) and most notably with W. Francis McBeth at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas (1978-1980). Stephen continued with graduate work at California State University, Los Angeles (1980-83) with composers Dr. Byong Kon Kim and William Hill. He composes for the simple joy of it.

For over 40 years, Stephen taught K-12 instrumental music in the Private Christian School (Whittier Christian) and Public School (California High School) settings. Though semi-retired, Stephen still works with students by continuing to teach parttime at California High School and maintaining his private music studio, where he plays and teaches Woodwinds, Brass, Strings, and Piano. Stephen also plays with the church orchestra at Calvary Chapel in La Habra, CA., where Stephen attends. When teaching full-time, he was primarily a "summer" composer. No longer teaching full-time, Stephen has the privilege to compose beyond just the summer months and publishes through his company, SARAHTIM—a title which comes from simply combining the name of his daughter Sarah and son Timothy. (Notes by Dr. John Burdett, Azusa Pacific University)

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"Where there is devotional music, God is always at hand with His gracious presence."

J.S.Bach

from the original String Quartet version written for The Omaha Conservatory of Music



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