

Morning Star

Arranged by Scott Watson

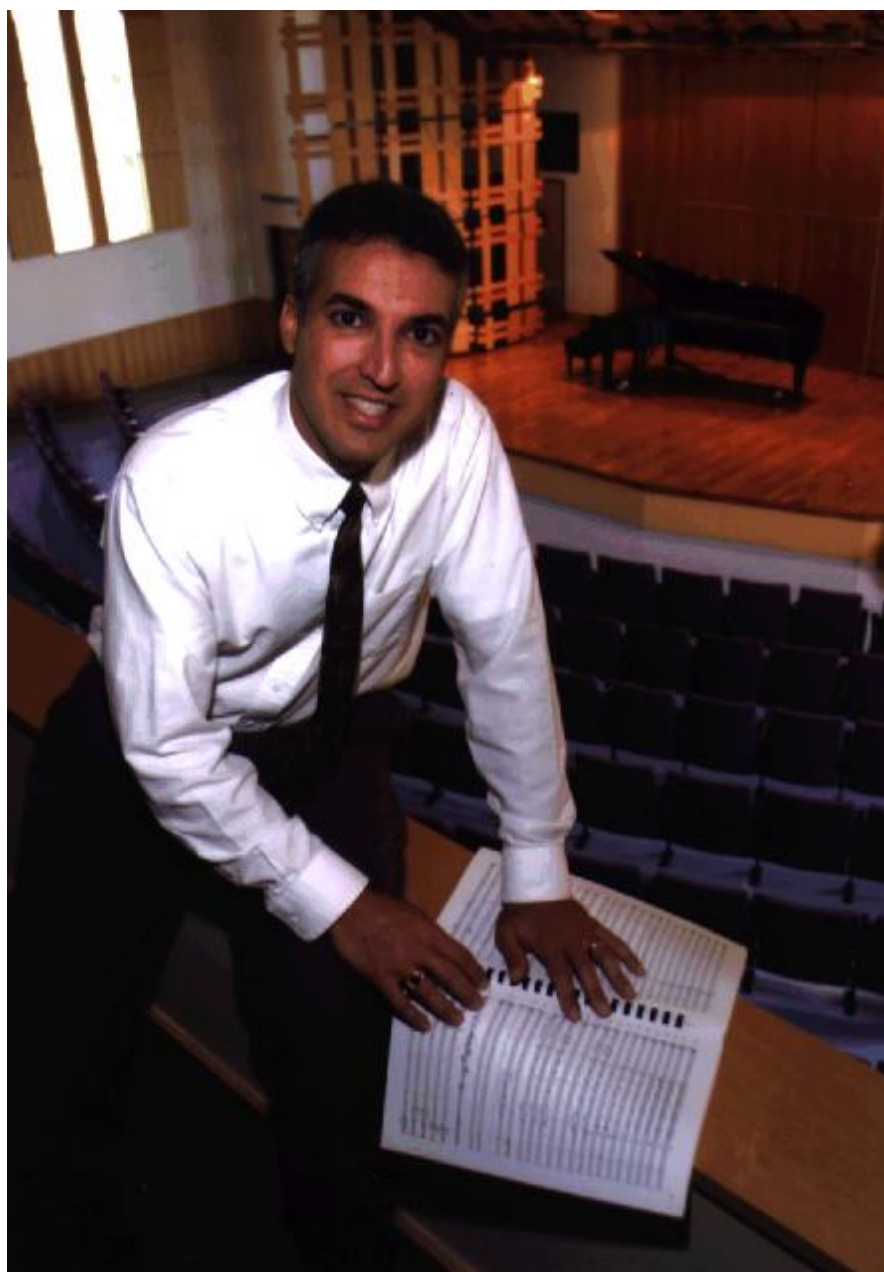
Performance Notes

The Moravian church dates back to the early Protestant Reformation in Eastern Europe but was established in America during the early 18th century. Their rich Christmas traditions include a Lovefeast with sugar cakes, a Vesper service lit with beeswax candles, and a trombone choir.

In most congregations the hymn Morning Star, composed by Francis Hagen in 1836, is sung antiphonally with a child soloist and is a highlight of the service.

The classical simplicity of Morning Star, as well as the antiphonal performance practice associated with it, are captured in this arrangement for young band.

Scott Watson, composer



Scott Watson (b. 1962, Upper Darby, PA) received his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from Temple University where he studied composition with Maurice Wright and Matthew Greenbaum. Having composed for concert, radio, and theater, Watson has received recognition from the American Composers Forum, American Music Center, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, Percussive Arts Society, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and others. His music is described as being "imaginative" (*PMEA Journal*), "outstanding...with beautiful melodies and interesting harmonies" (*The Instrumentalist*), and "written with supreme craft" (*Percussive Notes*). Philip

Metzger wrote: "Watson exhibited a great deal of skill in managing the resources of the orchestra...he will very likely become a force to be reckoned with (*The Morning Call*, April 12, 2000)." The scope of Watson's creative output is evidenced by recent commissions, including those by the International Horn Society, the Lehigh Valley Chamber Orchestra, the West Chester University Wind Ensemble, the Church Farm School Men's Chorus, the Southern Lehigh Middle School Band, and a 2004 American Composers Forum *Continental Harmony* commission for a work celebrating the centennial of Twin Falls, Idaho.

His music is published by Alfred Publishing Co., C.L. Barnhouse, and Shawnee Press (band) and Trillanium Music Co. (chamber).

An educator as well, Watson has taught instrumental music in the Parkland School District (Allentown, Pennsylvania) and been Assistant Professor of Music Theory and Technology at Temple University (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).

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