

Aries Solar Fire Festival~Oratorio: Notes & Credits

Production Notes: H G Moses - lead engineer

This musical offering is a fusion of vision, dedicated labor, technology and resource. Since 1998 Michael Robbins and I have collaborated toward the creation of an auditory experience which would provide listeners and ceremonial participants with a realistic choir and symphonic orchestra performance of music created for Solar Fire Festivals.

This project represents the culmination of our first decade of technological advances, midi and audio innovation, and the creation of extensive in-house production protocols and editing techniques which allow for increased realism. Our five-voice ensemble becomes a *virtual choir* through a number of engineering steps which are designed to preserve diction in order that the lyrics be understandable to the listener while sounding like a full choir.

Our first orchestrations utilized stock MIDI sounds from synthesizers, whereas our most recent productions feature nearly 500-gb of instrumental samples from the Vienna Instruments Library. These remarkable sounds allow us to express orchestral textures which range from the delicate solo of a violin to the rich sonority of a full brass section. Finally we are able to present realistic orchestrations that bring this music to life.

Production Credits

This project has been made possible by gifts from numerous *angels* including Peg Rosenkrands. We offer very special thanks to Mary Ann Casalino and Olivia Hansen, whose generous support funded this recording and provided the *ongoing gift* of major improvements to our studio production facility.

Music:

- Michael D. Robbins, PH.D. - composer, libretto, conductor (ASCAP)
- Harold Grandstaff Moses, PH.D.E. - orchestration, choral arrangement (ASCAP)

Recording production team:

- Glen O'Hara - master audio engineer (Porcupine Studios)
- Sam Hughes - assistant engineer

We offer thanks to Randy Cutler for providing a matched set of microphones for our vocal ensemble

Recording support team:

- Tuija Sinikka Robbins
- Laura J. Hungerford

Post-production Team:

- Harold Grandstaff Moses - Lead engineer, editing, mixing & mastering
- Bethany Sands - editing, engineering
- Zachariah Lee Witham - editing, engineering
- Jonathan Michael Dixon - engineering, production consulting
- Michael D. Robbins - mixing

Technological Consulting:

This recording incorporates our first use of the Vienna Instruments Orchestral Library samples. Thanks to Aaron Niemann with Ilio, and David Hess with Sweetwater for their expert advise and assistance with implementing this software into our audio equipment.

Singers:

- Julie Cadwell - ensemble Soprano & solo
- Janet Campbell - ensemble Alto & solo
- Tracy Peterson - ensemble Mezzo
- Ken Goodenberger - ensemble Tenor & solo
- David Topping - ensemble Baritone
- Craig Peterson - ensemble Bass
- Peter Halverson - Baritone solo

Book Production Team:

- H G Moses - graphic design
- Sunset Photo - Ljupco Smokovski (istockphoto.com)
- Bighorn Sheep in Silhouette II - James H. MacAllister (istockphoto.com)
- Annand Rao - proofreading
- The Institute of Harmonic Science - printing

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Contacts:

- Michael D. Robbins (infinite8@gmail.com)
- HGMoses (hgmoses@gmail.com)