... for I have fought the Good fight.

#1094 in 8:33 by Stephen Melillo © IGNA 18 May 2014, and set on Memorial Day 2014, 2-3M Scored for Wind Symphony of the 3rd Millennium™

Includes the possibility of Stand Alone Musical Haiku #53: "of Substance in the Shadows"

Commissioned for and Dedicated to Dr. Merle Dickerson by the Van Buren High School Band, Alabama Ron Smith, Director



Beautiful "Best Said" Words from Ron Smith:

"Dr. Merle Dickerson has spent 43 years in public education serving as a band director, counselor, principal, deputy superintendent, and finally superintendant in 2 different school districts.

He is a quiet and humble leader who has a servant's heart and has one singular purpose - to do what is in the best interest of the children of our school district, no matter what that entails.

Before Dr. Dickerson came to our school district - the facilities looked more akin to something you would see in a prison - cold, dark, industrial, old and dilapidated. In the

past 5 years, through his vision, leadership, and persistence, we have built a new, beautiful, state of the art, magnificent - high school campus and 1500 seat fine arts center, not to mention complete remodels of 3 junior high schools, 6 elementary schools, football stadium and basketball arena. Facilities that were previously cold and foreboding are now shining pillars of education that are warm and inviting to children. All because of Dr. Dickerson's leadership and vision.

He is a deeply spiritual man who teaches an adult Sunday school class and has taught many of us in the school district who are of like mind, that your belief in God does NOT need to be left at the front door of the school, so to speak. He is the type of person who has that rare quality to make you feel better about yourself and the world around you just by being in his presence.

Dr. Dickerson has a quote he uses frequently when I find myself "up" against a difficult decision - "If a choice needs to be made between the adults and the kids . . . choose the kids!"

Second only to my own mother and father, he is the person I respect most in my life, and try to most closely emulate."

Dr. Dickerson is a TITAN in my life and in the lives of COUNTLESS children. I just want to make sure that I do something that will equal the stature of this great and wonderful human!"

Special thanks to Dr. Merle Dickerson for his Inspiration in having fought the Good fight, and to Mr. Ron Smith for his equally Inspiring words and presence of Heart.

Special thanks to Stephen Syrell for his great help in the typesetting process.

Finally, as much as all Music *must* in some layer of its Reality be "*autobiographical*" in nature, I quietly offer this Music to Dr. Dickerson and all who *have ... truly* fought the Good fight. Though forever checked by human flaw and mistake, there are those who beyond the mere claiming, have *indeed* fought that Good fight in the fleeting day-to-day Living... and dying... of their allotted Time. Godspeed! S

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by © STEPHEN MELILLO From the Underworld, Musical Haiku #53 of Substance in the Shadows... mm@42 IGNA 18 May 2014 2-3 Millennium ASCAP Piccolo/Flute Flute 2 Flute 3 Oboe 2 Bassoon 1 Bassoon 2 Bassoon 3 Clarinet 1 Clarinet 2 Clarinet 3 Bass Clarinet Alto Sax 1 Alto Sax 2 Tenor Sax Bari Sax Horn 1 Horn 2 Horn 3 Trumpet 1 Trumpet 2 ${\bf Trumpet\ 3}$ Euphonium 1 Euphonium 2 Euphonium 3 Trombone 1 Trombone 2 Bass Trombone Play in lowest octave and double 8VB PAD Bass { Piano **p** - let ring Timpani 9:, 4 $m{p}$ - let ring Snare Drum Finger Cymbals Tambourine Wind Chimes Finger Cymbals Triangle Wind Chimes Triangle Crash Cymbals Bass Drum **p** - let ring Suspended Cymbal Tam-tam Scrape p center strike large puffy mallet **p** - let ring Glocken spiel**p** - let ring Chimes

\$8 p - let ring

88

2

Chimes

