

Program Notes for Invocation and Remembrance

Invocation and Remembrance was commissioned by the Minnehaha Academy Symphonic Wind Ensemble and premiered on April 24th, 2009. It was originally composed shortly after the 35W bridge collapse and is a reflection of our grief and need for God's protection as we remember the events surrounding that tragedy. The hymn tune *Melita*, commonly known as "Eternal Father, Strong to Save", appears in fragments throughout the work. The second verse of the hymn reads:

"Creator, God of hill and plain, O'er which our traffic runs amain.
By mountain pass or valley low; wherever, God, your people go,
Protect them by your guiding hand
from every peril on the land."

The composition appeared first as a work for trumpet and organ, but has been re-worked and orchestrated for wind ensemble. In the composer's words, "The adaptation of this work for the Minnehaha Symphonic Wind Ensemble is especially meaningful to me. Because the school sits on the Mississippi River just a short distance downstream from the bridge collapse, the school community was acutely aware of this tragedy on a daily basis. As members of the class of 2009 move forward in their lives, they will carry this event with them as part of their high school experience. It is my prayer for them and all future classes, as expressed through this music, that they will also move forward with God's protection and guarding hand wherever they go".