STEVEN BRYANT

Nothing Gold Can Stay

Commissioned for Kevin L. Sedatole by his conducting students
in honor of ten years as Director of Bands at Michigan State University

Commissioners:

Scott Boerma
Matthew Dockendorf
Jamal Duncan
Richard Frey
Arris Golden
Armand V. Hall, II
Douglas Henderson
Brandon R. Hults
Steven Kandow
Galen Karriker
Joshua Kearney
Daniel Kirk
Colin McKenzie
Verena Mösenbichler-Bryant
Philip Obado
William Staub
Jared Staub
Daniel Tembras
David Thornton

and the following institutions:

Western Michigan University Bands
The University of Akron Bands
University of Nebraska at Omaha Bands
Georgia Southern University Bands
PROGRAM NOTE

Nature’s first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf’s a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.

- Robert Frost

Nothing Gold Can Stay was commissioned as a surprise gift for Kevin Sedatole in honor of his first ten years at Michigan State University. His conducting students spanning that decade, led by Jamal Duncan and Armand Hall, banded together and approached me at the 2015 College Band Directors National Convention in Nashville about writing the work, and I knew immediately that I couldn’t refuse this special project, made all the more appropriate because my wife, Verena, was one of Kevin’s very first students at MSU.

The music is my deliberate attempt to write a chorale – something simple, beautiful, and familiar. The deceptive surface simplicity of Robert Frost’s poem seems to coincide with this music, particularly the paradoxical descending of dawn to day, all embodying the concept of felix culpa, or “lucky fall” - the idea that loss can bring greater good, and is in fact necessary.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Steven Bryant’s (b. 1972, Little Rock, Arkansas) musical interests span a variety of styles, and his catalog includes numerous works for wind ensemble, orchestra, electronic and electro-acoustic creations, chamber music, it. He studied composition with John Corigliano at The Juilliard School, Cindy McTee at the University of North Texas, and Francis McBeth at Ouachita University. A full bio and more is available at www.stevenbryant.com.

ALL QUERIES
(musical questions, technical questions, buying music, commissions, marching licenses, anything and everything!):
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FACEBOOK: facebook.com/SBryantComposer
INSTAGRAM: @SBrystonComposer
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[Sheet music diagram of musical composition with various instruments indicated.]
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PERUSAL SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE USE
SCORE & PARTS AVAILABLE AT www.stevenbryant.com
Nothing Gold Can Stay

PERUSAL SCORE

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SCORE & PARTS AVAILABLE AT

www.stevenbryant.com
Do not overpower ensemble.

Strive for a vast, warm, encompassing sound.

dim. poco a poco... (but only very slightly!)

extra tingle.

extra tingle.