

01. MISSION STATEMENT //

Mission

Emotion emanates from the sounds of our world. *The Tension of Opposites* is an orchestral exploration of life in an effort to increase awareness of the more pertinent issues challenging our society.

Vision

The Tension of Opposites is a large-scale contemporary work written for symphony orchestra, mixed chorus, tape and soloists. It is a work that deals with humanity, diversity, and the major life issues we all face as human beings on this earth. The concept of *The Tension of Opposites* was first introduced by the philosopher Carl Jung, who wrote about the reality of the many forces pulling human beings in opposite directions during their lifetime.

By exposing the emotional content of life, *The Tension of Opposites* explores the similarities and differences between the opposite events that we experience as human beings. For instance, is the sound of laughing and crying closer than we think; is the sound of pleasure and pain closer or more divergent than we expect? What about the moments when life begins and ends?

THE TENSION OF OPPOSITES

02. ORCHESTRAL JOURNALISM //

Eclecticism (-'klek-t&-"siz-&m) *noun*

01: a theory or practice that combines doctrines or methods from diverse sources. Matthew Ferraro pioneers this technique in his work, *The Tension of Opposites*.

For the last six years, Matthew Ferraro has traveled to various places around the world, documenting, with the first-hand precision of a journalist, people's actual life experiences. From living with the homeless in Los Angeles to covering Ground Zero in New York City, from birthing centers to intensive care units, mosques to synagogues, Matthew Ferraro has recorded the sonic nature of these environments. He returns to his studio after each field recording, and weaves the material into musical compositions that are orchestrated into symphonic movements.

In 2002, after listening to some of the compositions, the Director and Deputy Director of the California Arts Council found this form of expression to be an "artistic breakthrough" and "a new art form." They named it "Orchestral Journalism."

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03. MOVEMENTS //

Fanfare for the Common Machine • Man vs Nature

Can Industry and Nature co-exist? Composed as an allegory to Aaron Copeland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, this movement addresses the ongoing struggle between man and nature, exploring the dissonance and synergy between these two formidable forces. This movement combines an expansive palette of sounds, arranged with the orchestra, to create a complex sonic environment that demonstrates the powerful juxtaposition of industry and nature.

Beliefs • Faith vs Fundament

Can all religions co-exist in the same environment? This movement is a mosaic of prayers, ceremonies and sacred rituals from more than 30 of the world's major religions. The integration of these sounds provides a metaphor for our increasingly global society and inspires us to find the commonalities between all cultures and religions.

TITLE TBA • Life vs Death

Is there a message to be found from the tragedy of 9/11? This movement examines how the human spirit deals with tragedy. It chronicles the day through the eyes of various individuals and their emotional testimonials. Their thoughts and observations show us how the human spirit responds to horrific circumstances.

TITLE TBA • Wealth vs Poverty

There are millions of people worldwide living below the poverty threshold. Over 3 million are children in the United States alone. This movement uses sounds documented from living in homeless shelters, skid rows, and city ghettos to address the issues of disparate economic groups across the world.

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04 . SUPPORT & ENDORSEMENTS //

The groundbreaking nature and artistic complexity of using the actual sounds of life experiences as a musical tool for a major symphonic work has generated tremendous support.

Americans for the Arts has posted information about *The Tension of Opposites* on its website and provided a letter of endorsement. The Ahmanson Foundation has provided valuable leads to aid the project.

Distinguished M.I.T. Professor Joe Davis has donated the sound of single celled organisms recorded with a laser beam under a microscope to be included in one of the symphonic movements.

The City of New York and the **New York City Fire Department** provided advice and information regarding Matthew Ferraro's recording at Ground Zero. Members of the NYFD also provided personal testimonials of their experiences on September 11, 2001.

My Friends' Place and **The Los Angeles Mission** facilitated Matthew Ferraro's recordings of the plight of homeless youth and adults.

St. John's Hospital in Los Angeles and **Santa Monica Hospital** granted Matthew Ferraro access to record some of the most intimate moments of human birth and death.

Plains Exploration & Production Co. sponsored a field recording trip to their oil rigs and donated supplies. They have also provided corporate funds to the project.

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05. CHARITY PARTNERS //

PLEASE GET INVOLVED...

Below are various charities that make a difference in people's lives. Please visit these websites to learn more and get involved. You can donate specific items from the organization's need list, find information on how to volunteer your time, or give financially – whichever way you feel is appropriate.

- **Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma** (<http://www.astt.org/work.html>) alleviates the suffering of those who have experienced the trauma of torture. ASTT educates the local, national, and world community about the needs of torture survivors, and advocates on their behalf.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters** (<http://www.bbbs.org/site/c.djKKYPLJvH/b.1539751/k.BDB6/Home.htm>) helps children reach their potential through professionally supported one-to-one relationships with proven results.
- **Center for Healthy Aging (CHA)** (<http://www.centerforhealthyaging.org>) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to address the needs of aging adults and their families. Founded in 1976, CHA has gained a national reputation for innovative and effective programs and services addressing the physical, emotional, and practical challenges that come with aging.
- **The Los Angeles Mission** (<http://www.losangelesmission.org/give/nmd-needs.html>) provides food, clothing, shelter, training, counseling and other critical services to a diverse population of homeless people in immediate need.
- **MyFriend'sPlace** (<http://www.myfriendsplace.org/donatewishlist.html>) is a nonprofit Resource Center offering a comprehensive continuum of care that includes free emergency resources such as food and clothing in combination with health, educational, and therapeutic services to over 1,000 homeless youth and their children each year.

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- **The Natural Resources Defense Council** (<http://www.nrdc.org>) works to restore the integrity of the elements that sustain life (air, land, and water), to defend endangered natural places, and to foster the fundamental right of all people to have a voice in decisions that effect their environment.
- **826LA** (<http://www.826la.com>) is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting students ages 6 to 18 with their creative and expository writing skills, and to helping teachers inspire their students to write. We provide free drop-in tutoring, after-school workshops, in-schools tutoring, help for English language learners, and assistance with student publications.

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06. SOUND EXTRACTS //

Through the sounds of our world comes emotion. Whether it's the sound of children playing or children starving. A person laughing or crying. Between these opposite experiences, a tension exists. Our goal is to increase the awareness of issues in America, by recording the sounds of various life experiences, and molding them to music...

LIFE VERSUS DEATH (TITLE TBA)

LIFE VERSUS DEATH (TITLE TBA) ORCHESTRA ONLY

LIFE VERSUS DEATH (TITLE TBA) SOUNDTRACK ONLY

BELIEFS

BELIEFS ORCHESTRA ONLY

BELIEFS CHOIR / SOUNDTRACK

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07. CONTACT //

Please contact Matthew Ferraro direct for more information or on how you can contribute concerning '*The Tension of Opposites*' project:

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