Fantasy on Traditional Themes
Inspired By Steinbeck’s “East of Eden”

My most recent work for Concert Band is based on material that I helped gather for a production of John Steinbeck’s "East Of Eden" which was produced at The Western Stage in Salinas, CA. It utilizes traditional themes, mostly American, and spins them in a way that I hope is engaging and entertaining. A process of intervalic augmentation is used to texture these motifs as well as temporal augmentation. Fugal techniques are employed using polytonal subjects. Collectively, this makes the melodic material ambiguous, as if we are hearing it through a sonic fog. This augments its impact when it appears homophonically in the finale. Steinbeck’s prose communicate directly with the listener while still retaining a certain mystery and philosophical bearing. It is my hope that this piece accomplishes in sound what Steinbeck accomplished with words.