

Daniel Mulé, *The Gates of Hell*
2008 NSBA Student Electronic Music Composition Talent Search

My name is Daniel Martin Peter Mulé, I am in eleventh grade, and I attend Island Trees High School in Levittown, New York. After composing for two years, composing has become my favorite form of art. My composition, *The Gates of Hell*, is based on the poem entitled, "Into the Arms of Morpheus" by J. Peter Hansen, and how I envisioned the thematic message of the poem to be the existence between innocence and evil.

From my portrayal of the poem, I expressed my ideas through music. The first stanza of the poem reads, "Waves of wonder washing over sands that know no time, waves of wonder washing over this sacred body of mine." These words influenced my thoughts, causing me to believe that the world seems to be a very peaceful place, but hidden religious tensions existed on the contrary. I portrayed my thoughts using a whole tone scale with shifting tonics. I used similar timbres which include two string sounds and bells. I then created the second section by slowly fading the first part and using an octatonic diminished scale shifting tonics and a locrian mode representing the transformation between innocence and evil. The second stanza of the poem states, "Wall of water, sound of scream The Holy Wars' begun, Wall of water, sound of scream Morpheus on the run." I depicted this stanza to represent how complete hell exists with Satan leading forces of evil and consuming the world while envisioning the setting as the Middle East filled with holy wars. To portray this image I used many different types of timbre, including strings, bells, timpani, an Asian gong, and a shape shifter sound along with added reverb. Through these instruments and my passion for music I linked the poem and my visions together into a musical composition.

The connection to my song and J. Peter Hansen's poem is about the existence of innocence and evil since the beginning of time. Through my music and ideas I have created a composition that illustrates a plethora of events that have happened throughout history. Once again, thank you for considering my piece to be a part of this contest. Please enjoy *The Gates of Hell*.