

stn [adversary] (2009) For solo violin

Scored for solo violin, *stn [adversary]* was commissioned by the Montecito Summer Music Festival for Ken Aiso in honor of Israeli violin virtuoso, Ivry Gitlis. It is a compositional etude of sorts, focusing on multiple stops, especially those that include close intervals (usually minor 2nds). The commission entailed that the new work should be a variation in some manner on the slow movement of Bach's Concerto in E Major for violin. A very brief and somewhat distorted quote of that work makes an appearance as do references to Paganini's first *Caprice* (Op. 1, No. 1 in E Major) and Tartini's "The Devil's Trill" Sonata. The stn of the Hebrew Bible is simply an adversary, one who opposes. He asks Yahweh's permission to oppose Job; he does not lead a revolt against Yahweh. Nevertheless, tradition (especially Christian tradition) transformed this opponent into Satan, "the devil." There's also a long tradition of connecting the violin and things devilish (Tartini's sonata and Paganini's supposed Faustian pact being two among many such connections), so I liked the idea of writing a violin solo connected, not so much with the devil, but with the stn—the one who opposes.