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# Musica in Tempore Belli: An Analysis of “Black Angels”

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Hitchcock, Calvin D., "Musica in Tempore Belli: An Analysis of “Black Angels”" (2016). *The Research and Scholarship Symposium*. 22.  
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# Research + Scholarship SYMPOSIUM



## **Musica in Tempore Belli: An Analysis of “Black Angels”**

Described as “...extraordinarily haunting” and “[the] intoxicating magic of...sound,” (Steinitz, 1978) the music of George Crumb is some of the most evocative and expressive music of the 20th century. His extensive use of extended techniques (many of which he pioneered) is in part what makes his music so memorable. Also known for its liberal use of theatricality, Crumb’s music has become a standard of the 20th century, as well as in the contemporary music canon overall.

“Black Angels” for Electric String Quartet, subtitled “Thirteen Images from the Dark Land” was written as a response to the Vietnam War and is one of Crumb’s best known and respected pieces. This paper will examine the compositional approach taken in “Black Angels,” as well as analyze the musical and harmonic structure governing the piece.