

**Thoughts on Steven Stucky's Silent Spring**  
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Fifty years ago, a woman from Pittsburgh named Rachel Carson published a historic book called *Silent Spring*. It warned against the dangers of using certain poisons in the air, and led to the creation of new laws to protect the environment. Today, this book is regarded as the beginning of the environmental movement in America.

To celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this book, the Pittsburgh Symphony commissioned the wonderful American composer Steven Stucky to compose a new piece, which he has also called *Silent Spring*.

It is a 17-minute tone poem in four parts, which begins and ends very quietly. But in between is some extremely powerful music, full of drama and tension. Like the book, this piece is a kind of warning, it is very serious and dark. I was so moved by the piece at its premiere in Pittsburgh that I decided the Pittsburgh Symphony must bring it to Europe to play for European audiences.