

The Long  
Valley  
*for orchestra*

(2008)

by  
Jeffrey Parola

## INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo  
2 Flutes  
3 Oboes (3<sup>rd</sup> doubles English Horn)  
3 Clarinets in B-flat (3<sup>rd</sup> doubles B-flat Bass Clarinet)  
3 Bassoons (3<sup>rd</sup> doubles Contrabassoon)

4 Horns in F  
4 Trumpets in C  
3 Trombones  
Tuba

Timpani  
Percussion (3 players):  
Bass Drum, Crotales, Glockenspiel, Marimba,  
Sus. Cymbal, Tambourine, Tam-tam, Triangle, Vibraphone

Harp  
Piano

Strings

*duration: ca. 12'30"*

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### Brief Program Notes

by Jeffrey Parola

*"I remember my childhood names for grasses and secret flowers. I remember where a toad may live and what time the birds awaken in the summer – and what trees and seasons smelled like – how people looked and walked and smelled even. The memory of odors is very rich."*

- John Steinbeck, *East of Eden*

In 1952, John Steinbeck penned the above passage within the first page of the monumental novel, *East of Eden*. Though the plotline runs parallel to the Genesis story, Steinbeck's ultimate intention for writing the novel was to paint a detailed image of California's Salinas Valley, Steinbeck's homeland, for his two young sons.

Just a couple of years ago, I stumbled across an attractive edition of the book at a bookstore, bought it, and read it for the very first time. Because I was born and raised in Salinas, I was immediately drawn in by the first chapter, where Steinbeck colorfully describes the sights, sounds, and smells of the Salinas Valley.

I experienced all of the things of which he spoke, the goods and the bads, the beautiful and the ugly; and my heart immediately welled up with nostalgia of memories sweet and sorrowful, conjured by images sketched by Steinbeck's unrestrained and poetic honesty.

Consequently, the novel inspired a very personal, nostalgic orchestral work, entitled *The Long Valley*. This title, drawn from another literary work by Steinbeck, was chosen to keep focus on my perception of the Salinas Valley as inspired by *East of Eden*, while avoiding the titular literary weight of the work.

*The Long Valley* attempts to place at the center of Steinbeck's raw reflection my personal memories of the Salinas Valley. I dedicate *The Long Valley* to my mother and father, in gratitude.

For more information about performing/purchasing this work or others by Jeffrey Parola, please visit [www.parola.org](http://www.parola.org), or e-mail [jeffrey@parola.org](mailto:jeffrey@parola.org).

