

# THE SCENE-MACHINE

George MacBeth

Anthony Gilbert  
(1970)

SCENE 1 Stage bare, in darkness. A young man, alone, seated on a box, is faintly spot-lighted. He plays guitar, and sings

SONG Slow, rubato, e.g. ♩ = 66

Frank (Baritone) *pp*

I hear the leaves Bur - nin' Some - where in Viet - nam.

Guitar (stage) *pp*

Bar. *pp*

I hear the trees Tur - nin'

Gtr. *pp*

8 *d = ♩ becoming faster; rhythmical*

Bar. *mf* (1)

Some - where in Viet - nam. Ki - ll, kill the dark an - gel,

Gtr. *mf*

12

Bar.

Kill, kill the dark an - gel Ther's what I hear them say

Gtr.

16 *d = ♩ Slow, rubato*

Bar. (2) *pp*

All night, all day. I see the

Gtr.

*(qui sal-van-dos salvas gratias) (irony)*

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*1's marked the chant-line in red. AG.*

*The 'Dies Irae' chant becomes more fragmented as the song evolves. In its 'pp' part it's distorted! AG. (\* scene VI)*

20

Bar. birds Fly - in' Some-where in Viet - nam I see the

Gtr. *pp*

24

Bar. Small chil - dren dy - in' Somewhere in Viet - nam

Gtr. *mf*

28

Bar. Ki - ll, kill the dark an - gel, Kill, kill

Gtr. *mf*

*d. = d. becoming faster; rhythmical*

3

32

Bar. the dark an - gel. That's what I hear them say All night, all

Gtr.

36

Bar. day. I feel the hate

Gtr. *p*

*d. = d. Slow, rubato*

4

40

Bar. Ri - sin' some-where in Viet - nam, I see it rim the

Gtr. *f*

44 *f*

Bar. whole ho - ri - zon. Some - where in Viet - nam.

Gtr.

5 = *f* = *♩*. becoming faster; rhythmical

Bar. Ki - ll, kill the dark an - gel, Kill, kill the dark an - gel

Gtr.

52

Bar. — that's what I hear men say All night, all

Gtr.

55

Bar. day.

Gtr.

### OUTLINE of what continues:

The character FRANK is a young campaigner for peace, who writes protest songs, and whose career is just beginning to be taken up at the starting point of this little opera.

The 'pop' industry latches on, and tries, in the person of a fine mezzo-soprano, to seduce him with its 'Scene-Machine', a mechanism to drive their sort of low-grade music into the minds of the young audience. He succumbs, converts his song for peace into a drab little love-song, and his original supporters, infuriated at his betrayal of ideals, attack him.

The opera was commissioned in 1968 by the Kassel State Theatre for an audience of children. The aim was to encourage them to stick to their ideals. They loved it!