

***Festivities* program note**

For many years, I have been a great admirer of the work of conductor Gerard Schwarz. Some of my earliest exposure to many important works of the American orchestral repertoire came about through the landmark recordings he conducted with the Seattle Symphony. So it's easy to understand why I'd long hoped for an opportunity to have Maestro Schwarz conduct my music. As such, when I received an invitation from him to compose a short work for the Eastern Music Festival in 2011, I was delighted at the opportunity. When I learned of the other composers who were also being commissioned in this series, I was especially honored to be included among such a distinguished group.

As the occasion for this series of commissions was a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Eastern Music Festival, it seemed to me that a short celebratory work was in order. I have written a number of such celebratory works over the years, and enjoy composing pieces in this jubilant vein when the occasion demands. Focusing on the idea of a festival brought to mind the term "festivity," which is defined as "the celebration of something in a joyful and exuberant way." This description seemed apt for the mood of this short work, and so I titled it *Festivities*. I hope that the work succeeded in contributing to a joyful celebration of the Eastern Music Festival's golden anniversary, and that it may fulfill a similar function as a rousing opening work on other programs.

—Peter Boyer, July 2011