

### ***Celebration Overture* program note**

This work was commissioned by the American Jazz Philharmonic to celebrate the inaugural season of the Henry Mancini Institute, its summer training program for outstanding young musicians. The premiere was given by the Henry Mancini Institute Orchestra under my direction, at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center, Long Beach, on August 16, 1997. The work's title summarizes its content: it was intended as a jubilant curtain-raiser. A fast, rhythmic fanfare theme for four trumpets opens the work, and leads to a processional-like section with a repeated three-note motto, first played by four horns. The fanfare theme returns and leads to the central section, in 7/8 meter, dominated by a furiously fast repeated piano figure and sharp accents from the full orchestra. The rhythmic energy subsides, and there follows a lyrical passage, led by the oboe playing a melody which has blossomed from the earlier three-note horn motto. The return of the opening trumpet fanfare leads to the work's jubilant ending. *Celebration Overture* has become probably the most popular of my works in terms of radio play, with thousands of broadcasts on dozens of radio stations since the recording's release in 2001. It was also the first of my works to be played by one of the major American orchestras, with the Dallas Symphony's 2002 performances, for which I made some minor revisions to the work.

— Peter Boyer