

## ***Fêtes and Fireworks*** **for Full Orchestra** **(2005)**

I was delighted to have the opportunity to share in and contribute to the St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra's celebrations of thirty five years of music making. *Fêtes and fireworks* is a short celebratory overture, four and a half minutes full of energetic musical compliments for music past and high hopes and best wishes for music yet to be made by the SLSYO.

With an initial full-orchestral punch and an upward surge of tremolo strings, bursts of notes from various sectors of the orchestra launch us into the festivities. A quiet series of fanfare-like phrases sound from the woodwind and brass; a repeat of the explosive opening gestures casts us into a field amid several intersecting fanfares from the brass, tremolo flourishes in the strings and bright, chipper woodwind accompaniments. Pizzicato strings and staccato woodwinds quicken their chatter and introduce a more serene second section. Here woodwind triplet figures pepper a texture of blithely winding string phrases that grow successively longer, eventually catching the woodwinds' triplets and swelling into a section of syncopated brass fanfares punctuated by triplet flourishes in the winds and strings. More extensive, scattered orchestral bursts suddenly interrupt and plunge us into a nimbly scurrying string passage which builds to the climatic final section. The previous brass fanfares broaden into more lyrical lines here accompanied by the woodwinds' triplet figures and upward flourishes in the strings.