

Heartenings (2011)

This fanfare was commissioned by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in celebration of Robert Spano's Tenth Anniversary as Music Director and Donald Runnicles' Tenth Anniversary as Principle Guest Conductor.

Sparked by the thunder of the bass drum and timpani, the brass erupt into a jubilant disarray of fanfares. The percussion and strings interrupt to impose order, or at least, temporary calm. Out of this brief stillness, the winds spin echoes of the fanfares into upward flourishing lines invoking the horns and low voices of the orchestra. Cellos, double basses, bassoons, bass trombone and tuba lead the forces in gathering momentum. A momentary stumble disrupts the sweeping progress, but the orchestra gathers itself again, swiftly attaining peaceful cantabile lines. These grow in intensity and finally compel a triumphant—and orderly—return of the initial fanfares.