

Composer Notes

PATRICE RUSHEN

This piece offers the listener the opportunity to resonate with the emotions of triumph, excitement and strength alongside the feelings of wonder, whimsy, and imagination. Sometimes for me, thoughts come in organized bursts and at other times in seemingly disconnected spurts. This piece intends to capture that energy, musically. It will be communicated by the colors, voices, and textures of the orchestra.

One of my dreams has always been to compose for orchestra. The richness and multi colors of the orchestra's sound have always been attractive to me. In 1999, I composed my first symphony, *Sinfonia*. I just wanted to experiment with using every part of the orchestra. Up to that point, most of the ensembles I'd written for were smaller. I enjoyed that challenge and learned a lot, but I never thought I'd have the chance to work with a large orchestra... but it was my goal then.

I still have much to learn about this "instrument", the orchestra, as the sounds and possibilities are as intriguing to me as ever. I wish to be as creative as possible with this wonderful "box of colors" to express the many sides of my musical interests. This, too, is part of my journey. It celebrates the love I have for what some would classify as "classical" music... and for me, it's part of a large bouquet of flowers which can be arranged in any number of ways.