

More About CIMARRON

This is a companion piece to **Ponderosa**. They are both western style overtures, fittingly published in the Heart of the West by Grand Mesa Music, located in Grand Junction, Colorado. Both are also the final result of extensive reworking of much earlier compositions.

While the first version of **Ponderosa** was written in 1970 for my students in Iowa, **Cimarron** had its beginnings a year later, far from the Wild West in Tallahassee, Florida. I was in my first year of graduate school at Florida State University and had just started working on band composition studies with Charles Carter. After an initial quarter devoted to arranging for marching band, we started on concert band composition, and Charlie taught me an overture form—loosely based on the classic *sonata-allegro*—that he had picked up from Frank Erickson. I wrote a piece for him, using that form, which I called **Fanfare and Overture**. Many years, a couple of name changes, and several major revisions later, in New Mexico (which made choosing its final title easy), the overture (minus fanfare) finally reached maturity and became **Cimarron**.