

## More About PONDEROSA

**Ponderosa** had its beginnings in 1970, when I was in my first teaching job in rural Iowa, fresh out of college. I started it with the idea of entering it in a contest for concert band compositions that I had read about, but soon (wisely) abandoned that idea. I had only recently graduated from college with a degree in music education and had almost no formal training in composition, so I turned it into a piece for my high school band. We played it once at our 1971 spring concert and then it went into the drawer, where it remained in hibernation for several years.

A mid-1970s attempt to revise it was totally unsatisfactory and I put it back into the drawer for two more decades, thinking that I probably couldn't save it.

But in the mid-1990s, I decided to try again to revise it by pairing it with **Cimarron**, a western-style overture that I had recently revised from another earlier unsuccessful composition. **Ponderosa** already had a western flavor and even a western name. So I tore it down and rebuilt a new composition from the pieces in the same mold as **Cimarron**, using the overture form Charlie Carter had taught me. This time it worked! **Cimarron** and **Ponderosa** were my twin Western overtures.