

## **More About A YULETIDE RHAPSODY**

Written in 1964 during summer vacation just before my senior year in high school, **A Yuletide Rhapsody** is the oldest piece of music that I still have in my catalog. Of course, the version that is in there today is much-revised from the original, the product of a 17-year old neophyte composer, just starting out on his musical journey.

It was played by my high school band at the Christmas concert that year, with me playing in the band rather than conducting as I had done when my first piece was played a couple years earlier, and then it went into my still un-crowded drawer... which would later get very crowded as the years went by.

I next re-visited the piece in the fall of 1969, in preparation for the Christmas concert at my first teaching job in rural Iowa. I had a lot more knowledge of music theory and composition by that time, having completed college with a music major, and already written **Meditation for Horn and Piano, Kyrie Eleison, First Suite for Brass Quartet**, and the original version of **Fanfare for a Fallen Soldier**...pieces that are in my catalog today

I made a lot of changes, including replacing one entire song. I had naïvely included a copyrighted song (**White Christmas**) into the original 1964 version of the piece, so I took it out in favor of **Coventry Carol**, another Olde English carol that would join the other three Olde English carols to solidify the overall theme of the piece.

While in graduate school at Florida State a few years later, I played in the Tallahassee Community Band, where it was used in various Christmas Season concerts we gave. After I left there, it went back into the drawer for a long sleep.

I extensively revised it one more time in 2017, and that is the version that is available now from Dacker Music.