

## **More About HARBOR RIDGE PANORAMA**

This composition had its beginnings several years back, when I received an e-mail from my friend Sheryl Clark, the band director at Harbor Ridge Middle School in Gig Harbor, Washington. She told me that a major addition to the school was nearing completion, and offered me a commission for a new piece that her band would play at the dedication the following year.

**Harbor Ridge Panorama** was the result of that commission. The title alludes to the panoramic view from the school, which sits on a high bluff overlooking the busy harbor, with the blue waters of Puget Sound beyond, and Mount Rainier shining brilliant white in the distance.

All the music for this composition is directly derived from the opening 11-note trumpet motif, which musically sets the words to the school motto, “a view so great you can see the future.” The beginning, *Moderato maestoso*, represents the backdrop of Mt. Rainier, majestically dominating the view. The second section, *Tranquillo*, evokes the smooth waters of the harbor and sound on a calm and misty morning. The finale, *Allegro*, depicts the bustle of activity in the harbor with the coming and going of the fishing fleet, yachts, and various other pleasure craft. (quoted from the preface to the score)