

## **More About ADIRONDACK SKETCHES**

I grew up in a small town in New York State's Adirondack Mountains, and although I haven't lived there for over 50 years, I still maintain a strong connection to the area, with many friends and a few family members still living there.

So it was that in late 2009, I got an e-mail from the historian for my home town asking if I would be interested in composing something for the town's bicentennial celebration in 2012, to be played by the local community band (named "A Pretty Good Band," they do live up to their name). I had written for this band once before and immediately agreed.

Given an 8-minute time limit, but otherwise free reign as to what to compose, I decided on a suite of 4 short movements describing memories of places and events from my childhood. It's original title was **Lake Pleasant Suite**, and although I didn't try to emulate it (!!), I took a little programmatic inspiration from Ferde Grofé's famous **Grand Canyon Suite**.

Here is a description of the movements from the preface to the score:

### **1. Sunrise over Lake Pleasant**

A gradual expansion of sound based on the horn call at m. 3 brings the lakeshore from predawn darkness to brilliant sunlight.

### **2. School Picnic at Moffit Beach**

A march/scherzo expresses the end-of-school exuberance of the school children.

### **3. Canoeing on Kunjamuck Creek**

A gently flowing passacaglia, with hints of arch form, depicts the calm, wooded creek.

### **4. Hiking up Hamilton Mountain**

An insistent ostinato bass suggests plodding footsteps as a fugue unfolds above, taking a group of excited hikers up the trail to the lookout atop the mountain.