

*The Serenade for 12 Instruments* was commissioned by "The Frank L. Battisti 70th Birthday Project," a consortium of twenty groups brought together by Dr. Frederick Harr of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in celebration of Frank's many contributions to the field of music and especially to the development of the wind ensemble and its ever expanding repertoire. The piece was completed in February 2002, and was premiered in October, 2002.

The work is traditional in structure with a fast-slow-fast sequence of three movements; The third movement, heard this afternoon, is a Rondo-based form. Most of the melodic and harmonic material is derived from four different 12-note rows which are treated in tonally "referential" manner. The piece owes its existence to my life-long love of Dvorak's *Op. 44 Serenade in D minor* which I first performed as a student at the Pre-College Division of the Juilliard School. For many years I had wanted to compose a companion work to this masterpiece, having been fascinated by the orchestration possibilities of this unique ensemble. My own work is also centered on D, treats the instruments in the best "Bohemian" fashion, and in its last few measures gives a direct reference to its famous antecedent. —MW