CELEBRATIONS

for Leonard Slatkin

Vincent J. Oppido (ASCAP)

C Large Score Available 1 - Full Score 1 - Piccolo 2 - Flute 1/2 2 - Oboe 1/2 1 - English Horn 1 - Clarinet in B ^b 1 1 - Clarinet in B ^b 2 2 - Bassoon 1/2	2 - Ho 2 - Ho 2 - Tr 2 - Tr 2 - Tr 2 - Tr 2 - Tr 1 - Tu	 Properties Full Orchestra Instrumentation 2 - Horn in F 1/3 2 - Horn in F 2/4 2 - Trumpet in B^b 1/2 2 - Trumpet in B^b 3/4 2 - Trombone 1/2 2 - Trombone 3/Bass 1 - Tuba 1 - Timpani 		
1 - Harp 1 - Piano				
10 - Violin I	10 - Violin II	8 - Viola	8 Cello	6 - Contrabass
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About the Music - - -

During the spring of 2007, the George Mason University Orchestra received word that Maestro Leonard Slatkin, Music Director of the National Symphony Orchestra, would be guest conducting the group during the fall 2007 semester. To commemorate the occasion (which was his fourth appearance with the orchestra), and as a thank you to Maestro Slatkin, GMU Symphony Orchestra Director Anthony Maiello requested that I compose a musical tribute to him. I was truly excited about the project!

Celebrations was composed during the summer of 2007. To make the piece particularly special for Maestro Slatkin, I incorporated short motivic elements throughout the work from the four works he guest conducted with the orchestra over the years (including Dvorak's *Eighth Symphony*, which was performed the night of the premiere). The other three pieces he has conducted with the group are Tchaikovsky's *Fourth and Fifth Symphonies* and Faure's *Mass*.

In conceiving the work, I strove for a traditional and contemporary American musical sound. Maestro Slatkin is one of the great champions of American music in the United States today, and I felt no honor could be greater to him than to write an exciting and joyous American work.

The work received its premiere under my direction on October 21, 2007, in the George Mason University Center for the Arts.

Vincent Oppido

** Note: ALL trills are whole-step

About the Composer - - -



Vincent Oppido (b. 1986), a native of Long Island, NY, is currently pursuing a B.A. in Music at George Mason University. Vincent began composing around the age of 14, and since then has written numerous works ranging from concert band, orchestra, choir, chamber, and piano works. In the summer of 2006, Vincent was selected to participate in the Nation Band Association

Young Composer Mentor Project and worked with renowned composers Mark Camphouse, James Curnow, Julie Giroux, and Robert Sheldon. The conference culminated in the performance of *Skysplitter!* by the Prairie Wind Ensemble of Peoria, IL.

In December of 2006, *Skysplitter!* was performed at the 60th Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, IL. In February of 2007, *Northwest Fanfare* was premiered by the 2007 MENC All-Northwest Honor Band in Portland, OR, under the direction of Larry Gookin. In November of 2007, *Under Skies So Blue* was performed by the George Mason University Wind Symphony at the annual Virginia Music Educator's Association Conference.

Vincent contributed the music examples to Anthony Maiello's conducting book Conducting Nuances: *Little Things Mean A Lot* (GIA Publications 2007). He was invited by Mark Camphouse to be a contributing author in Volume IV of Composers on Composing for Band: Young and Emerging Composers (GIA Publications) which will be released in the fall of 2008.

Vincent currently studies conducting with Anthony Maiello, composition with Mark Camphouse, classical piano with Anna Balakerskaia, jazz piano with Wade Beach, and jazz studies with Jim Carroll. He has commissions dating into 2009. Vincent is a member of ASCAP, MENC, and NBA. His music is published by TRN Music Publisher, Inc.

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Full Score

Duration - 5 minutes

for Leonard Slatkin

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