

Great Winter Festival Overture

An homage to Haydn Stephen Dankner's Great Winter Festival Overture was commissioned by the Sinfonia and premiered on this evening. As with Mozart 35, the Overture is bright but not flighty, firm but not ponderous. Dankner composed the piece as a sort of homage to Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809), and his orchestral scoring is definitely along Haydn's lines. While the melody and harmony have "modern" touches, Dankner thankfully composed along the lines of early 20th century American "neo-classical" composer Arthur Foote, accented with a hint of Virgil Thomson and a distant echo of Leonard Bernstein's West Side Story.