



Notes about
Sesquicentennial Fanfare

The notes below were written by William Rowson for presentations by the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (performed Apr 6) and the Sudbury Symphony Orchestra (performed Apr 29).

“As fortune would have it, the sketching period for this piece coincided with my move across the country [late last summer to take on a two-year appointment as assistant conductor of the Vancouver Symphony].

“Like a giant net, I gathered snippets of ideas as I drove from Toronto to Vancouver. The overall impression in the end was that of a country with a lot to celebrate, and the fragments came together to form the piece you will hear.

“It is marked *Vivace e capriccietto*, ‘a little capricious,’ and begins briskly with little flourishes and clips of “O Canada” re-harmonized and spread throughout the orchestra. The stumbling false starts suggest a character that can humbly laugh at its own mistakes.

“The fanfare itself occurs at the end of the piece. It is short, brassy, and a call to celebrate, but also to think big! More than pomp, its changing and syncopated rhythms express change, energy, and optimism about the next 150 years.”