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From the first downbeat to the last, Celebrate! is a high-energy piece composed for unison choir. The rhythms are exciting and enjoyable. Singers won't be able to keep from smiling while singing these words. As the words say, performers and audience alike will, "celebrate life, the joy it brings."

This piece, originally composed for a fifth grade choral festival, is a great program closer. Composed in 6/8, Celebrate! has a rhythmic feel similar to that of Leonard Bernstein's America. The piece can be performed with the piano accompaniment, Orff instruments, or both.

When performing the body percussion at letter B, singers should maintain the tempo, rather than rush in anticipation of the last quarter note of the pattern (in measures 28, 32, 36 and 40).

As an added challenge the piece can be performed in two parts. Beginning in measure 97, rehearsal letter "F," the piano plays the melody that has been sung by the choir up to that point. Singers could sing what is now the piano part as a partner song to the written melody, using the text of measures 41-56.

The excitement of the hand clapping in the coda can overpower the singing. Start the crescendo at measure 113 pp so that the vocal line starting at an mf can be heard.

Patrick Ware, a Boston native, began his composition studies at Westfield State College where he earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in Music. After receiving his MSEd from Radford University. he completed his Orff-Schulwerk Certification and apprenticeship at George Mason University. Patrick is currently a doctoral candidate at the Shenandoah Conservatory of Shenandoah University. Along with his K-6 movement, general music, and choral duties in Fairfax County Public Schools, Fairfax, Virginia, Patrick teaches the Level I movement courses for Anna Maria College and Carnegie Mellon University. Patrick is an active clinician and choral conductor at both the national and local level.

**Performance Time** 

Approx. 2:12

2006 All County Chorus Festival

## Celebrate!

Joyfully

Unison Voices and Orff Ensemble



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