

# ROBERT SIROTA

COMPOSER

## PROGRAM NOTES

### *ETHEL FANFARE*

Program note by Robert Sirota:

Several years ago, my friend Ralph Farris, violist for the dynamic string quartet *ETHEL*, proposed that I write a fanfare for the quartet to perform to open some of its concerts. The idea interested me very much, but it somehow got lost in the welter of other commissions and obligations. In 2012, I had the good fortune to be at a music festival on the Greek island of Samos where violinist Tema Watstein was performing. She had just joined *ETHEL*, and she said “you know, we’d really like you to write that fanfare for us.” So it was that in January 2013 I wrote the *ETHEL* Fanfare.

The three-minute work is constructed around *ETHEL*’s name: *e* - *th* (that is, *ti* and *h*, the pitch “b” in Italian and German) - *e* - and *l* ( that is, *la* or “a”). Once I had derived the basic material, it was a matter of channeling my inner hipster and coming up with a piece that would capture the brilliance and energy of this unique and wonderful group.