

Robert Russell Bennett (1894 – 1981) was an American composer and arranger, best known for his orchestration of many well-known Broadway and Hollywood musicals by other composers such as Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, and Richard Rodgers. In 1957 and 2008, Bennett received Tony Awards recognizing his orchestrations for Broadway shows

The **Suite of Old American Dances**, written for concert band in 1949, opens with the Cake Walk, a strutting dance based on a march rhythm; it originated as a competition among black dancers to win a cake and was often performed at minstrel shows.

Dr. Michael Pratt has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Crosswell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band.

He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreech, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson.

Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

Cake Walk

Duration 4:25

from *Suite of Old American Dances*

Robert Russell Bennett

Arr. by Michael Pratt

for Brass Septet

Allegretto in two $\text{♩} = 104$

This musical score is for a brass septet, consisting of three trumpets in B-flat, one horn in F, one trombone, one euphonium, and one tuba. The piece is in 2/4 time, marked 'Allegretto in two' with a tempo of 104 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or F minor). The score is divided into two systems of staves.

System 1 (Measures 1-10):

- Trumpet in B \flat 1:** Starts with a melodic line marked *f* (forte) with accents. It transitions to *mp* (mezzo-piano) at measure 4.
- Trumpet in B \flat 2 & 3:** Enter at measure 7 with a rhythmic accompaniment marked *mp*, which then crescendos (*cresc.*) through measure 10.
- Horn in F:** Enters at measure 7 with a rhythmic accompaniment marked *mp*, which then crescendos (*cresc.*) through measure 10.
- Trombone:** Starts with a melodic line marked *f* with accents, transitioning to *mp* at measure 4.
- Euphonium & Tuba:** Enter at measure 7 with a rhythmic accompaniment marked *mp*, which then crescendos (*cresc.*) through measure 10.

System 2 (Measures 11-18):

- B \flat Tpt. 1, 2, 3, Hn., Tbn., Euph., & Tuba:** All instruments play a melodic line marked *f* with accents from measure 11 to 16. At measure 17, the dynamics change to *p* (piano) for all instruments.