

Leoš Janáček (July 3, 1854 – August 12, 1928) was a Czech composer, musical theorist, folklorist, publicist and teacher. He was inspired by Moravian and all Slavic folk music to create an original, modern musical style. Until 1895 he devoted himself mainly to folkloristic research and his early musical output was influenced by contemporaries such as Antonín Dvořák. His later, mature works incorporate his earlier studies of national folk music in a modern, highly original synthesis, first evident in the opera *Jenufa*, which was premiered in 1904 in Brno. The success of *Jenufa* (often called the "Moravian national opera") at Prague in 1916 gave Janáček access to the world's great opera stages. Janáček's later works are his most celebrated. They include the symphonic poem *Sinfonietta*, the oratorio *Glagolitic Mass*, the rhapsody *Taras Bulba*, string quartets, other chamber works and operas. He is considered to rank with Antonín Dvořák and Bedřich Smetana, as one of the most important Czech composers

Sinfonietta is a very expressive and festive late work for large orchestra (of which 25 are brass players). It is dedicated 'To the Czechoslovak Armed Forces' and Janáček said it was intended to express 'contemporary free man, his spiritual beauty and joy, his strength, courage and determination to fight for victory.' It started by Janáček listening to a brass band, becoming inspired to write some fanfares of his own. When the organizers of the Sokol Gymnastic Festival approached him for a commission, he developed the material into the *Sinfonietta*. The first performance was in Prague on 26 June 1926 together with his *Glagolitic Mass*.

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 Crowell 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.

Fanfare

Duration 1:55

from *Sinfonietta*

Leoš Janáček
Arr. by Michael Pratt
for brass septet

Allegretto $\text{♩} = 72$

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes staves for Trumpet in B \flat 1, Trumpet in B \flat 2, Trumpet in B \flat 3, Horn in F, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The second system includes staves for B \flat Tpt. 1, B \flat Tpt. 2, B \flat Tpt. 3, Hn., Tbn., Euph., and Tuba. The score is in 2/4 time with a tempo of Allegretto (♩ = 72). The key signature has two flats (B \flat major or D \flat minor). The first system covers measures 2 through 13, and the second system covers measures 14 through 24. The score features various dynamics, including *f* (forte), and includes articulation marks such as accents and slurs. The brass instruments play a fanfare-like melody, with the trumpets and trombones playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the horns, euphonium, and tuba provide a harmonic accompaniment.