

**Julius Arnost Wilhelm Fucík** (18 July 1872 – 15 September 1916) was a Czech composer and conductor of military bands. Fucík spent most of his life as the leader of military brass bands. He became a prolific composer, with over 300 marches, polkas, and waltzes to his name. As most of his work was for military bands, he is sometimes known as the "Bohemian Sousa". Today his marches are still played as patriotic music in the Czech Republic. However, his worldwide reputation rests on one work: his Opus 68 march, the Entrance of the Gladiators, which is universally recognized, often under the title Thunder and Blazes, as one of the most popular theme tunes for circus clowns.

**Florentiner** was composed as a grand march for an opera never completed and is not as popular as Entrance of the Gladiators, but it is regularly performed and recorded by wind ensembles.

**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 Croswell 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.

# Florentiner

Duration 5:15

Grande marcia Italiana, 1916

Julius Fucik, Op. 214

Arr. by Michael Pratt

for brass septet

Tempo di Marcia  $\text{♩} = 116$

Trumpet in B $\flat$  1  
Trumpet in B $\flat$  2  
Trumpet in B $\flat$  3  
Horn in F  
Trombone  
Euphonium  
Tuba

B $\flat$  Tpt. 1  
B $\flat$  Tpt. 2  
B $\flat$  Tpt. 3  
Hn.  
Tbn.  
Euph.  
Tuba