

George Michael Cohan (1878 – 1942) was a major American entertainer, playwright, composer, lyricist, actor, singer, dancer and producer. Known in the decade before World War I as "the man who owned Broadway", he is considered the father of American musical comedy. His life and music were depicted in the Academy Award winning film *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942) and the 1968 musical *George M!*. A statue of Cohan in Times Square in New York City commemorates his contributions to American musical theatre.

Over There is a 1917 song popular with United States soldiers in both world wars. Cohan later recalled that the words and music to the song came to him while travelling by train from New Rochelle to New York shortly after the U.S. had declared war against Germany in April 1917. On June 29, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt awarded Cohan the Congressional Gold Medal for this and other songs. The march setting of "Over There" was written by Eric Leidzen.

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.

Over There

Duration 2:40

March

George M. Cohan
March setting by Eric Leidzen
Arr. Michael Pratt
for Brass Septet

March tempo ♩ = 120

Musical score for measures 1-9 of 'Over There'. The score is for a Brass Septet and is in 2/4 time. The instruments are Trumpet in B♭ 1, Trumpet in B♭ 2, Trumpet in B♭ 3, Horn in F, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The music is marked *ff* (fortissimo). Measures 1-9 show the beginning of the piece with various rhythmic patterns and dynamics. Measure numbers 2 through 8 are indicated above the staves.

A

Musical score for measures 10-19 of 'Over There'. The score is for a Brass Septet and is in 2/4 time. The instruments are B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, B♭ Tpt. 3, Hn., Tbn., Euph., and Tuba. The music is marked *mf* (mezzo-forte) for measures 10-16 and *f* (forte) for measures 17-19. Measure numbers 10 through 19 are indicated above the staves.