

**John Philip Sousa** (1854 – 1932) was an American composer and conductor of the late Romantic era, known particularly for American military and patriotic marches. Because of his mastery of march composition, he is known as "The March King" or the "American March King" due to his British counterpart Kenneth J. Alford also being known as "The March King". Among his best known marches are "The Washington Post", "Semper Fidelis" (Official March of the United States Marine Corps), and "The Stars and Stripes Forever" (National March of the United States of America).

**The Thunderer** is one of Sousa's most popular marches. It was written in 1889. The origin of the name is not officially known, though it is speculated that it gets its name from the "pyrotechnic effects" of the drum and bugle in the score. It was the election theme for ABC News from 1968 to 1972.

**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.

# The Thunderer

Duration 2:42

March

John Philip Sousa, 1889

Arr. Michael Pratt  
for Brass Septet

March tempo  $\text{♩} = 120$  A

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