

Leroy Anderson (1908 – 1975) was an American composer of short, light concert pieces, many of which were introduced by the Boston Pops Orchestra under the direction of Arthur Fiedler. John Williams described him as "one of the great American masters of light orchestral music."

Buglers' Holiday is one of the best-known pieces of band literature written by Leroy Anderson. Anderson was born in Cambridge, Massachusetts and began studying piano and music at the New England Conservatory of Music when he was eleven years of age. During his high school years, he wrote several compositions for his high school orchestra. This ultimately led to his acceptance into Harvard where he pursued studies in composition. In 1931, Anderson became director of the Harvard Band. During his four year tenure with this group, he composed several pieces, one of which was accepted to be played by the Boston Pops. This piece, entitled Harvard Fantasy, was a success and resulted in Anderson becoming a regular composer for the ensemble. In 1945, the Pops' lead trumpet player, Roger Voisin, requested Anderson to compose an original piece for trumpet. The result was Trumpeter's Lullaby. It wasn't until 1954 that Anderson again composed a piece featuring the trumpet. He wrote Buglers' Holiday as a solo piece for three trumpets accompanied by a band. At this time, Anderson had his own ensemble that was recording for Decca Records. He hoped Bugler's Holiday would become a hit, possibly helping the group surpass the success of their previous gold record album released in 1951. The solo trumpet parts in Bugler's Holiday are written to imitate the sound of a bugle, a brass instrument without valves that is commonly used for military calls and fanfares. Anderson intended for the soloists to stand in front of the ensemble instead of sitting in seats among the band. Since the premiere of Bugler's Holiday, the piece has remained a favorite among crowds and trumpet enthusiasts.

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.

Bugler's Holiday

Duration 2:45

Leroy Anderson, 1954

Arr. Michael Pratt
for Brass Septet

Allegro vivo ♩ = 144

9

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 music is in 2/4 time and marked 'Allegro vivo' with a tempo of 144 beats per minute. The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or F minor). The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 9 through 18, and the second system covers measures 10 through 19. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *sfz* (sforzando). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and articulation marks. The instruments are arranged in a standard brass section layout, with trumpets on top, followed by horn, trombone, euphonium, and tuba at the bottom.