

Aaron Copland (1900 – 1990) was an American composer, composition teacher, writer, and later in his career a conductor of his own and other American music. He was instrumental in forging a distinctly American style of composition, and is often referred to as "the Dean of American Composers." He is best known to the public for the works he wrote in the 1930s and 1940s in a deliberately more accessible style than his earlier pieces, including the ballets *Appalachian Spring*, *Billy the Kid*, *Rodeo* and his *Fanfare for the Common Man*.

Old American Songs are two sets of songs arranged by Aaron Copland in 1950 and 1952 respectively. Originally scored for voice and piano, they were reworked for baritone (or mezzo-soprano) and orchestra.

Ching-A-Ring Chaw (sometimes *Ching-a-Ring*, or *Ching-a-Ring Shaw*) is a song from the early days of the black-faced minstrel tradition included by Aaron Copland in his second set of *Old American Songs*.

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.

Ching-A-Ring Chaw

Duration 1:30

from *Old American Songs*

Aaron Copland
Arr. Michael Pratt
for Brass Septet

Lively tempo ♩ = 144

The musical score is for a brass septet and is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The tempo is marked 'Lively tempo' with a quarter note equal to 144 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems of staves.

System 1 (Measures 1-8):

- Trumpet in Bb 1:** Rests in measures 1-4, then plays a sixteenth-note figure starting in measure 5, marked *f*.
- Trumpet in Bb 2:** Rests in measures 1-5, then plays a sixteenth-note figure starting in measure 6, marked *f*.
- Trumpet in Bb 3:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout, marked *f*.
- Horn in F:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout, marked *f*.
- Trombone:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout, marked *f*.
- Euphonium:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout, marked *f*.
- Tuba:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout, marked *f*.

System 2 (Measures 9-18):

- Bb Tpt. 1:** Plays a sixteenth-note figure in measures 9-10, then a half-note melody in measures 11-14, and a rhythmic pattern in measures 17-18, marked *mp*.
- Bb Tpt. 2:** Rests in measures 9-10, then plays a sixteenth-note figure in measure 11, a half-note melody in measures 12-14, and a rhythmic pattern in measures 17-18, marked *mp*.
- Bb Tpt. 3:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout, marked *mp*.
- Hn.:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout, marked *mp*.
- Tbn.:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout, marked *mp*.
- Euph.:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout, marked *mp*.
- Tuba:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout, marked *mp*.

A rehearsal mark 'A' is placed above measure 17.