

Julius Fučík (1872 – 1916) was a Czech composer and conductor of military bands. Fučík spent most of his life as the leader of military brass bands. He became a prolific composer, with over 400 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 (Vjezd gladiátorů), which is universally recognized, often under the title "Thunder and Blazes", as one of the most popular theme tunes for circus clowns.

Entry of the Gladiators is a military march composed in 1897 by the Czech composer Julius Fučík. He originally titled it "Grande Marche Chromatique," reflecting the use of chromatic scales throughout the piece, but changed the title based on his personal interest in the Roman Empire. In 1910 Canadian composer Louis-Phillipe Laurendeau arranged "Entrance of the Gladiators" for a small band under the title "Thunder and Blazes," and sold this version throughout North America. It was during this period that the song gained lasting popularity as a screamer march for circuses, often used to introduce clowns. Today it is known mainly by this association, even though the title and composer are relatively obscure.

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.

Entry of the Gladiators

(Grande Marche Chromatique)

Duration 2:10

Julius Fučík, 1897

Arr. Michael Pratt
for Brass Septet

Screamer tempo $\text{♩} = 144$

Musical score for measures 1 through 6. The score is for a Brass Septet and includes parts for Trumpet in B \flat 1, Trumpet in B \flat 2, Trumpet in B \flat 3, Horn in F, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The key signature is one flat (B \flat major/F minor) and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Screamer tempo' with a quarter note equal to 144 beats per minute. The dynamic marking is *ff* (fortissimo). Measure 1 is a whole rest for all instruments. Measure 2 shows the first three trumpets and the euphonium playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Measures 3-6 feature a melodic line for the first trumpet and euphonium, with the other instruments providing harmonic support.

Musical score for measures 7 through 12. The score continues from the previous page and includes parts for B \flat Tpt. 1, B \flat Tpt. 2, B \flat Tpt. 3, Hn., Tbn., Euph., and Tuba. The key signature is one flat (B \flat major/F minor) and the time signature is common time (C). The dynamic marking is *ff* (fortissimo). Measures 7-12 feature a complex rhythmic and melodic texture. The first trumpet has a melodic line with many accidentals. The other instruments provide a dense harmonic background with various rhythmic patterns.