

James Henry Fillmore Jr. (1881-1956) was born in Cincinnati, Ohio as the eldest of five children. In his youth he mastered piano, guitar, violin, flute, and slide trombone. He kept his trombone activities a secret at first, as his conservative religious father believed it an uncouth and sinful instrument. Fillmore was also a singer for his church choir as a boy. He began composing at 18, with his first published march "Higham", named after a line of brass instruments. Fillmore wrote over 250 pieces and arranged orchestrations for hundreds more. He published under a variety of pseudonyms, including Gus Beans, Harold Bennett, Ray Hall, Harry Hartley, Al Hayes, and Henrietta Moore. While best known for march music and screamers, he also wrote waltzes, foxtrots, hymns, novelty numbers, and overtures.

Lassus Trombone (1915) became a popular brass feature during the swing era and beyond, finding its way into the repertoire of Spike Jones & His City Slickers as well. The piece would make a good background theme for the story of this composer's love affair with the trombone. He came to be known as "the father of the trombone smear," having published the first set of compositions involving this playing technique.

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.

Lassus Trombone

Duration 2:55

Henry Fillmore

Arr. Michael Pratt
for Brass Septet

Slow drag ♩ = 92

A

Trumpet in B \flat 1
Trumpet in B \flat 2
Trumpet in B \flat 3
Horn in F
Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

B \flat Tpt. 1
B \flat Tpt. 2
B \flat Tpt. 3
Hn.
Tbn.
Euph.
Tuba

ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff
ff

p
ff
ff
p
ff
p
ff

f
ff
f
ff
p
ff

p
ff
p
ff