

Richard Rodgers (1902–1979) and **Oscar Hammerstein II** (1895–1960) were an influential, innovative and successful American musical theatre writing team, usually referred to as Rodgers and Hammerstein. They created a string of popular Broadway musicals in the 1940s and 1950s, initiating what is considered the "golden age" of musical theatre. With Rodgers composing the music and Hammerstein writing the lyrics, five of their shows, *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I* and *The Sound of Music*, were outstanding successes. In all, among the many accolades that their shows (and their film versions) garnered were thirty-four Tony Awards, fifteen Academy Awards, the Pulitzer Prize, and two Grammys.

Oklahoma! was originally called *Away We Go!* and opened on March 31, 1943, at the St. James Theatre. Although the typical musical of the time was usually written around the talents of a specific performer, such as Ethel Merman or Fred Astaire, no stars were used in the production. Ultimately the original cast included Alfred Drake (Curly), Joan Roberts (Laurey), Celeste Holm (Ado Annie), Howard Da Silva (Jud Fry), Betty Garde (Aunt Eller), Lee Dixon (Will Parker) and Joseph Bulloff (Ali Hakim). In *Oklahoma!*, the story and the songs were considered more important than sheer star power. Nevertheless, the production ran for a then-unprecedented 2,212 performances, finally closing on May 29, 1948.

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.

Oklahoma!

Duration 5:20

Rogers & Hammerstein

Arr. Michael Pratt
for Brass Septet

Vivo ♩ = 144

The image shows a musical score for a brass septet. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains seven staves: Trumpet in B♭ 1, Trumpet in B♭ 2, Trumpet in B♭ 3, Horn in F, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The second system contains seven staves: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, B♭ Tpt. 3, Hn., Tbn., Euph., and Tuba. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Vivo' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 144. The score includes various musical notations such as trills (tr), accents (>), and dynamic markings (f). Measure numbers 1 through 20 are indicated above the staves. A box labeled 'A' is placed above measure 16.

11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

A