

Lassus Trombone

Fillmore, Henry

Lassus Trombone

by: Henry Fillmore

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Henry Fillmore

DOB: December 3rd, 1881 (Cincinnati, Ohio)
DOD: December 7th, 1956 (Miami, Florida)

Henry Fillmore was one of our most prolific composers with 256 compositions to his record and almost 800 arrangements. He published under various pseudonyms as well as his own name: Henry Fillmore - 114; Gus Beans - 2; Harold Bennett - 65; Ray Hall - 3; Harry Hartley - 6; Al Hayes - 57; Will Huff - 8; and Henrietta Moore - 1.

According to Herb Block, Henry got into a conflict with his father (who composed and published liturgical music in Cincinnati) over the kind of music that Henry was composing. Henry liked march music and said, "*I will huff and puff and I will write my own music.*" Hence, the name Will Huff, one of Fillmore's pseudonyms.

Fillmore was a true free spirit. He was brought up by a conservative family in a conservative town. When he couldn't do as he wished, he ran away with a circus and played trombone in the circus band. To top it all off, he married an exotic dancer.¹

Lassus Trombone (Characteristic). This characteristic was Henry Fillmore's favorite of his "trombone smears." It was also recognized by John Philip Sousa, who included it on every concert of his last tour with his band. The sheet music to "Lassus Trombone" sold over two million copies.

In the southern United States, there is a food substance which may be largely unknown in other regions, called molasses. This is a thick, pungent, sugary syrup, usually a by-product of the process of extracting sugar from sugar cane. The syrup is thick under any circumstances, and much more so when it is cold. A favorite saying in this part of the world is "slow as molasses in January." In the southern dialects, the first syllable is sometimes elided, producing "lasses." That likely is the origin of the "Lassus" in "Lassus Trombone." In this sense, it would refer to the slides and glissandos (smears) which are required of the trombonists who perform it.²

Fillmore wrote 15 characteristics, or trombone smears, over a period of 21 years. All were ragtime pieces reflecting the minstrel show idiom of vaudeville and all were deeply in the ragtime style.

Fillmore is often called the "Father of the Trombone Smear."

Program note researched by Marcus L. Neiman
Medina, Ohio

Additional information on either the composer or composition would be welcomed. Please send information to
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¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Fillmore

² Program notes – The Begian Years Vol. IV.

Lassus Trombone

Piccolo

HENRY FILLMORE

R
1242

The musical score is written for a Trombone part. It begins with a Piccolo section in 2/4 time, marked with a forte (ff) dynamic. The score includes first and second endings, repeat signs, and a 'Fine' marking. The Trio section starts with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and continues with various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings like ff. The score concludes with a 'D.S. al Fine' instruction.

Lassus Trombone

Lassus Trombone

Oboe

HENRY FILLMORE

R
1242

ff *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *ff*

Fine *D.S. al Fine*

TRIO

mf-f *ff*

Lassus Trombone

Lassus Trombone

2nd & 3rd Cornets

HENRY FILLMORE

R
1242

3 *ff* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

1 2 *Fine* *ff* *p* *ff*

1 2 *D.S. al Fine*

TRIO *mf-f*

1 2 *ff*

ff

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Lassus Trombone

Lassus Trombone

3d & 4th Eb Altos

HENRY FILLMORE

1242

The musical score is written for three parts: 3d & 4th Eb Altos and Lassus Trombone. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The tempo is marked '1242'. The score consists of eight staves. The first staff is for the 3d & 4th Eb Altos, and the second and third staves are for the Lassus Trombone. The fourth staff is a TRIO section, marked 'TRIO' and 'mf-f'. The fifth, sixth, and seventh staves continue the Lassus Trombone part. The score includes various dynamics such as *ff*, *p*, and *mf-f*, and includes first and second endings, a repeat sign, and a 'D.S. al Fine' instruction. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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Lassus Trombone

Lassus Trombone

1st & 2nd Trombones

HENRY FILLMORE

The musical score is written for 1st and 2nd Trombones. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The first staff starts with a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes fingerings such as 6-1, 6-3, 6-2, and 6-3. A *stacc.* marking appears at the beginning of the second staff. The piece concludes with a *Fine* marking. A *TRIO 2^d time* section begins with a *mf* dynamic and a *SOLO* marking. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings like *ff*, *mf*, and *f*. The piece ends with a *D.S. al Fine* instruction.

Lassus Trombone

3^d Trombone ♭

Lassus Trombone

HENRY FILLMORE

R
1242

stacc.
ff
f
f
ff
TRIO 2d time
mf
SOLO
ff
Fine
D.S. al Fine

Lassus Trombone

Lassus Trombone

HENRY FILLMORE

Baritone

R
1242

The musical score is written for Baritone in treble clef, 2/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of nine staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic of *mf* and includes a first ending bracket. The second staff features dynamics of *mf*, *ff*, and *mf*, with a first ending bracket and the word "Fine" written above the staff. The third staff continues with dynamics of *ff*, *mf*, and *ff*, including a first ending bracket. The fourth staff has dynamics of *ff*, *mf*, and *ff*, with a first ending bracket and a double bar line with a repeat sign. The fifth staff is labeled "TRIO" and starts with a dynamic of *mf*. The sixth staff includes the instruction "Trom. 2^d time" and dynamics of *f* and *mf*. The seventh staff has a dynamic of *ff*. The eighth staff has a dynamic of *ff*. The ninth staff concludes with a dynamic of *ff*. The piece ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

D. S. al Fine

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Lassus Trombone

Lassus Trombone

Basses

HENRY FILLMORE

1242

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in bass clef, 2/4 time. The first staff begins with a '1242' marking and a 'R' above it. The music features various dynamics including *ff*, *p*, and *mf-f*. There are first and second endings marked with '1' and '2' and a 'Fine' marking. A 'TRIO' section begins in the fourth staff, marked with *mf-f*. The score concludes with a 'D.S. al Fine' marking. The music includes triplets, slurs, and accents.

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Lassus Trombone

Drums

Lassus Trombone

HENRY FILLMORE

1242

ff *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Fine

D.S. al Fine

TRIO Bells

mf-f

Drs.

mf-f

1 2

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Lassus Trombone