Trombone soloist, composer and band director Arthur Willard Pryor was born on September 22, 1870 in St. Joseph, Missouri. Born into a musical family, his father was the town bandmaster, his mother a pianist, his older brother a famous cornetist, and his younger brother a drummer. Arthur Pryor’s musical training began at the age of 6 on piano, followed by violin, cornet, alto horn, bass, and the valve trombone. By age 11 he was being featured on valve trombone as the “boy wonder” from Missouri during band performances in Chicago.

Pryor acquired the first slide trombone in St. Joseph when an old instrument was left with his father as payment for a debt. He learned to play the slide trombone using only 2 positions and was known to practice as much as 10 hours a day. By the age of 15, Pryor was a well known soloist at county fairs and starting to get a reputation as a trombone virtuoso. In 1889 he began touring as a soloist with Allesandro Liberati’s band. During this period Pryor started composing trombone solos as there wasn’t music available at the time for a soloist with his virtuosic technique.

Pryor joined John Philip Sousa’s band at the age of 22 in 1892. He played his first solo, *Thoughts of Love*, with Sousa’s band at the 1893 World Colombian Exposition in Chicago. During the 12 years Pryor spent with Sousa’s band he performed an estimated 10,000 trombone solos.

Pryor arranged *Blue Bells of Scotland*, a Scottish folk song, as a theme and variations for trombone in 1899. The trombone soloist must have an extended range in both the upper and lower registers, flowing legato technique, exceptional flexibility, and fast double tonguing to perform this solo. Originally set for solo trombone and concert band, this arrangement is for brass choir featuring the trombonist.

*Bill Bjornes, Jr.*
rall.  a Tempo

Solo Trumpet

Ctt 1

Ctt 2

Ctt 3

Ctt 4

Hn 1

Hn 2

Trumpet 1

Trumpet 2

Trumpet 3

Baritone

Tuba

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