

Stars and Stripes Forever, The

Sousa, John Philip

The Stars and Stripes Forever

by: John Philip Sousa

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By: John Church

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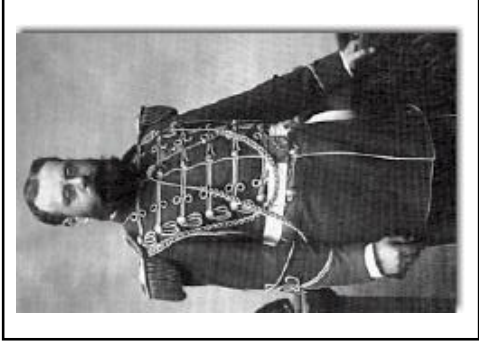
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John Philip Sousa

DOB: November 6th, 1854 (Washington, DC)

DOD: March 6th, 1932 (Reading, PA)

John Philip Sousa wrote the most famous American military marches of all time, including "Stars and Stripes Forever," earning him the nickname "the March King"; he was also known as a great bandleader, and organized the famed concert and military group, Sousa's Band. Born in Washington, D.C., on November 6, 1854, Sousa followed in the footsteps of his father, a musician in the U.S. Marine Corps, and enlisted by the age of 14. Before this, Sousa had studied violin with John Esputa. While active in the Marines, he composed his first march, "Salutation."

Stars and Stripes Forever (march) is considered the finest march ever written, and at the same time one of the most patriotic ever conceived. As reported in the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* (May 15, 1897) " ... *It is stirring enough to rouse the American eagle from his crag, and set him to shriek exultantly while he hurls his arrows at the aurora borealis.* " (referring to the concert the Sousa Band gave the previous day at the Academy of Music).¹

The march was not quite so well received though and actually got an over average rating for a new Sousa march. Yet, its popularity grew as Mr. Sousa used it during the Spanish-American War as a concert closer. Coupled with his *Trooping of the Colors*, the march quickly gained a vigorous response from audiences and critics alike. In fact, audiences rose from their chairs when the march was played. Mr. Sousa added to the entertainment value of the march by having the piccolo(s) line up in front of the band for the final trio, and then added the trumpets and trombones join them on the final repeat of the strain.

The march was performed on almost all of Mr. Sousa's concerts and always drew tears to the eyes of the audience. The author has noted the same emotional response of audiences to the march today. The march has been named as the national march of The United States.

There are two commentaries of how the march was inspired. The first came as the result of an interview on Mr. Sousa's patriotism. According to Mr. Sousa, the march was written with the inspiration of God.

¹ Research done by Elizabeth Hartman, head of the music department, Free Library of Philadelphia. Taken from **John Philip Sousa**, Descriptive Catalog of His Works (Paul E. Bierley, University of Illinois Press, 1973, page 71)

"I was in Europe and I got a cablegram that my manager was dead. I was in Italy and I wished to get home as soon as possible, I rushed to Genoa, then to Paris and to England and sailed for America. On board the steamer as I walked miles up and down the deck, back and forth, a mental band was playing 'Stars and Stripes Forever.' Day after day as I walked it persisted in crashing into my very soul. I wrote it on Christmas Day, 1896."²

Program note researched by Marcus L. Neiman
Medina, Ohio

Additional information on either the composer or composition would be welcomed. Please send information to marcusneiman@zoominternet.net

² Taken from program notes for the week beginning August 19th, 1923. Bierley, **John Philip Sousa**, page 71.

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

SOUSA.

Piccolo.

leggiero.

ff

p

Trio.

ff molto marcato.

ff Grandioso.

fff

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March

Flutes in C

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

247

Trio

cresc.

sfz

gutt

gutt

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Oboes.

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for Oboes and consists of ten staves. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 2/4. The score includes various dynamic markings such as *f*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *ff*, *ff*, *ff*, *ff*, and *fff*. Performance instructions include *leggiero*, *Grandioso*, and *ff molto marc.*. The score features first and second endings, a section labeled *Trio*, and numerous accents and slurs. The piece concludes with a *fff* dynamic marking.

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fff

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

E♭ Clarinet.

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for E♭ Clarinet and consists of ten staves. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B♭). The first staff includes the dynamic marking *ff* and the tempo marking *legg.*. The second staff features a *f* dynamic. The third staff is marked *ff* and includes a 'Trio' section starting with a first ending bracket. The fourth staff continues with *ff* dynamics. The fifth staff has a *ff* dynamic. The sixth staff is marked *ff molto marcato.*. The seventh staff is marked *ff Grandioso.*. The eighth staff continues with *ff* dynamics. The ninth staff has a *ff* dynamic. The tenth staff concludes with a *fff* dynamic and a double bar line.

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

SOUSA.

1st B \flat Clarinet.

The musical score for the 1st B \flat Clarinet part of "The Stars and Stripes Forever" march. The score is written on ten staves. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B \flat), and a 2/4 time signature. The tempo is marked *leggiero*. The score includes various dynamics such as *ff*, *p*, and *fff*, and articulation marks like accents and slurs. A section labeled "Trio" begins on the fourth staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a *fff* dynamic marking.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

2^d & 3^d B \flat Clarinets.

leggiero.

SOUSA.

divisi.

The musical score is written for two parts: 2^d & 3^d B \flat Clarinets. It consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B \flat), and a 2/4 time signature. The music is marked *ff* (fortissimo) and *divisi*. The second staff continues the melody with dynamics *p* (piano) and *f* (forte). The third staff features first and second endings, marked *ff* and *ff*, and includes a section labeled *Trio.* with dynamics *p* and *ff*. The fourth staff continues the *Trio* section with dynamics *p* and *ff*. The fifth staff has dynamics *ff* and *ff*. The sixth staff has dynamics *ff* and *ff*. The seventh staff is marked *Grandioso.* and *ff*. The eighth staff is marked *ff molto marcato.* and *ff*. The ninth staff has dynamics *ff* and *ff*. The tenth staff concludes with first and second endings, marked *ff* and *fff* (fortississimo).

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The Stars and Stripes Forever March

Alto Clarinet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

247

ff *f* *p*

ff *p*

ff *p*

ff *p*

Grandioso *ff molto marcato*

fff *fff*

11 12

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Bassoons.

SOUSA.

ff *p* *f* *ff* *p* *Trio* *p* *ff* *Grandioso* *ff* *ff* *fff*

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The Stars and Stripes Forever, March.

Soprano Saxophone

leggiero

SOUSA

The musical score is written for Soprano Saxophone in 2/4 time, featuring various dynamics and articulations. The piece begins with a *ff* dynamic and includes a *leggiero* section. A *p* dynamic section follows, leading into a *TRIO* section marked *ff*. The score concludes with a *ff molto marc.* section and a final *fff Grandioso* section. The notation includes numerous accents, slurs, and dynamic markings such as *ff*, *p*, *fff*, and *ff molto marc.* The piece is marked with first and second endings throughout.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Alto Saxophone

SOUSA

The musical score is written for Alto Saxophone and consists of ten staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The score begins with a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and includes various articulations such as accents (^) and slurs. A first ending bracket is present at the end of the first staff. The second staff continues with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The third staff features a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes a first ending bracket. The fourth staff is marked as the beginning of the **TRIO** section, starting with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). The fifth staff continues with a dynamic marking of *p*. The sixth staff features a dynamic marking of *ff*. The seventh staff continues with a dynamic marking of *p*. The eighth staff continues with a dynamic marking of *p*. The ninth staff features a dynamic marking of *p*. The tenth staff concludes the piece with a dynamic marking of *p* and includes a first ending bracket.

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Tenor Saxophone

SOUSA

The musical score is written for Tenor Saxophone and consists of ten staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The score begins with a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and articulation marks. A first ending bracket is present in the second staff. The word "TRIO" is written above the music in the third staff, indicating a change in the piece's structure. The score concludes with a dynamic marking of *ff Grandioso* and a final first ending bracket.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Baritone Saxophone

SOUSA

The musical score is written for Baritone Saxophone and consists of ten staves. It begins with a treble clef and a common time signature. The first staff starts with a dynamic marking of *ff*. The second staff includes dynamic markings of *p* and *f*. The third staff features a first and second ending bracket and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The fourth staff is labeled "TRIO" and begins with a dynamic marking of *p*. The fifth staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The sixth staff includes dynamic markings of *ff* and *ff*, along with accents (^) and first ending brackets. The seventh staff has dynamic markings of *ff* and *ff*, and accents (^). The eighth staff has dynamic markings of *ff* and *ff*, and accents (^). The ninth staff has dynamic markings of *ff* and *ff*, and accents (^). The tenth staff includes dynamic markings of *ff* and *ff*, and first and second ending brackets.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever

B♭ Bass Saxophone

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

The musical score is written for B♭ Bass Saxophone and consists of ten staves of music. The key signature is one flat (B♭) and the time signature is 2/4. The score is divided into three main sections: the main theme, a Trio section, and a Grandioso section. The main theme begins with a *ff* dynamic and features several accents (^) over notes. The Trio section starts with a *p* dynamic and includes a 4-measure rest. The Grandioso section begins with a *p-ff* dynamic and includes a 4-measure rest. The score concludes with a first ending marked *ff* and a second ending marked *fff*. Various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings are used throughout the piece.

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

E♭ Cornet.

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for E♭ Cornet and consists of ten staves. The notation includes various dynamics such as *ff*, *p*, *legg.*, *f*, *ff*, *p*, *ff*, *ff*, *ff*, and *fff*. Performance instructions include *legg.*, *Grandioso.*, and *ff molto marcato.*. The score features several first and second endings, marked with '1' and '2'. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The music is characterized by rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March

Solo B♭ Cornet.

SOUSA.

leggero.

ff

p

ff

ff

Trio.

p

p

ff

Basses

ff

ff

Grandioso.

ff molto marcato

ff

ff

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

1st Bb Cornet.

SOUSA.

The musical score for the 1st Bb Cornet part of 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' march is written on ten staves. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is common time (C). The score includes various dynamic markings such as *ff*, *p*, *f*, and *fff*, as well as performance instructions like *Grandioso* and *ff molto marcato*. The piece features a 'Trio' section starting on the fourth staff, which includes first and second endings. The score concludes with a double bar line and a *fff* marking.

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fff

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

2^d & 3^d B \flat Cornets.

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for two parts: 2^d & 3^d B \flat Cornets. It consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B \flat and E \flat). The second staff starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and includes first and second endings. The third staff is marked 'Trio' and begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fourth and fifth staves feature rhythmic patterns with repeat signs. The sixth staff starts with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and includes first and second endings. The seventh staff is marked 'Grandioso' and 'ff molto marcato'. The eighth and ninth staves continue with rhythmic patterns and repeat signs. The final staff concludes with a fortissimo (*fff*) dynamic and first and second endings.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever

1st & 2nd B \flat Trumpets

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

1
ff

p

ff

Trio

2
p

2

2

2

1
ff

Grandioso
ff

1 2
ff

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March

1st & 2d Horns in F

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

247 *ff* *f*

p *ff*

Trio 2 3 4 5 6 2 3 4 5 6 2 3 4

ff

Grandioso *molto marc.*

2 3 4 5 6 2 3 4 5 6

ff *ff*

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The Stars and Stripes Forever March

3rd & 4th Horns in F

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

247 *ff* *f* 1 2

p *ff*

Trio 2 3 4 5 6 2 3 4 5 6 *a2*

ff

ffmolto marc.

Grandioso 2 3 4 5 6 2 3 4 5 6 *ff*

1 2 *ff*

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

1st & 2^d E \flat Altos.

SOUSA.

The musical score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 2/4 time signature. It starts with a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes several accents (^) over notes. The second staff continues the melody with a dynamic marking of *p* and includes first and second endings. The third staff features a *ff* dynamic and a section labeled "Trio." which begins with a *p* dynamic. The fourth and fifth staves continue the rhythmic accompaniment with various dynamics. The sixth staff has a *ff* dynamic and includes accents. The seventh staff is marked *Grandioso.* and *molto marcato.* with a *ff* dynamic. The eighth staff continues with a *ff* dynamic. The ninth and tenth staves conclude the piece with first and second endings, marked with *ff* and *fff* dynamics.

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ff *fff*

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

3^d & 4th Eb Altos.

JOUSA.

The musical score is written for 3rd and 4th Eb Alto saxophones. It consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 2/4 time signature. The music starts with a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes accents (^) over several notes. The second staff begins with a dynamic marking of *p* and features a first ending bracket with a first ending (1) and a second ending (2). The third staff includes a *Trio* section starting with a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *p*. The fourth and fifth staves contain rhythmic patterns with dynamic markings of *f* and *ff*. The sixth staff begins with a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes accents (^) over notes. The seventh staff includes the instruction *Grandioso* and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The eighth staff includes the instruction *ff molto marcato*. The ninth and tenth staves conclude the piece with dynamic markings of *ff* and *fff*, and include first and second ending brackets.

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ff

fff

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

1st & 2d Trombones.

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for 1st and 2nd Trombones. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff starts with a *ff* dynamic and includes the instruction *unifs.*. The second staff features a *p* dynamic followed by *ff* and *unifs.*. The third staff includes a *ff* dynamic, a *p* dynamic, and the instruction *Trio.*. The fourth staff continues with *ff* and *p* dynamics. The fifth staff has a *ff* dynamic and *unifs.*. The sixth staff includes *ff* and *unifs.*. The seventh staff features *unifs.* and *Grandioso.*. The eighth staff has *unifs.* and *ff*. The ninth staff includes *unifs.* and *ff*. The tenth staff concludes with *ff*. The score is filled with various musical notations including notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.

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3^d Trombone or B \flat Bass **The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.**

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for a 3^d Trombone or B \flat Bass. It consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a dynamic marking of *ff* and features a double bar line with repeat signs. The second staff includes first and second endings, with a *ff* dynamic marking. The third staff is marked *ff* and includes a *Trio.* section starting with a *p* dynamic. The fourth and fifth staves continue the *ff* dynamic. The sixth staff begins with a *ff* dynamic and includes first and second endings. The seventh staff is marked *ff* and includes first and second endings, with a *ff* *Grandioso.* dynamic marking. The eighth and ninth staves continue the *ff* dynamic. The tenth staff concludes with first and second endings, marked *ff* and *fff*.

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Baritone  The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

SOUSA.



ff

p

ff

ff

p

p

ff

ff molto marcato.

Grandioso.

ff

fff

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Basses.

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for Basses and consists of ten staves. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and the time signature is 2/4. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings. The first staff begins with a *ff* dynamic and features several accents. The second staff includes a *p* dynamic marking and a *f* dynamic marking. The third staff is marked *p* and includes a 'Trio' section. The fourth and fifth staves continue the rhythmic pattern. The sixth staff is marked *ff*. The seventh staff is marked *ff* and includes first and second endings. The eighth staff is marked *ff* and includes first and second endings. The ninth staff is marked *ff* and includes first and second endings. The tenth staff is marked *fff* and includes first and second endings. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

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B♭ Bass  **The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.** SOUSA.



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fff

The Stars and Stripes Forever

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

Timpani

1 Timp. Bb-Eb

ff

2

Detailed description: This is the first staff of music, for Timpani. It is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The music starts with a dynamic marking of *ff*. There are two measures marked with a '1' and two measures marked with a '2'. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes.

Triangle

2

1 1 Timp. 2 1 Timp.

p *p* *f* *p-f*

Detailed description: This is the second staff of music, for Triangle. It is written in treble clef. The music starts with a dynamic marking of *p*. There are two measures marked with a '2'. The notes are mostly eighth notes. There are two measures marked with a '1' and two measures marked with a '2'. The notes are mostly quarter notes. There are two measures marked with a '1' and two measures marked with a '2'. The notes are mostly quarter notes. There are two measures marked with a '1' and two measures marked with a '2'. The notes are mostly quarter notes.

2

Detailed description: This is the second staff of music, for Triangle. It is written in treble clef. The music starts with a dynamic marking of *p*. There are two measures marked with a '2'. The notes are mostly eighth notes.

Trio

Bells 2

2

p

Detailed description: This is the third staff of music, for Trio Bells. It is written in treble clef. The music starts with a dynamic marking of *p*. There are two measures marked with a '2'. The notes are mostly quarter notes.

p

Detailed description: This is the second staff of music, for Trio Bells. It is written in treble clef. The music starts with a dynamic marking of *p*. There are two measures marked with a '2'. The notes are mostly quarter notes.

Timp. Ab-Eb

16

Timp.

1

3

Grandioso

ff *p-ff*

Detailed description: This is the fourth staff of music, for Timpani. It is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The music starts with a dynamic marking of *ff*. There are two measures marked with a '16'. There are two measures marked with a '1'. There are two measures marked with a '3'. The notes are mostly quarter notes. The music ends with a dynamic marking of *p-ff* and the tempo marking *Grandioso*.

Detailed description: This is the second staff of music, for Timpani. It is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The music starts with a dynamic marking of *ff*. There are two measures marked with a '16'. There are two measures marked with a '1'. There are two measures marked with a '3'. The notes are mostly quarter notes. The music ends with a dynamic marking of *p-ff* and the tempo marking *Grandioso*.

4

1 2

ff

Detailed description: This is the third staff of music, for Timpani. It is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The music starts with a dynamic marking of *ff*. There are two measures marked with a '4'. There are two measures marked with a '1' and two measures marked with a '2'. The notes are mostly quarter notes. The music ends with a dynamic marking of *ff*.

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ff

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Drums.

POWER

The musical score for Drums is written on ten staves. It begins with a bass clef and a 2/4 time signature. The first staff contains the initial drum pattern, marked with *ff* and *ff*. The second staff introduces a *p* dynamic and a *f* dynamic. The third staff is marked *Trio* and *p*. The fourth staff continues the rhythmic pattern. The fifth staff includes *Cym.* (Cymbal) markings. The sixth staff features *ff* and *ff* dynamics with *Cym.* markings. The seventh staff has *fff* dynamics. The eighth staff is marked *ff* and *fff Grandioso*. The ninth staff includes first and second endings. The final staff concludes with *fff* dynamics.

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