

Imperial Echoes

Imperial Echoes (1913) is the title a piece for solo piano by Arnold Safroni that was adapted as a military march and became well known through its frequent use on BBC radio during the Second World War and beyond.

Original Composition

Imperial Echoes was published by Boosey and Hawkes of London in 1913. Its composer, George Arnold Haynes Safroni-Middleton (1873–1950), used the name Arnold Safroni for professional purposes and also composed as W.H. Myddleton.

HMV recording and Radio Newsreel

In 1928 the tune was adapted as a march by James Ord Hume (1864–1932) and recorded for His Master's Voice by the Band of the Royal Air Force, conducted by Squadron Leader R.P. O'Donnell, M.V.O. In 1940 the opening and closing parts of this recording were chosen to introduce and close the BBC's daily news programme *Radio Newsreel* (initially, *Radio News Reel*), which was broadcast on both the Home Service in Britain and the Overseas Service (later the World Service). As such it became one of a group of tunes, including *Lillbulero* and Eric Coates' *Calling All Workers*, that became inextricably associated with the BBC's output during the war. *Radio Newsreel*, with its theme, continued until 1970 in Britain and 1988 on the World Service. In 1997 the BBC issued the 1928 recording on compact disc as part of a compilation of television and radio themes.

Other Versions

Imperial Echoes became a regular part of the repertoire of military bands and was adopted by the Royal Army Pay Corps as its regimental quick march. As such, the tune has been recorded by a number of bands. Other versions have included a jazz interpretation by Acker Bilk and a recording on the organ of the Blackpool Tower Ballroom by Reginald Dixon. It is currently the official march past in quick time for the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

Biography

Safroni-Middleton was born in Kent. He studied violin with Pablo de Sarasate and afterwards started performing as violinist. He played the violin in the *Orchestra of "Her Majesty's Theatre"* in Sydney, the *Orchestra of the Opera House* in Auckland, the *Providence Opera House in Providence (Rhode Island)*, the *Tokyo Orchestra*, the *Government House (Sarawak) Orchestra* and the *Government House (Hayti) Mexico Orchestra*. As solo performer he toured around Australia, South America, Italy and Spain. Later he became bandmaster of the *Orchestra of the Carl Rosa Opera Company* in London.

He married on Alice Elizabetha St. John on 27 July 1910. Together they had five children: Alice Pauline, Gabrielle, Hugh, Joan and Mary M A. As a writer he wrote many novels, travel guides and poems. He explored Borneo, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia.

As a composer he is mainly known for his marches and dance music for the harmony orchestra. His best known piece is probably *Imperial Echoes* (1913), which for many years was the theme of *Radio Newsreel* on BBC radio.

He died in Streatham and was buried at West Norwood Cemetery on 10 November 1950, age 77.

—Wikipedia

The score is intended to reflect the march cards from which it was derived, without editing. The writer has sought to present the music as it appears to the musicians, 'warts and all'. A Baritone Saxophone part has been added, a transposition of the Tuba part, with some 8va phrases to avoid the low Ab. The Alto Clarinet, Trumpet and Flugel parts have not been included in this score.

IMPERIAL ECHOES

Tempo di marcia

Composed by George Arnold Haynes Safroni-Middleton (1873-1950)
a.k.a. Count Safroni, Arnold Safroni and William H. Myddleton
Score Compiled from B & H March Cards by Phil Chapman

The musical score consists of 21 staves, each representing a different instrument or section of the band. The instruments listed on the left are: Piccolo, 1st Flute, 2nd Flute, 1st Oboe, 2nd Oboe, 1st Bassoon, 2nd Bassoon, Eb Clarinet, 1st Clarinet, 2nd Clarinet, 3rd Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, 1st Alto Sax, 2nd Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, Baritone Sax, 1st Cornet, 2nd Cornet, 3rd Cornet, 1st Horn in F, 2nd Horn in F, 3rd Horn in F, 4th Horn in F, 1st Trombone, 2nd Trombone, 3rd Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Percussion. The score is in 6/8 time and includes dynamic markings such as *ff*, *fz*, and *f*. Measure numbers 1 through 6 are indicated above the staff.

16

17. *tr.*

18.

19.

20.

21. 1. *ff*

22. *ff*

23. 2. *tr.*

24.

5.

6.

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

IMPERIAL ECHOES CONCERT BAND SCORE

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 1. 7

IMPERIAL ECHOES - CONCERT BAND SCORE

8.

41

2.

42

43

44 *tr.*

45

46

47

9.

48 *tr.* 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54.

IMPERIAL ECHOES - CONCERT BAND SCORE

10.

55 56 57 58 59 60

Fine

IMPERIAL ECHOES - CONCERT BAND SCORE

TRIO

11.

This page contains six systems of musical notation, each with five staves. The instruments represented by the staves include woodwinds (oboe, bassoon, etc.), brass (trombone, tuba), and percussion (timpani, cymbals). The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. Measure 61 starts with a rest followed by a dynamic 'p'. Measure 62 has a rest. Measure 63 begins with a dynamic 'p' and features a melodic line in the oboe staff. Measures 64 and 65 continue this melodic line with sustained notes and grace notes. Measure 66 concludes with a dynamic 'p' and a final melodic flourish.

12.

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74 75 76 77 78 79 80

13.

14.

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

15.

88 89 90 91 92 93 94

IMPERIAL ECHOES - CONCERT BAND SCORE

95. -

96. -

97. *tr.* *tr.* *tr.* 98. -

99. -

18. ***Grandioso***

105

106

107

108

109

110

111

A page of musical notation for orchestra, featuring ten staves of music. The notation includes various dynamic markings such as ff (fortissimo), s (soft), and p (pianissimo). The music consists of measures of notes and rests, with some measures containing sixteenth-note patterns and others sustained notes or sustained chords. The staves are arranged vertically, representing different instruments in the orchestra.

112 113 114 115 116 117 118

IMPERIAL ECHOES - CONCERT BAND SCORE

20.

119

120

121

122

123

124

IMPERIAL ECHOES - CONCERT BAND SCORE

125 126 127 128 129 130

mf

D.C. al Fine

22.

131 132 133 134 135 136

D.C. al Fine