

Stars and Stripes Forever, The

Sousa, John Philip

The Stars and Stripes Forever

by: John Philip Sousa

Original Copyright: 1897

By: John Church

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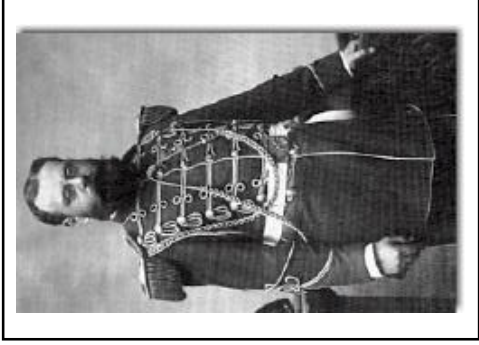
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John Philip Sousa

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

Piccolo in C

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

Piccolo in C

247

leggiere

ff

f

p

Trio

ff

Grandioso

fff

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

SOUSA.

Piccolo.

leggiere.

ff

p

Trio.

ff molto marcato.

ff Grandioso.

tr

fff

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March

Flutes in C

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

247

Trio

cresc.

gtr

gtr

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Oboes.

SOUZA.

Sousa.

leggiere

f *ff* *p* *f* *ff* *p* *Trio.* *p*

Grandioso. *ff molto marc.*

fff

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

E♭ Clarinet.

SOUSA.

The musical score for the E♭ Clarinet part of 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' march is written on ten staves. The notation includes various musical symbols such as treble clefs, key signatures (one sharp), time signatures (2/4), and dynamic markings. The score begins with a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic and a *legg.* (leggiero) tempo marking. It features several first and second endings, a section labeled 'Trio' with a *p* (piano) dynamic, and a section marked *ff molto marcato.* (fortissimo molto marcato). The score concludes with a *ff* dynamic and a final double bar line.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

SOUSA.

1st B♭ Clarinet.

The musical score for the 1st B♭ Clarinet part of 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' march. The score is written on ten staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The tempo/mood is marked 'leggiero.' above the staff. The first staff contains a melodic line with various ornaments and dynamics including *ff* and *f*. The second staff continues the melody with a *p* dynamic. The third staff introduces a first ending bracket. The fourth staff begins the 'Trio' section, marked with a *p* dynamic. The fifth staff continues the Trio melody. The sixth staff features a *ff* dynamic and a 'molto marc.' (marked) instruction. The seventh staff continues the Trio melody. The eighth staff features a *ff* dynamic and a 'Grandioso' instruction. The ninth staff continues the Trio melody. The tenth staff concludes the piece with a first ending bracket and a *fff* dynamic.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

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

leggiero.

SOUSA.

divisi.

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

1 *2* *1* *2* *1* *2* *1* *2* *1* *2*

Trio. *ff* *p* *p*

Grandioso. *ff molto marcato.*

1 *2* *ff* *fff*

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The Stars and Stripes Forever March

Alto Clarinet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

[illegible]

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The Stars and Stripes Forever March

Bass Clarinet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

247 *ff*

p 1 *f* 2 *ff* 1 2 *p* **Trio**

ff

ff

Grandioso *ff*

ff

1 2 *ff*

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Bassoons.

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for Bassoons and consists of 11 staves. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 2/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The first staff begins with a *ff* (fortissimo) marking. The second staff includes *p* (piano) and *f* (forte) markings. The third staff ends with a *p* marking. The fourth staff is labeled 'Trio.' and begins with a *p* marking. The fifth staff begins with a *ff* marking. The sixth staff includes a *ff* marking and the word 'Grandioso.' in italics. The seventh staff begins with a *ff* marking. The eighth staff includes a *ff* marking. The ninth staff includes a *ff* marking. The tenth staff includes a *ff* marking. The eleventh staff ends with a *fff* (fortississimo) marking. The score also includes first and second endings, indicated by '1' and '2' above the notes.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever, March.

Soprano Saxophone

leggiero

SOUSA

The musical score for the Soprano Saxophone 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 begins with a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic and a *leggiero* (light) tempo marking. The first staff contains the initial melody, followed by a repeat sign. The second staff continues the melody with a *p* (piano) dynamic marking. The third staff features a first ending bracket and a *ff* dynamic. The fourth staff marks the beginning of the 'TRIO' section with a *p* dynamic. The fifth staff continues the trio melody. The sixth staff features a first ending bracket and a *ff* dynamic. The seventh staff continues the melody with a *ff* dynamic. The eighth staff features a first ending bracket and a *ff* dynamic. The ninth staff continues the melody with a *ff* dynamic. The tenth staff features a first ending bracket and a *ff* dynamic. The score concludes with a *ff* dynamic marking.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Alto Saxophone

SOUSA

The musical score for the Alto Saxophone part of 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' march. The score is written on ten staves. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff starts with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic and a first ending bracket. The second staff continues with a forte (f) dynamic. The third staff features a first ending bracket and a second ending bracket. The fourth staff marks the beginning of the 'TRIO' section with a fortissimo (ff) dynamic and a first ending bracket. The fifth staff continues with a piano (p) dynamic. The sixth staff features a first ending bracket and a second ending bracket. The seventh staff continues with a piano (p) dynamic. The eighth staff features a first ending bracket and a second ending bracket. The ninth staff continues with a piano (p) dynamic. The tenth staff concludes the piece with a first ending bracket and a second ending bracket.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever

2nd E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

This musical score is for the 2nd E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone part of the march 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' by John Philip Sousa. The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of nine staves of music. The first staff begins with a *ff* dynamic and a repeat sign. The second staff features a *p* dynamic followed by a *f* dynamic and a *p* dynamic, with a first and second ending. The third staff continues with a *ff* dynamic and a *p* dynamic, also including a first and second ending. The fourth staff is marked 'Trio' and begins with a *p* dynamic. The fifth staff features a *ff* dynamic. The sixth staff begins with a *ff* dynamic and a repeat sign. The seventh staff is marked 'Grandioso' and begins with a *fff* dynamic. The eighth staff continues with a *ff* dynamic. The ninth staff features a *ff* dynamic and a *fff* dynamic, with a first and second ending.

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Tenor Saxophone

SOUSA

The musical score is written for Tenor Saxophone and consists of ten staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The score begins with a *ff* (fortissimo) dynamic. The first staff contains the initial melody. The second staff includes first and second endings, marked with '1' and '2' above the staff. The third staff is the start of the 'TRIO' section, marked with a double bar line and the word 'TRIO'. It begins with a *ff* dynamic, followed by a *p* (piano) dynamic. The fourth staff continues the Trio melody. The fifth staff features a *ff* dynamic. The sixth staff has a *ff* dynamic and includes accents (^) over several notes. The seventh staff continues with accents and a *ff* dynamic. The eighth staff begins with a *ff* *Grandioso* marking. The ninth staff continues the *Grandioso* section. The tenth staff concludes the piece with first and second endings, marked with '1' and '2' above the staff.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Baritone Saxophone

SOUSA

The musical score is written for Baritone Saxophone in 2/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff starts with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The second staff includes a piano (*p*) dynamic and a forte (*f*) dynamic. The third staff has a first and second ending bracket. The fourth staff is marked 'TRIO' and begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fifth staff continues the melody. The sixth staff features a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and a first ending bracket. The seventh staff continues the melody. The eighth staff features a first and second ending bracket. The ninth staff continues the melody. The tenth staff features a first and second ending bracket. The score concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever

B♭ Bass Saxophone

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

This musical score is for the B♭ Bass Saxophone part of the march 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' by John Philip Sousa. The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of 11 staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B♭), and a common time signature. The music is marked with a forte (ff) dynamic and includes various articulations such as accents (^) and slurs. The second staff continues the melody, featuring dynamics like piano (p), forte (f), and piano-forte (p-ff), along with first and second endings. The third staff shows a change in texture with more complex rhythmic patterns. The fourth staff is labeled 'Trio' and begins with a piano (p) dynamic, featuring a 4-measure rest. The fifth staff continues the Trio section with a piano (p) dynamic. The sixth staff marks the beginning of the 'Grandioso' section, starting with a piano-forte (p-ff) dynamic and a 4-measure rest. The seventh staff continues the Grandioso section. The eighth staff features a 4-measure rest and a first ending. The ninth staff continues the Grandioso section. The tenth staff features a first ending and a second ending. The eleventh staff concludes the piece with a fortissimo (fff) dynamic and an accent (^).

ff

p

f

p

f

p-ff

Trio

p

p

ff

ff

Grandioso

p-ff

ff

fff

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

E♭ Cornet.

SOUSA.

The musical score is arranged in nine staves. The first staff is for the E♭ Cornet, starting with a *ff* dynamic and a *legg.* (lento) marking. The second staff is for the Clarinet, starting with a *p* dynamic. The third staff is for the Trio, starting with a *ff* dynamic. The fourth staff continues the Trio part. The fifth staff is for the E♭ Cornet, starting with a *ff* dynamic. The sixth staff is for the Baritone, starting with a *ff* dynamic. The seventh staff is for the Grandioso section, starting with a *ff* dynamic. The eighth staff continues the Grandioso section, ending with a *ff molto marcato* marking. The ninth staff is for the Trio, starting with a *ff* dynamic and a *legg.* marking.

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fff

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March

Solo B♭ Cornet.

SOUSA.

leggero.

ff

p

ff

Trio.

p

ff

Basses

ff

Grandioso.

ff molto marcato

ff

ff

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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. The score is written on ten staves. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first staff starts with a forte (ff) dynamic. The second staff has a piano (p) dynamic. The third staff has a first and second ending bracket. The fourth staff has a piano (p) dynamic and a 'Trio.' section. The fifth staff has a forte (ff) dynamic. The sixth staff has a forte (ff) dynamic. The seventh staff has a 'Grandioso.' section. The eighth staff has a forte (ff) dynamic. The ninth staff has a forte (ff) dynamic. The tenth staff has a first and second ending bracket and a forte (fff) dynamic.

ff

p

ff

ff

p Trio.

ff

ff

ff

Grandioso.

ff

ff

fff

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

2^d & 3^d B♭ Cornets.

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for 2nd and 3rd Bb Cornets. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first staff contains the initial melody with a forte (f) dynamic. The second staff features a piano (p) dynamic and a first ending marked with '1' and '2'. The third staff includes a 'Trio' section starting with a piano (p) dynamic. The fourth and fifth staves consist of rhythmic patterns marked with a percentage sign (%). The sixth staff has a forte (ff) dynamic and a first ending. The seventh staff is marked 'Grandioso' and 'ff molto marcato'. The eighth staff continues with a forte (ff) dynamic. The final staff concludes with a first ending and a fortissimo (fff) dynamic.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever

1st & 2nd B $\flat$ Trumpets

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

1

ff

p

Trio

2

2

2

2

1

ff

Grandioso

ff

ff

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

Grandioso *molto marc.* *ff* *ff* *ff*

1 2

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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*

p *ff*

ff *ff molto marc.*

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

1 2

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fff
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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

1st & 2^d E $\flat$ Altos.

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for the 1st and 2nd E-flat Altos. 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). The second staff has a *p* (piano) marking. The third staff has a *ff* marking and a *Trio.* section starting with a *p* marking. The fourth staff has a *ff* marking. The fifth staff has a *ff* marking. The sixth staff has a *ff* marking. The seventh staff has a *ff* marking. The eighth staff has a *ff* marking. The ninth staff has a *ff* marking. The tenth staff has a *ff* marking. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 2/4. The score is marked *ff* (fortissimo) throughout, with some *p* (piano) markings. The score includes a *Trio.* section and a *Grandioso.* section. The score is marked *molto marcato.* (very marked).

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

3^d & 4th Eb Altos.

JOHNSON.

The musical score is written for 3^d and 4th Eb Altos. It consists of nine 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 forte (*ff*) dynamic and features several accents (^). The second staff continues the melody, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a forte (*ff*) dynamic. The third staff introduces a 'Trio' section, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The fourth and fifth staves continue the Trio section with various dynamics and accents. The sixth staff begins a new section marked 'ff' and 'ff molto marcato'. The seventh staff continues this section, marked 'ff' and 'Grandioso'. The eighth and ninth staves conclude the piece with a first ending (1) and a second ending (2), both marked with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.

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ff

fff

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

1st & 2d Bb Tenors

SOUSA.

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fff

The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

1st & 2d Trombones.

SOUSA.

This musical score is for the 1st and 2nd Trombone parts of 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' march. It is written in bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a 2/4 time signature. The score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a *ff* dynamic and a *unis.* (unison) instruction. The second staff includes a *p* (piano) dynamic and a *ff* dynamic. The third staff features a *ff* dynamic and a *ff* dynamic. The fourth staff has a *ff* dynamic and a *p* (piano) dynamic. The fifth staff includes a *ff* dynamic and a *ff* dynamic. The sixth staff has a *ff* dynamic and a *ff* dynamic. The seventh staff includes a *ff* dynamic and a *ff* dynamic. The eighth staff has a *ff* dynamic and a *ff* dynamic. The ninth staff includes a *ff* dynamic and a *ff* dynamic. The tenth staff has a *ff* dynamic and a *ff* dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs. There are also dynamic markings like *ff* (fortissimo) and *p* (piano), and performance instructions like *unis.* (unison) and *Grandioso.* (grandioso). The score is printed in the United States by Theodore Presser Co.

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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 begins with a key signature of one flat (B $\flat$) and a common time signature (C). The first staff features a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, marked with *ff* (fortissimo). The second staff continues the melody with various articulations and a *ff* marking. The third staff introduces a *Trio* section, marked with *p* (piano). The fourth staff shows a steady eighth-note pattern. The fifth staff features a more complex rhythmic pattern with a *ff* marking. The sixth staff begins with a *ff* marking and includes first and second endings. The seventh staff continues the melody with a *ff* marking. The eighth staff features a *ff* marking and a *Grandioso* section. The ninth staff continues the melody with a *ff* marking. The tenth staff features a *ff* marking and a *ff* marking.

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SOUSA.

ff

p

f

ff

ff

p

p

ff

ff

ffmolto marcato.

Grandioso.

ff

ff

ff

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SOUSA.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Basses.

SOUSA.

The musical score is written for a bass part in 2/4 time. It begins with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The score is divided into several measures, with dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo), *p* (piano), and *ff* (fortissimo) indicating the volume. The score includes various musical notations, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests. A section labeled "Trio" begins with a key signature change to two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a time signature change to 3/4. The score concludes with a final measure marked *fff* (fortississimo).

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Bb Bass 

SOUZA.

[illegible]

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The Stars and Stripes Forever

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

Timpani

1 Timp. Bb-Eb *ff* 2

Triangle *p* 2 *p* 1 1 Timp. 2 1 Timp. *f* *p-f*

Trio Bells 2 *p* 2 2 2

p Timp. Ab-Eb 16 Timp. 1 3 *ff* *Grandioso* *p-ff*

4 1 2 *ff*

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The Stars and Stripes Forever. March.

Drums.

POWER

This musical score is for the drum part of the 'The Stars and Stripes Forever' march. It is written on ten staves. The first staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 2/4 time signature. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and repeat signs. Dynamic markings like *ff* (fortissimo) and *p* (piano) are used throughout. Specific drum techniques are indicated with 'Cym.' (cymbal) and 'Trio.' (trio). The piece concludes with a double bar line and a final *fff* (fortississimo) marking.

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The Stars and Stripes Forever

String Bass

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

The musical score for String Bass is written in bass clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The tempo is marked 'March'. The score consists of nine staves of music. The first staff begins with a *ff* dynamic. The second staff features a crescendo from *p* to *f*, followed by a decrescendo back to *p*, and then a final crescendo to *f*. The third staff continues the melodic line. The fourth staff is marked 'Trio pizz.' and begins with a *p* dynamic. The fifth staff continues the pizzicato section, ending with an *arco* section marked *ff*. The sixth staff begins with a first ending bracket. The seventh staff continues the melodic line with a first ending bracket. The eighth staff is marked 'Grandioso' and begins with a *p-ff* dynamic. The ninth staff concludes the piece with a first ending bracket and a *fff* dynamic.

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

Trio pizz. *p* *arco* *arco* *ff*

pizz. *p* *ff*

Grandioso *p-ff* *ff* *fff*