The Victors March

by: Louis Elbel
arr: E. R. Schremser

Original Copyright: 1899
By: Elbel Bros.

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Elbel, Louis

DOB: October 28, 1877 (South Bend, Indiana)
DOD: May 2, 1959 (Ann Arbor, Michigan)

Louis Elbel was born in South Bend, Indiana, on October 28, 1877, one of six brothers and two sisters in the family of Lorenz and Johanna Elbel. All were musical, and a family orchestra was formed which also included five brothers of Lorenz. Lorenz founded the Elbel Brothers Music Store in South Bend in 1870, and Louis later managed it.

Louis Elbel attended the University of Michigan from 1896-1899. He was a member of the track team and tied the world record for the indoor 40-yard dash. In the fall of 1899, he went to Leipzig, Germany, to study with Martin Krause, and returned in the summer of 1901. In addition to his work at the family music store, Elbel was active as a concert pianist, presenting recitals and piano-lecture recitals. He performed with the Theodore Thomas Orchestra in 1907.

In addition to his The Victors march, Elbel composed several piano pieces, songs, and works for small orchestra. The Victors is his most popular work and is regarded as one of the finest college songs of all time. It was quickly adopted by the University of Michigan as their fight song, and it became a tradition for Elbel to conduct the Michigan Band in his march at homecoming football games and other events.

The trio of The Victors is similar to the last section of George M. Rosey's march, Spirit of Liberty (written several months earlier). The two composers were reported to be good friends, and this arrangement was presumably made by mutual agreement. The march by Rosey [originally Rosenberg] has long since been forgotten, but The Victors has become a much-revered work, particularly at the University of Michigan.

Elbel died in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on May 2, 1959. The University of Michigan Band founded the Elbel Club in his honor, and donors contribute money to support band operations.[1]

Schremser, Jr., Edward R.

DOB: unknown
DOD: unknown

E.R. Schremser, Jr., the son of a New York City musician, was leader of the 4th Regiment Band in Detroit, Michigan, in the 1890s. Concurrently, he led his own professional band there.[2]

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[1] Rehig, William H., Bierley, Paul (editor). *The encyclopedia of band music,* Integrity Press, Westerville, OH. (2005), CD, used with permission.
[2] Ibid.

Victors, The (march one-step) was published in 1899 by Elbel Brothers (South Bend, Indiana). It was arranged by E.R. Schremser, Jr. and dedicated to the 1898 University of Michigan football team. It was in 1898 that Louis Elbel wrote "The Victors" after a U-M football win in Chicago. The following was written by Joanne Nesbit, University of Michigan News Service.

In 1898 the football team won its first conference championship by scoring one more point than the Chicago Maroons, then the heaviest team in college football history. So impressed was Louis Elbel that after celebrating with other U-M fans in Chicago's streets, he realized that the University did not have the "right" celebration song. On the train back to Ann Arbor, Elbel took his original melody jottings and turned them into a march. An arrangement for 23 instruments resulted.

The song premiered in April 1899 and was conducted by no less than the "March King," John Philip Sousa, and his band who were appearing on the Ann Arbor campus. The words were sung for the first time in public at a Minstrels concert two nights later. "The Victors" continues to be played worldwide, consistently ranked among the best and most recognized of college fight songs.[3]

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

[3] http://www.ur.umich.edu/9899/Sep30_98/2.htm

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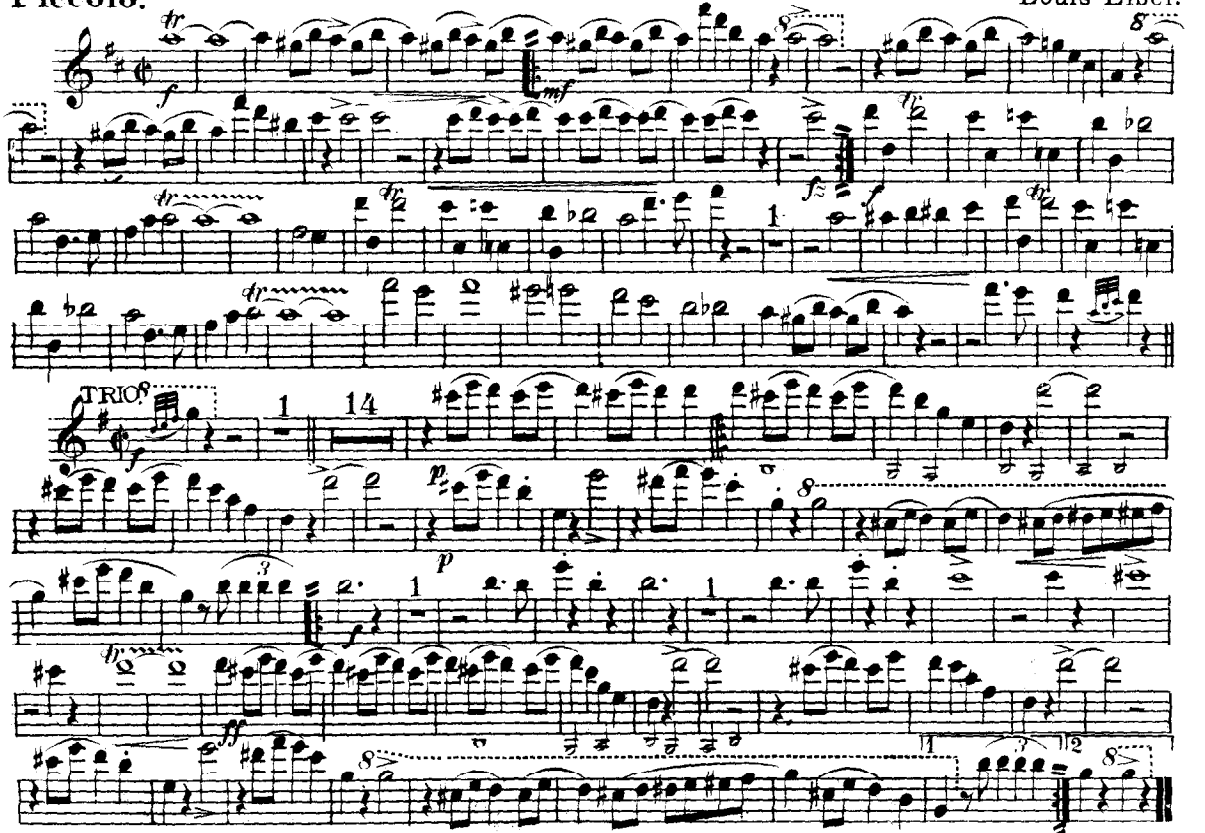
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

Piccolo.

Louis Elbel.



Elbel Bros. South Bend, Ind.

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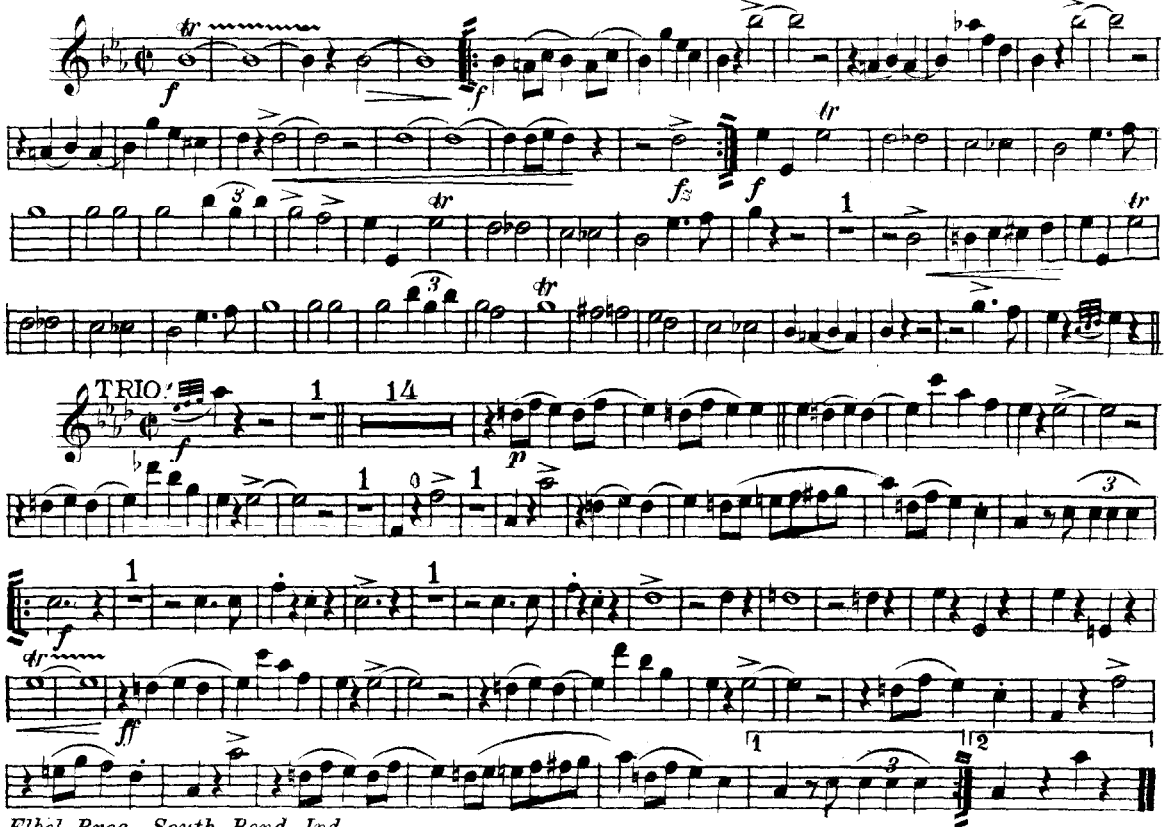
Oboe.

"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

Louis Elbel.



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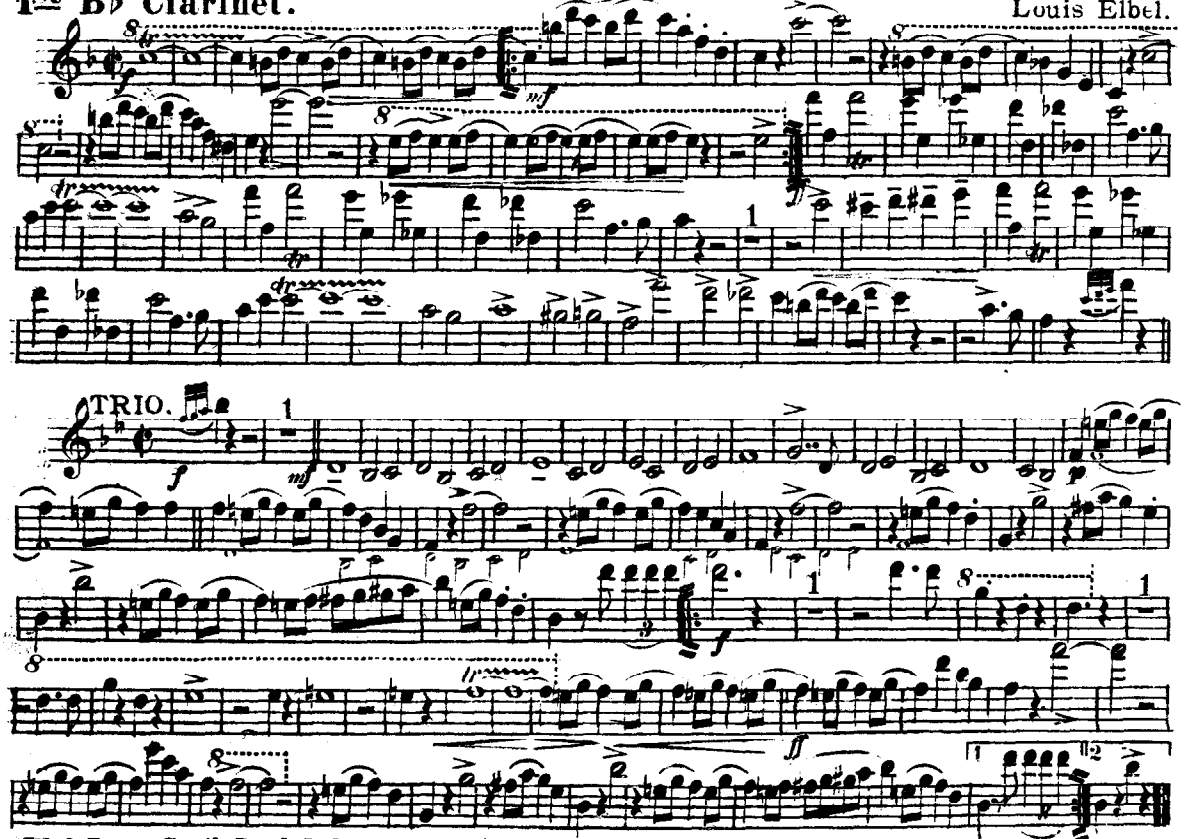
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

1st B♭ Clarinet.

Louis Elbel.



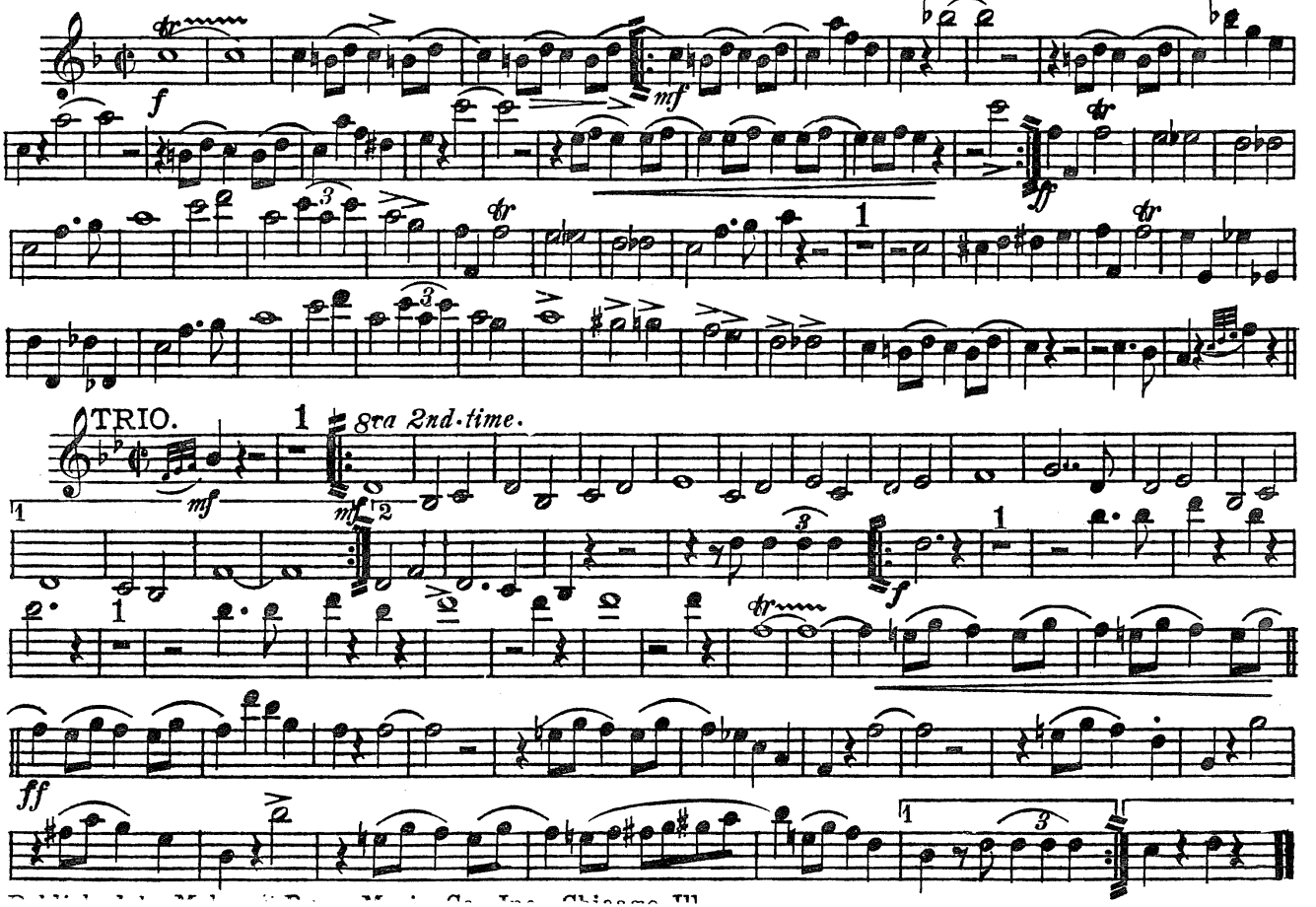
Elbel Bros. South Bend, Ind.

H. S. Talbot & Co.
Music Print, Chicago.

"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

2nd B♭ Clarinet.

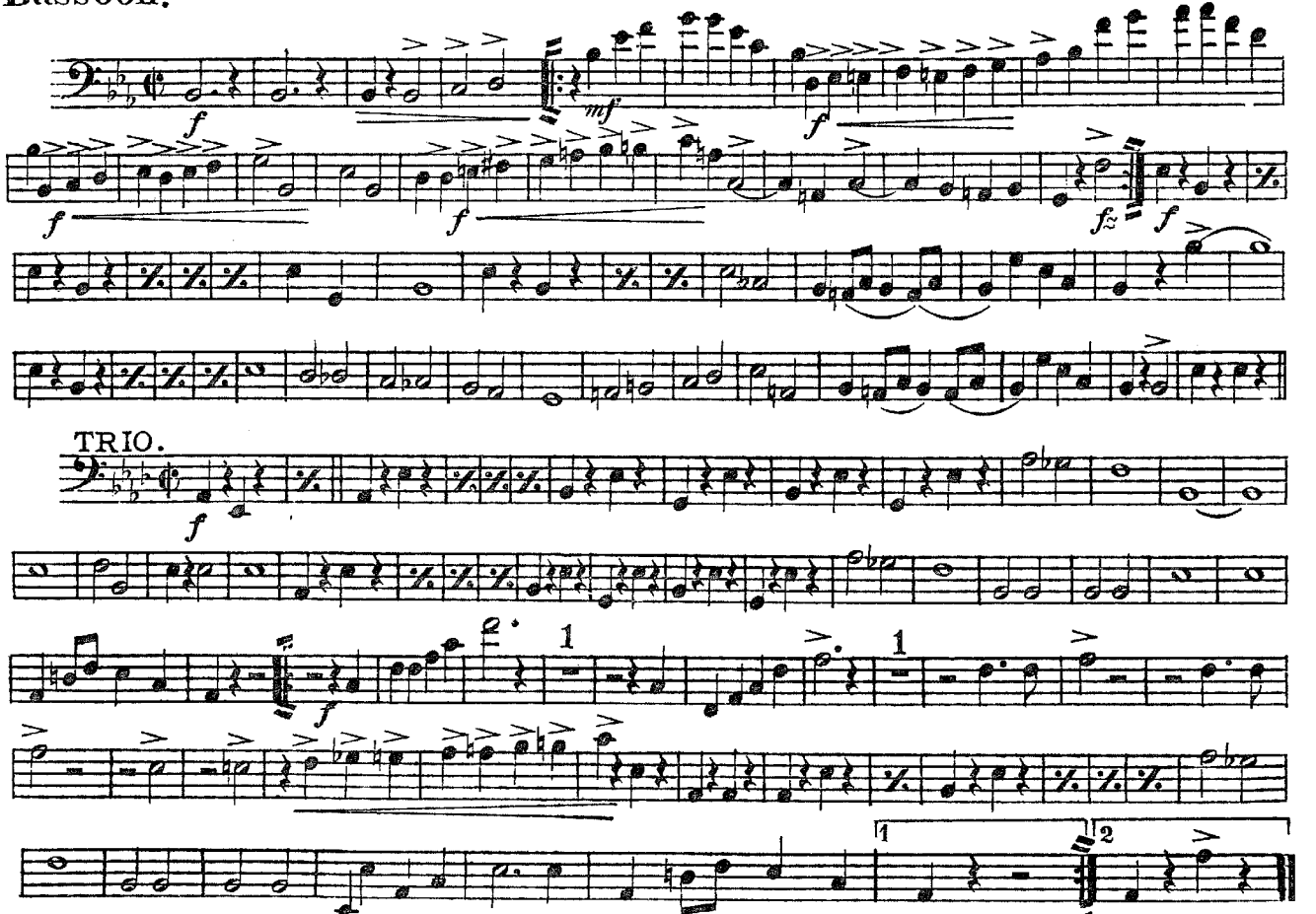
Louis Elbel.



Bassoon.

"THE VICTORS" MARCH

Louis Elbel.



Published by Melrose Bros. Music Co., Inc., Chicago, Ill.

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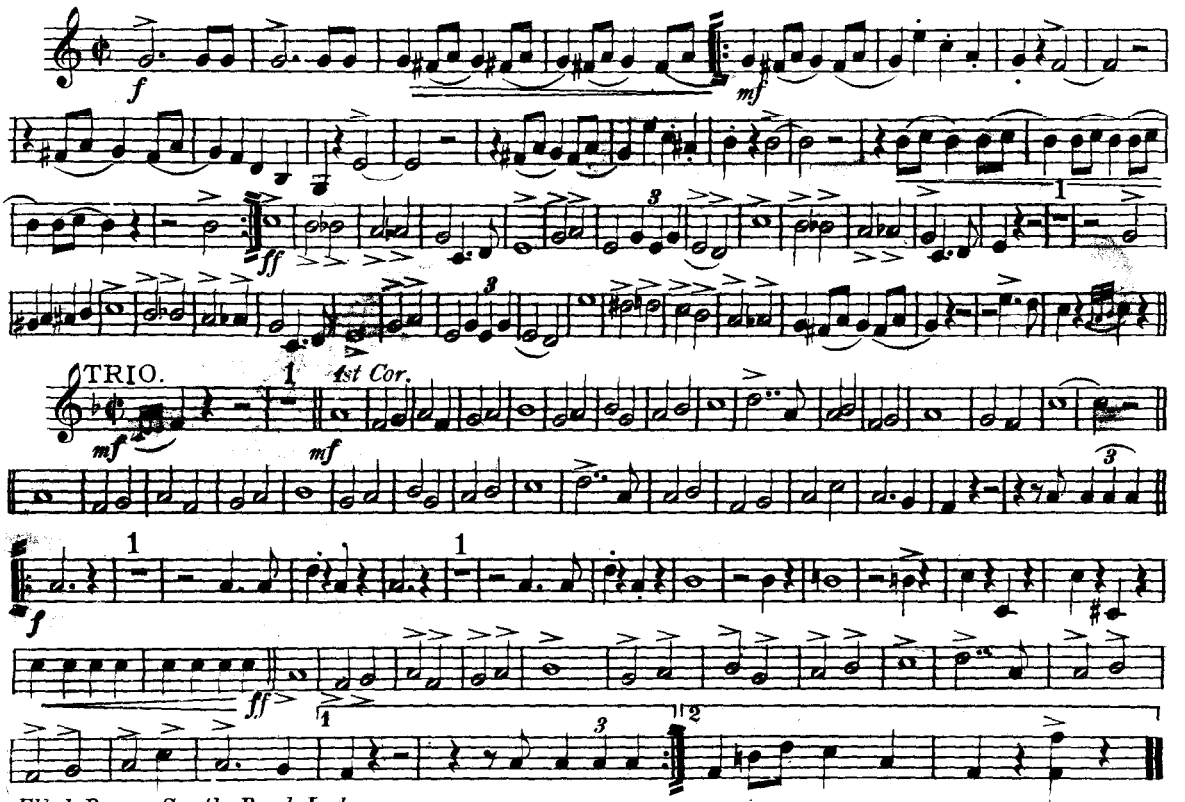
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

Eb Cornet.

Louis Elbel.



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"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

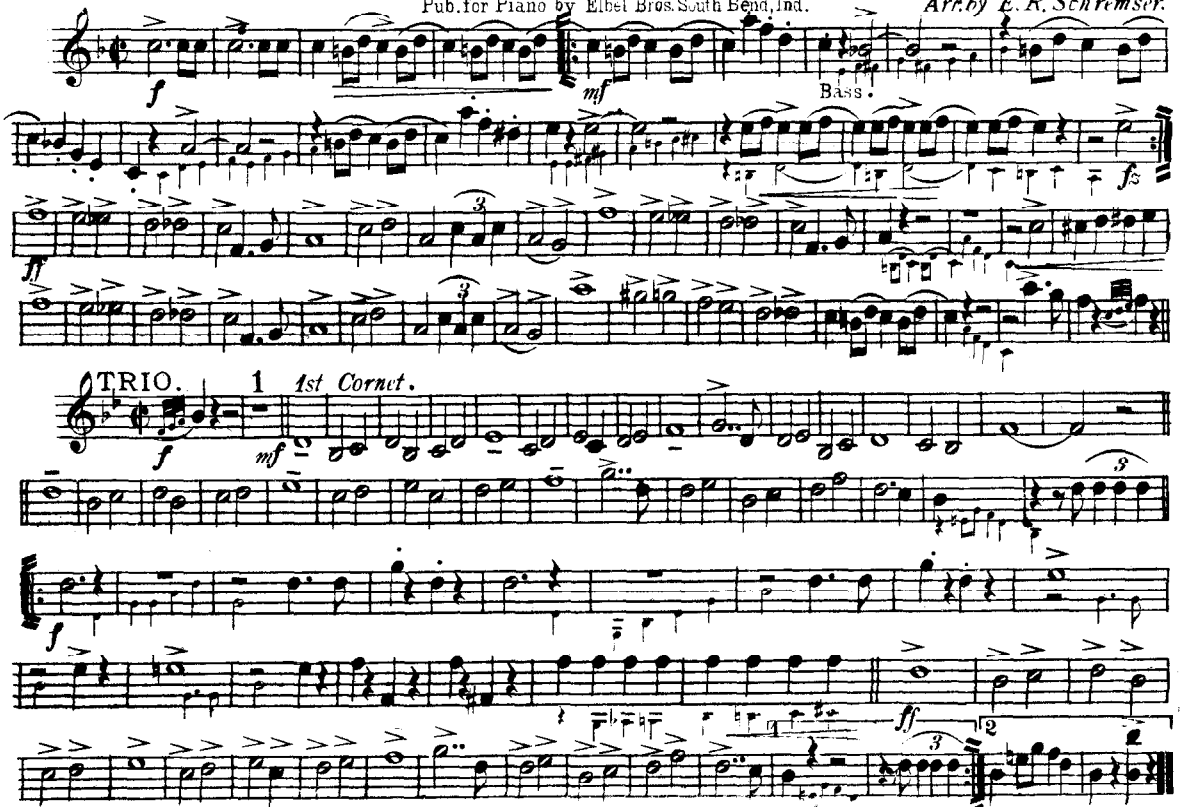
Solo B♭ Cornet.

(Dedicated to the '98 U. of M. Football team.)

Pub. for Piano by Elbel Bros. South Bend, Ind.

Louis Elbel.

Arr. by E. R. Schremser.



Elbel Bros. South Bend, Ind. Copyright, 1899.

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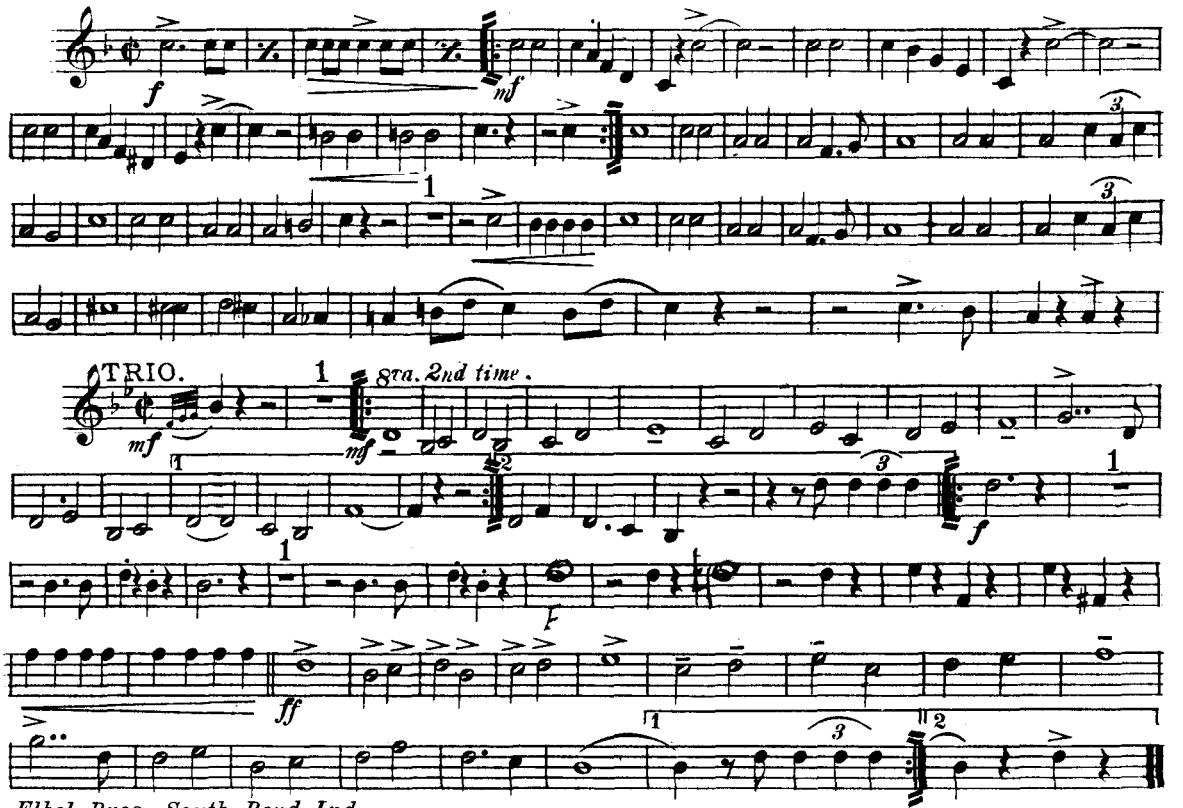
THE VICTORS" MARCH.

1st B♭ Cornet.

Louis Elbel.



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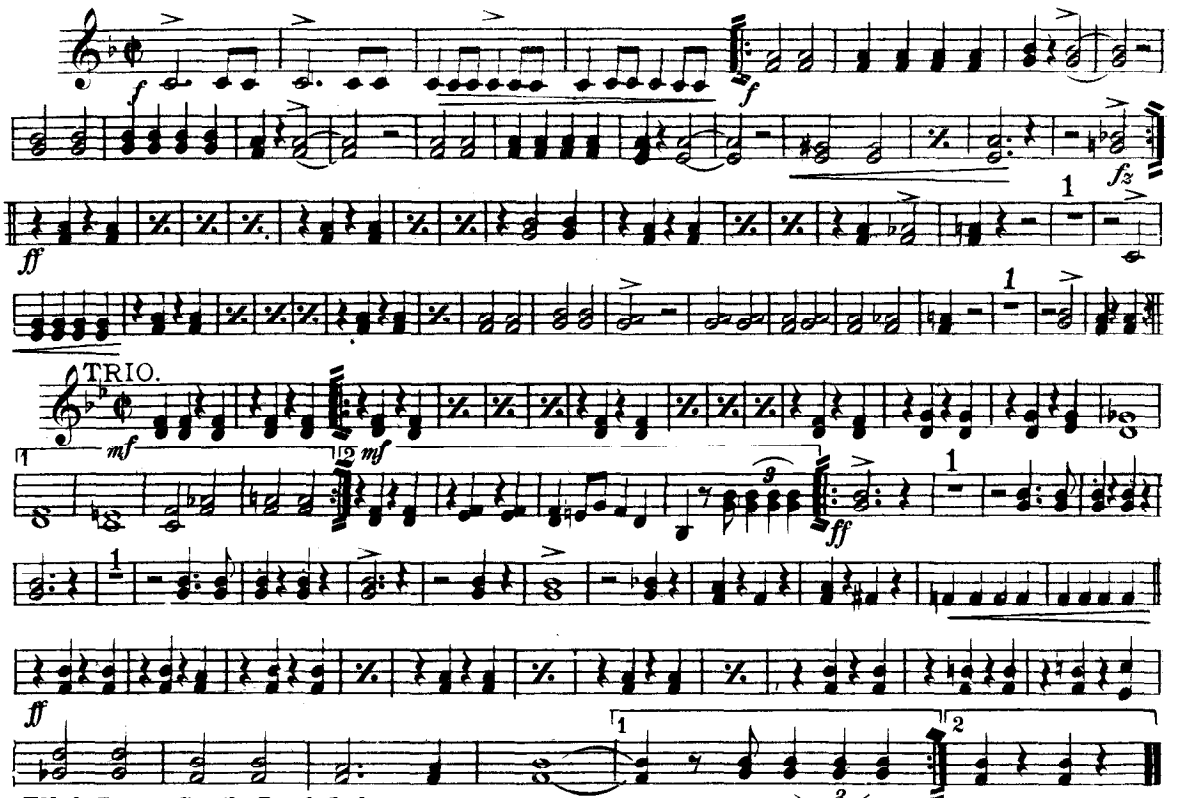
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

2nd & 3rd Cornets.

Louis Elbel.



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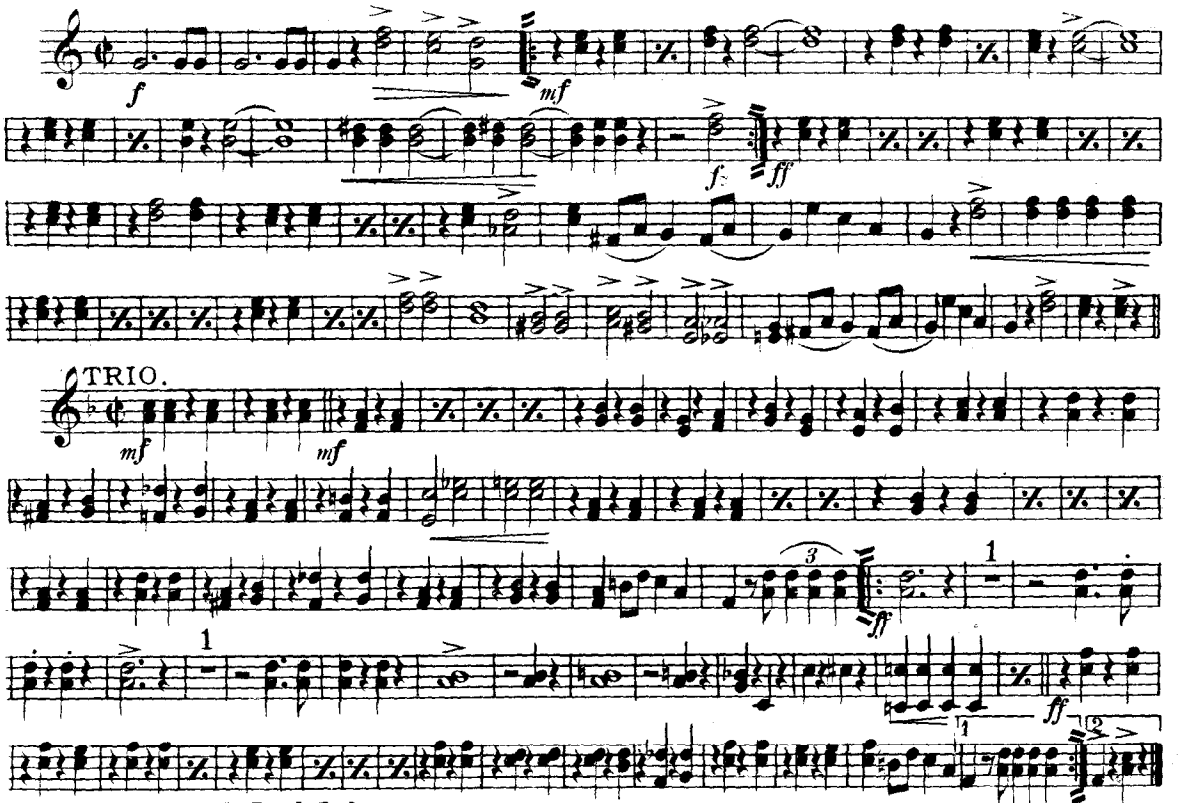
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

1st & 2nd Altos.

Louis Elbel.



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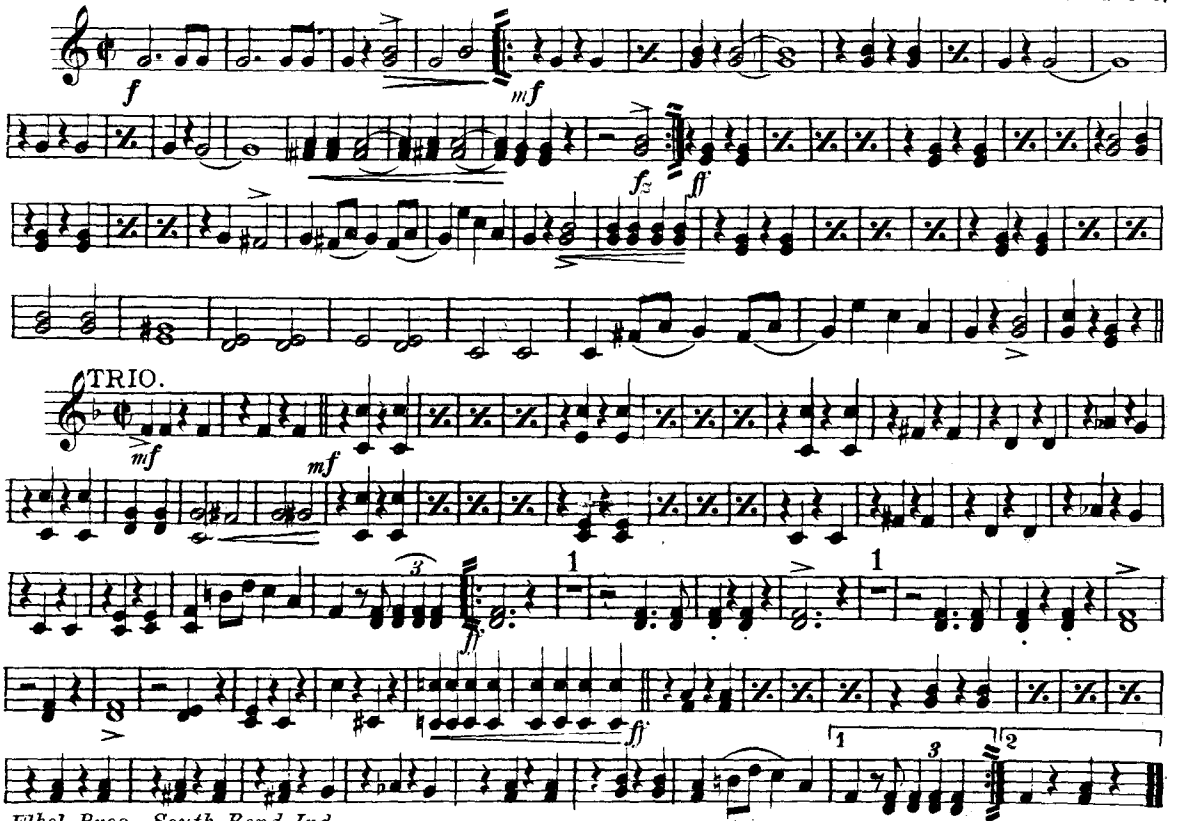
THE VICTORS" MARCH.

3rd & 4th Altos.

Louis Elbel.



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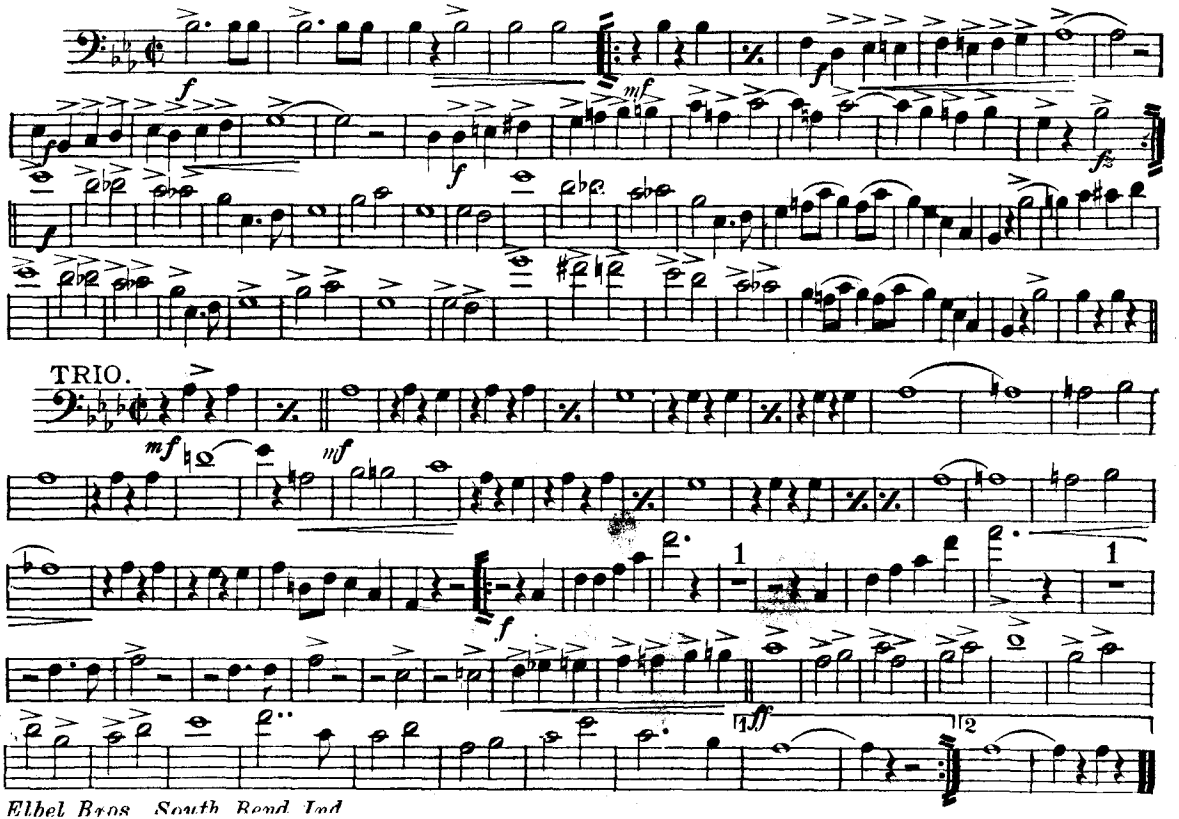
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

1st Trombone.

Louis Elbel.



Elbel Bros. South Bend Ind.

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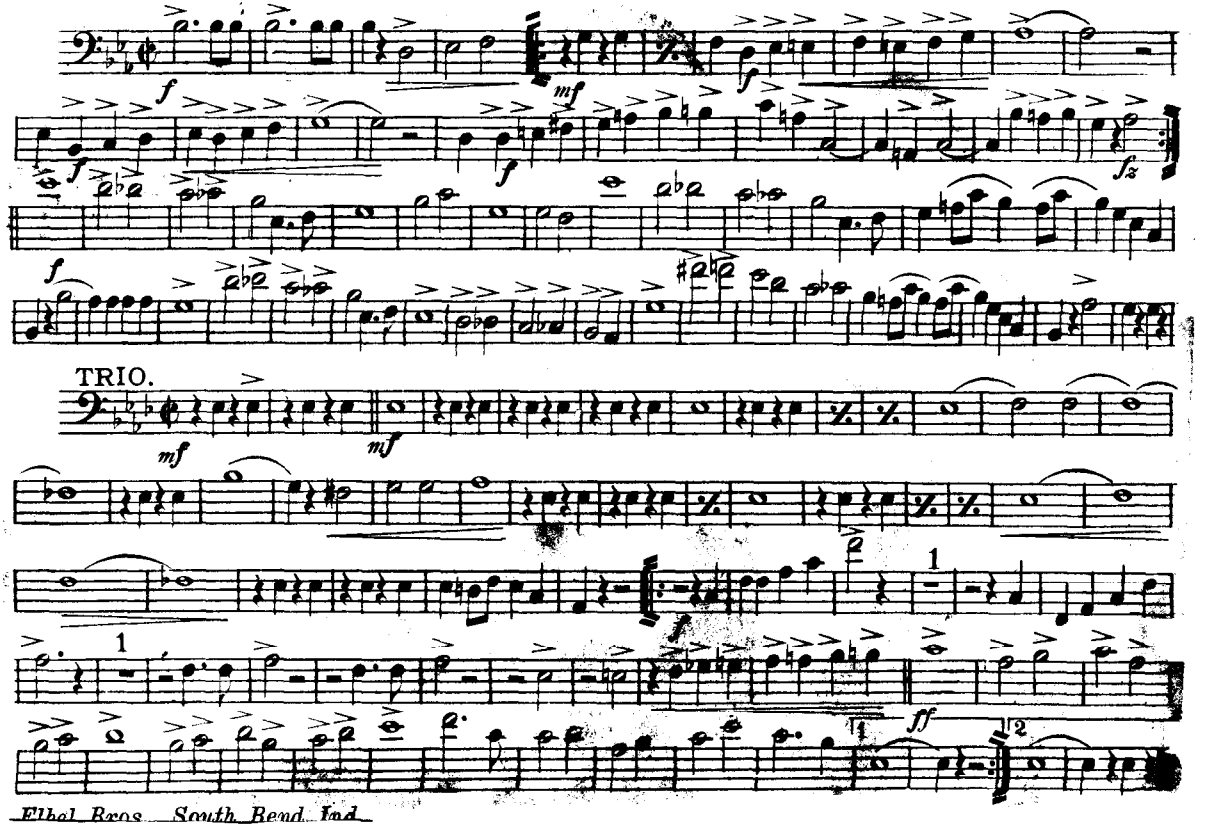
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

2nd Trombone.

Louis Elbel.



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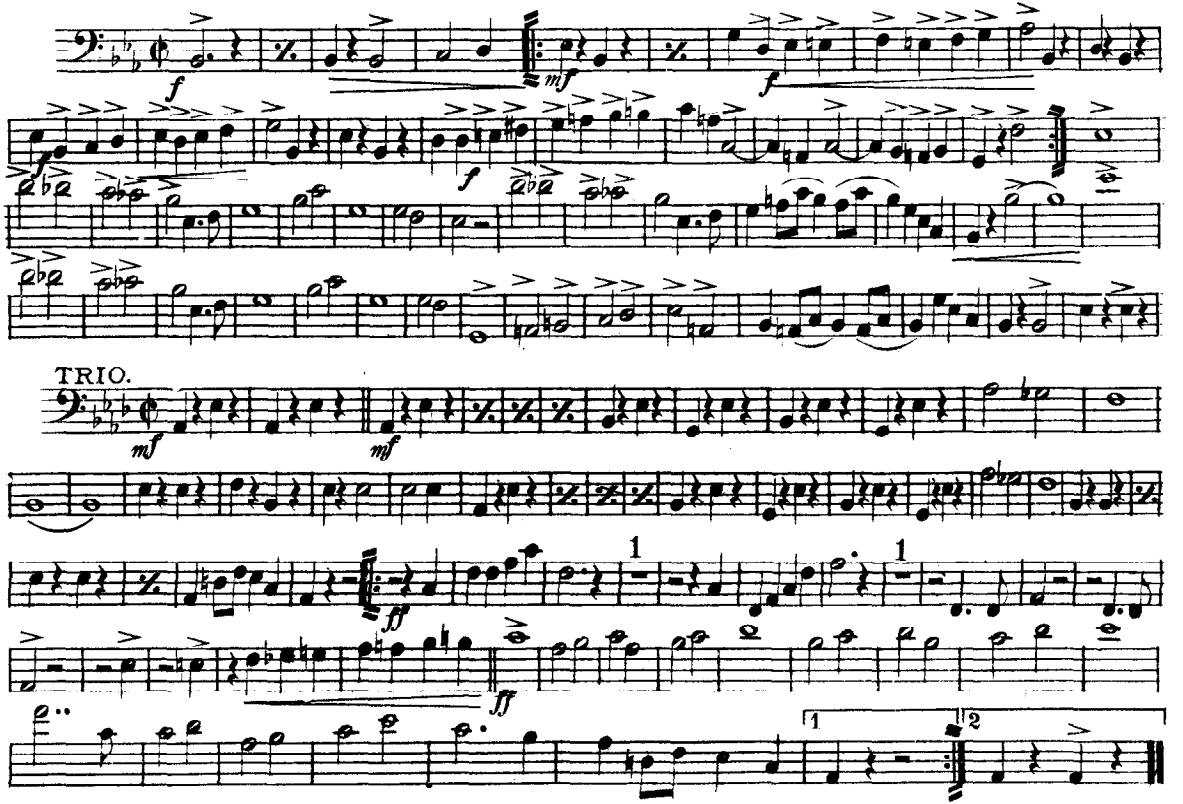
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

3rd Trombone.

Louis Elbel.



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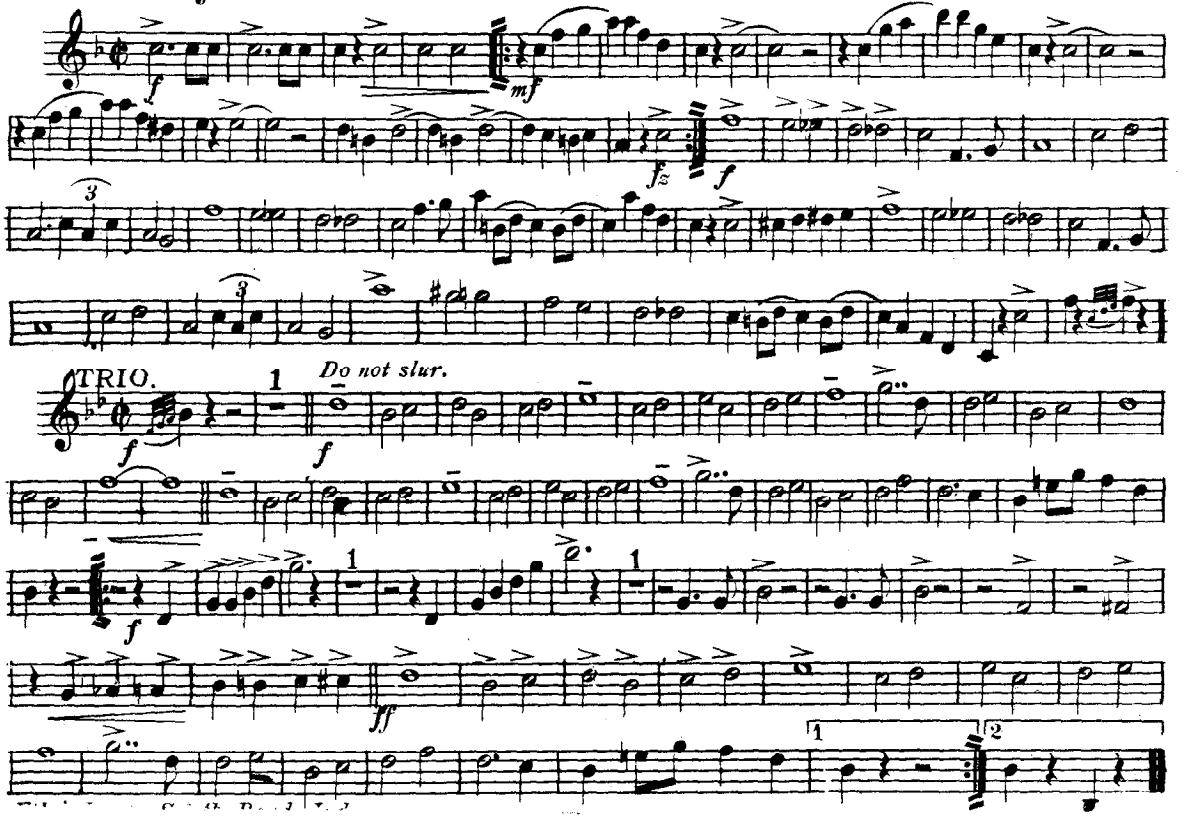
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

Baritone.

Louis Elbel.



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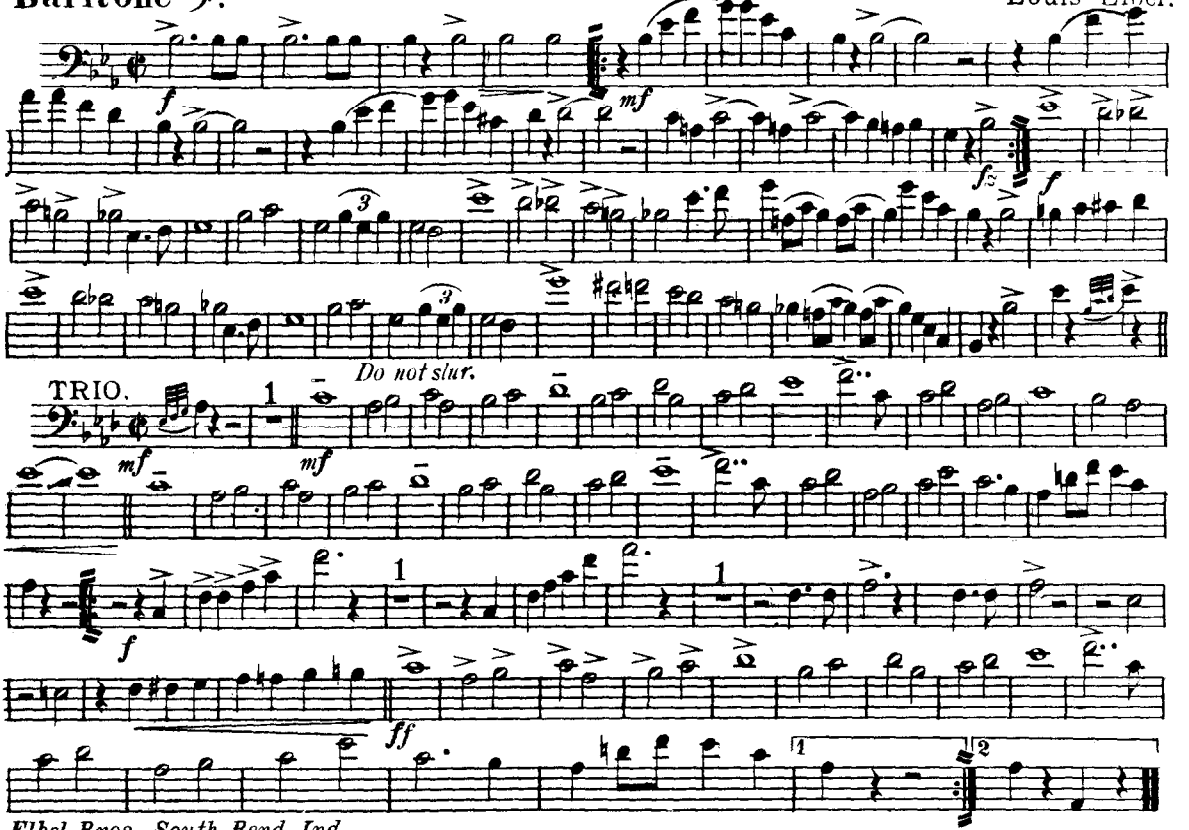
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

Baritone 𝄢.

Louis Elbel.



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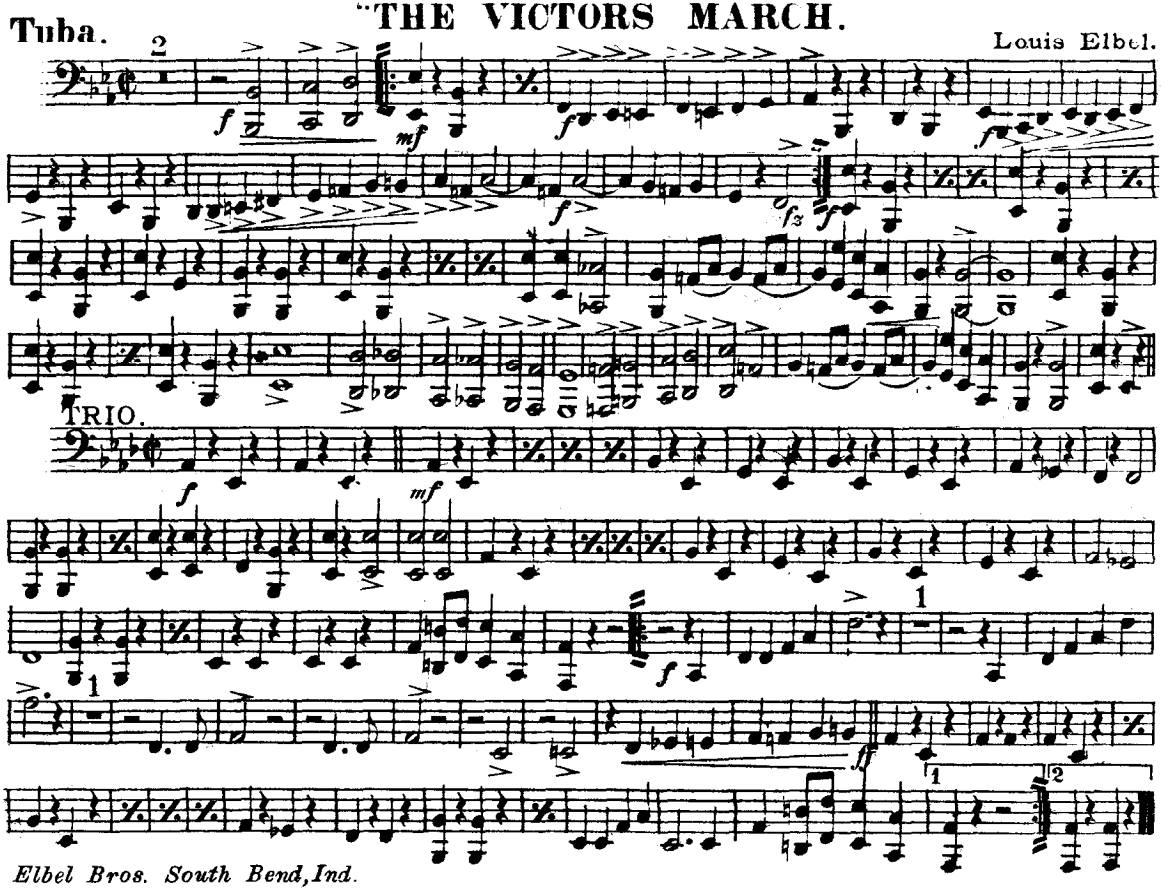

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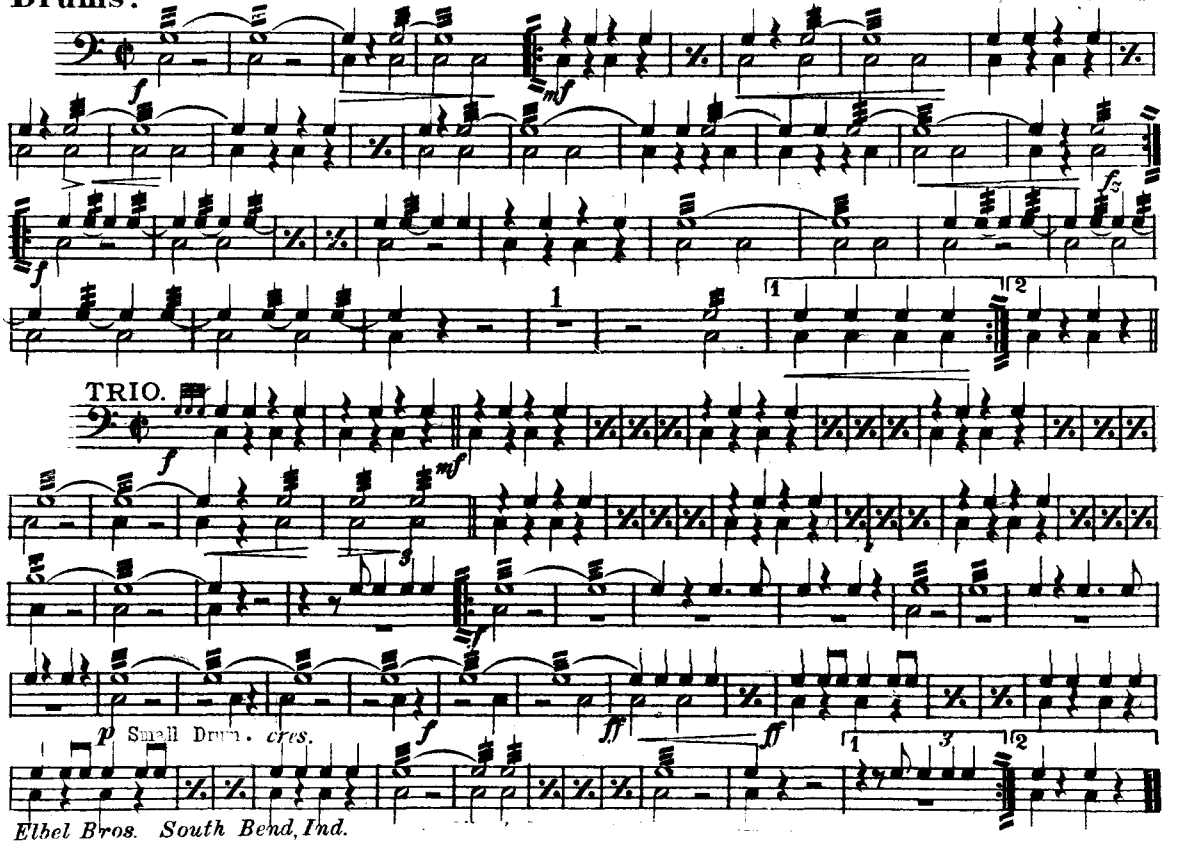
"THE VICTORS" MARCH.

Drums.

Louis Elbel.



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