Yale Boola

by: A. M. Hirsh
arr: G. L. Jr. Atwater

Original Copyright: 1906
By: Leo Feist

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Hirsh, A.M.

DOB: 1878
DOD: 1951

He was an accomplished pianist who loved to say that he couldn't read a note of music. Yet he played with Jimmy Durante (my grandmother hated Durante's visits -- the two men spent hours in Grandfather's "music room" playing the piano, smoking cigars, and generally ignoring my grandmother), Fritz Kreisler was a friend, and Grandfather sometimes played jazz at Kelly's in New York -- until James Petrillo, the head of the American Federation of Musicians, threatened to pull the band if he didn't join the union. Grandfather hated unions in general and Patrillo in particular; that was the end of the Kelly's gig. Or so the story ran.[1]

Atwater, Jr., George L.

DOB: unknown
DOD: unknown

At this writing, no additional information has been found about George L. Atwater, Jr.

Yale Boola (march two-step) was copyrighted in 1901 by the Chas. H. Loomis (New Haven, CT) and published in 1906 by Leo Feist Company According to Philip Hirsh, grandson of the composer: My grandfather, Allan M. Hirsh, Class of 1901, had written the song in the fall of 1900. It was published in early 1901, and along with his many other accomplishments, had long been part of our family lore. I heard him play and sing it many times as a kid; yes, it has words, lots of words. The repeated words "Boola Boola" that we think of as the entire song make up only a small part of the chorus, itself a fraction of the entire piece. In fact, my grandfather wrote two Boolas, "Sentimental" and "Athletic," each with its own words and tempo. A third version, "College Trio," was "Bright College Years" set to the Boola tune. The original sheet music tells us that the words "can be sung with the Yale Boola March if accented properly." A little digging produced the fact that John Philip Sousa played "Boola" at a concert in New Haven in April 1901. And it sold more sheet music in the first half of that year than any other song in the country. a typed letter written to a schoolgirl in Midville, Georgia, dated May 7, 1930, responding to Miss Gertrude Coleman's letter to the University asking for information about the history of the "Boola Song." My grandfather answered that the song "came out in the fall of 1900, and was gotten up jointly by two of my classmates, F.M. Van Wincklen, A.H. Marckwald and myself."

[1] http://www.yalealumnimagazine.com/issues/00_10/boola.html

He continues:

Just how much each of us did in regard to it is difficult to say, as it was one of those things that just more or less happened. The tune was gotten up and we only had one word which we set to it, and that word was "Boola," which to our minds had a very euphonious sound. The tune is not altogether original with us, but was undoubtedly adapted from some other song, although later on we did discover that there had been published a song, which at the time was out of print, called "La Hula Boola," and the air was quite similar but the time was different.

A group of us started singing the song and it occurred to me that it would make a good football song, so with the aid of another of my classmates, James L. Boyce, I put words to the song. This was on a Friday afternoon, and the next day, Saturday, I got up a group of classmates, taught them the song, and we went to the football game that afternoon and it was then sung as an athletic song for the first time. It immediately made a hit and has been sung at Yale ever since, and in addition, I believe, has been adopted by a number of other colleges. [The University of Oklahoma borrowed the tune for "Boomer Sooner."] I therefore believe "Boola" achieved popularity as quickly as any other song on record after it was finally written.

It is interesting to note that many people have asked us what the word "Boola" meant, and we said it was an Hawaiian word and meant a joy cry. We stuck to this for several years until someone came along and pointed out to us that there was no B in the Hawaiian language and therefore Boola could not possibly be an Hawaiian word. So the fact remains that we do not know what it means, except that it was euphonious and easy to sing and to our young ears sounded good.[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] Ibid.

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YALE BOOLA.

PICCOLO in D♭.

By A.M.Hirsh.
Arr.by G.L.Atwater,Jr.

Tempo di March.

1008

"Heres to good old Yale"

"Boola"

"Bright College Years"

Fine

Trio

D.C.

Chas.H.Loomis,New Haven,Ct.

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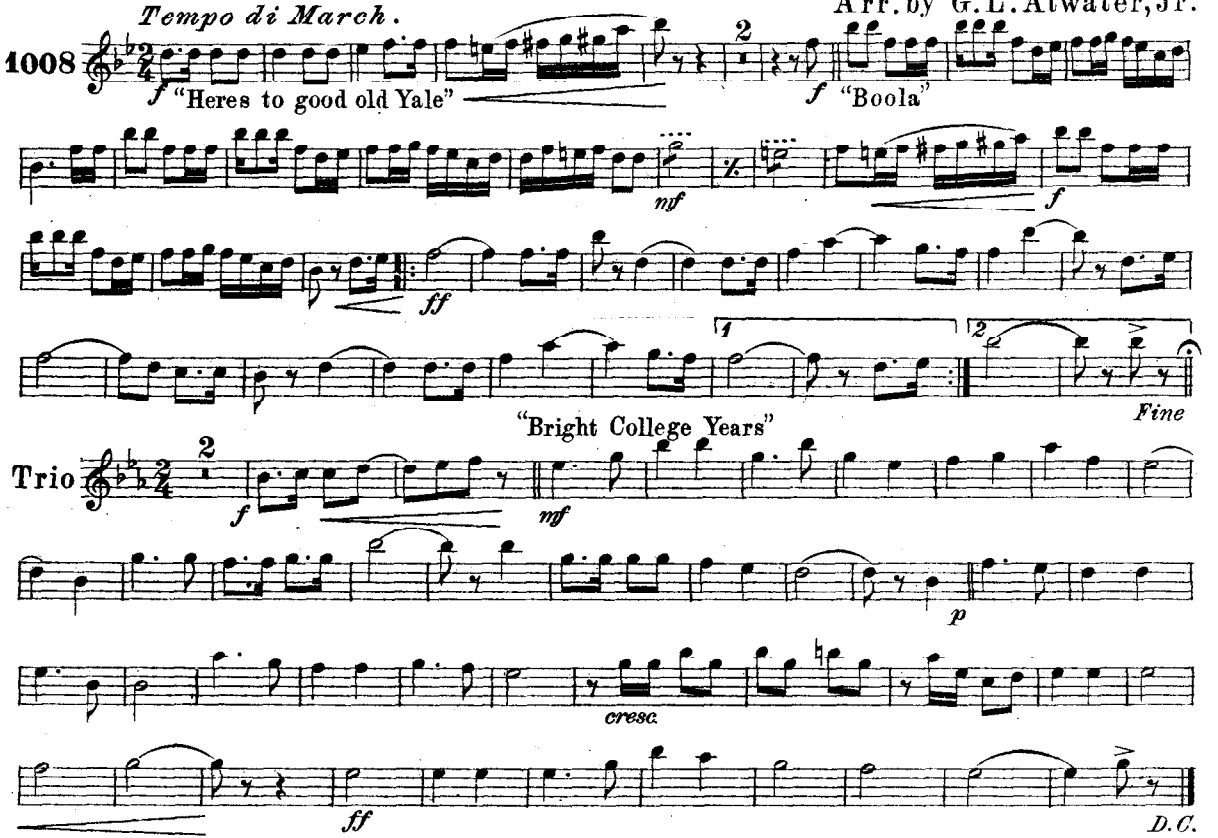
YALE BOOLA.

OBOE.

By A.M.Hirsh.
Arr.by G.L.Atwater,Jr.



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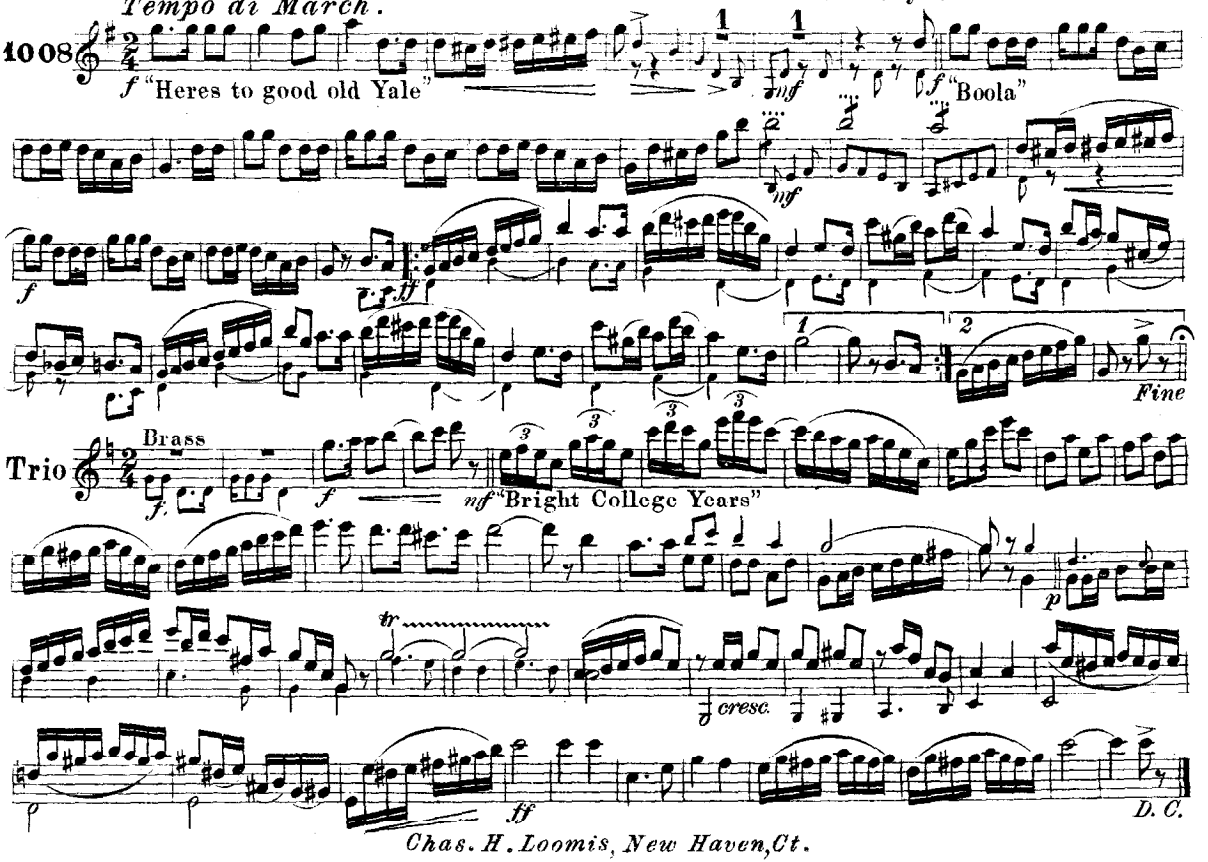
YALE BOOLA.

E♭ CLARINET.

By A. M. Hirsh.
Arr. by G. L. Atwater Jr.

Tempo di March.



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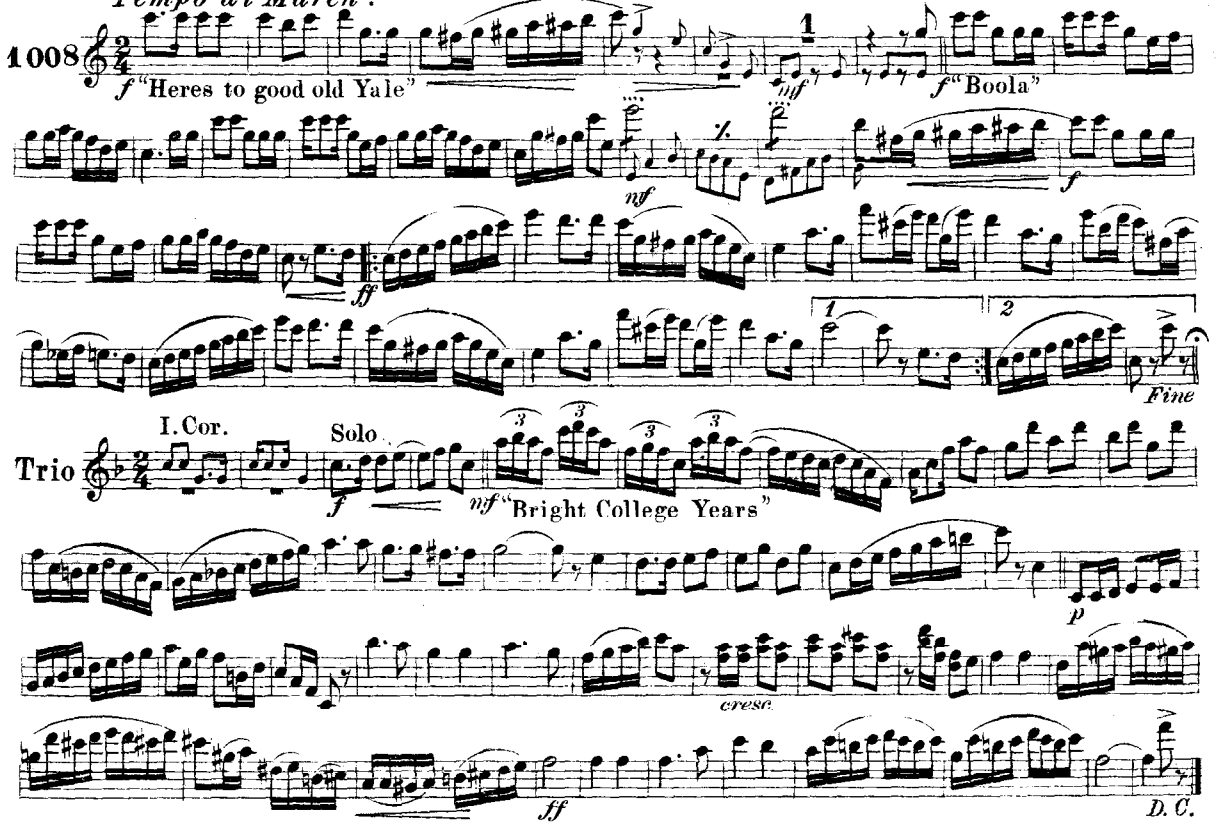
YALE BOOLA.

SOLO B♭ CLARINET.

By A.M.Hirsh.
Arr. by G.L.Atwater Jr.

Tempo di March.



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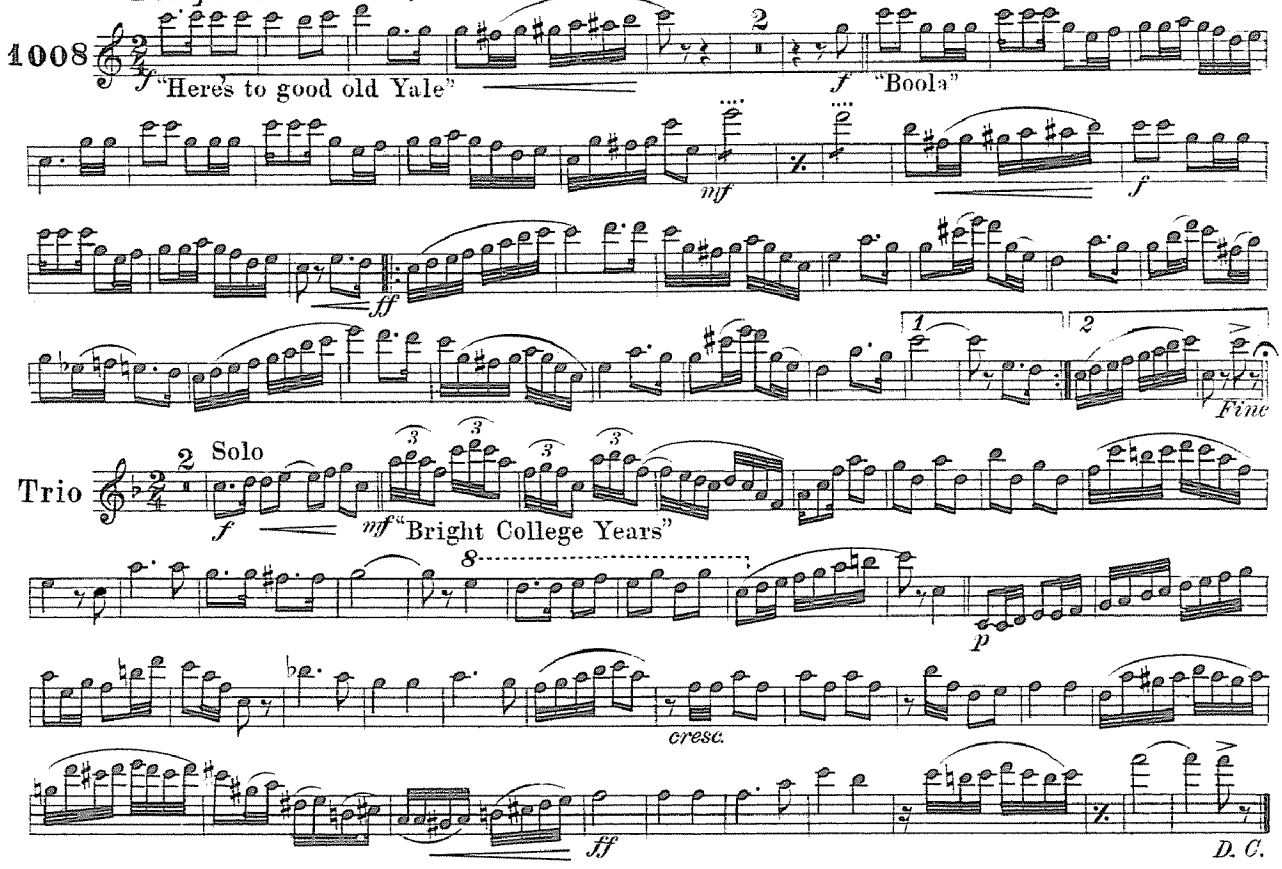
YALE BOOLA.

1st B♭ CLARINET.

By A.M.Hirsh.

Arr. by G.L.Atwater, Jr.

Tempo di March.



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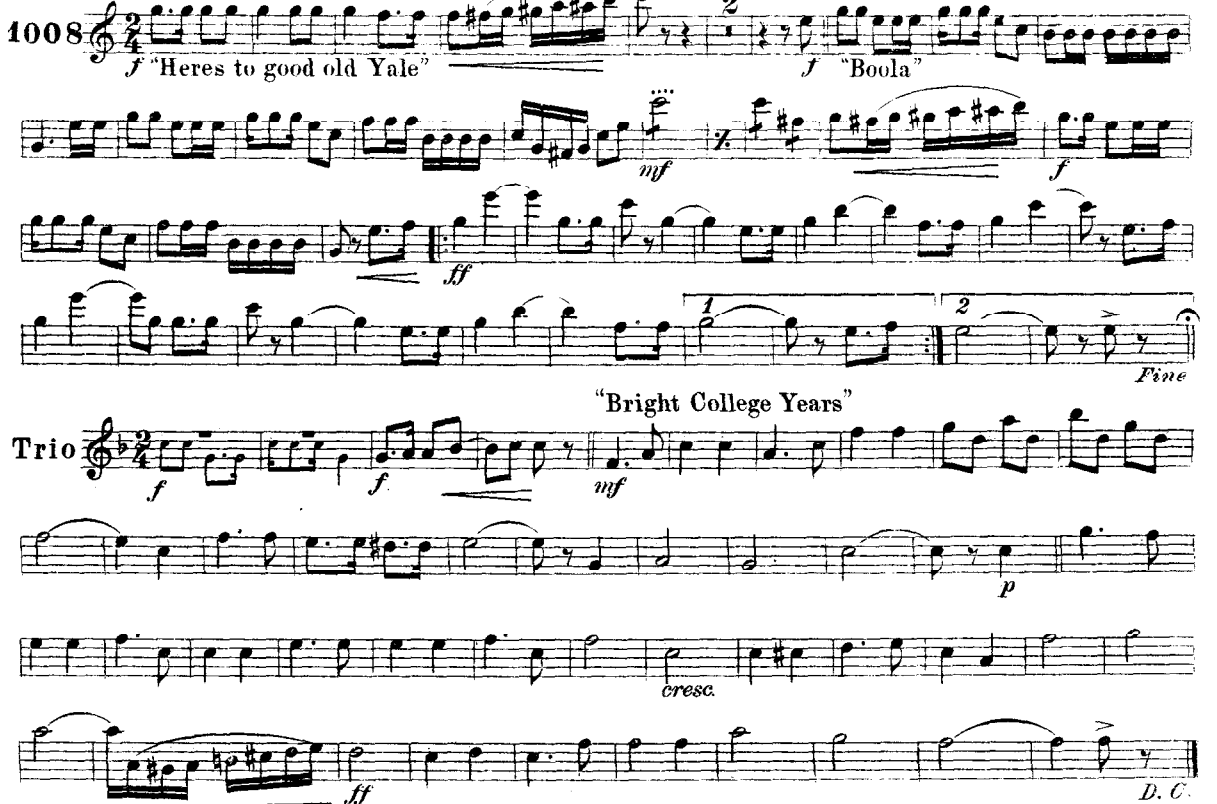
YALE BOOLA.

2nd B♭ CLARINET.

By A. M. Hirsh
Arr. by G. L. Atwater, Jr.

Tempo di March.



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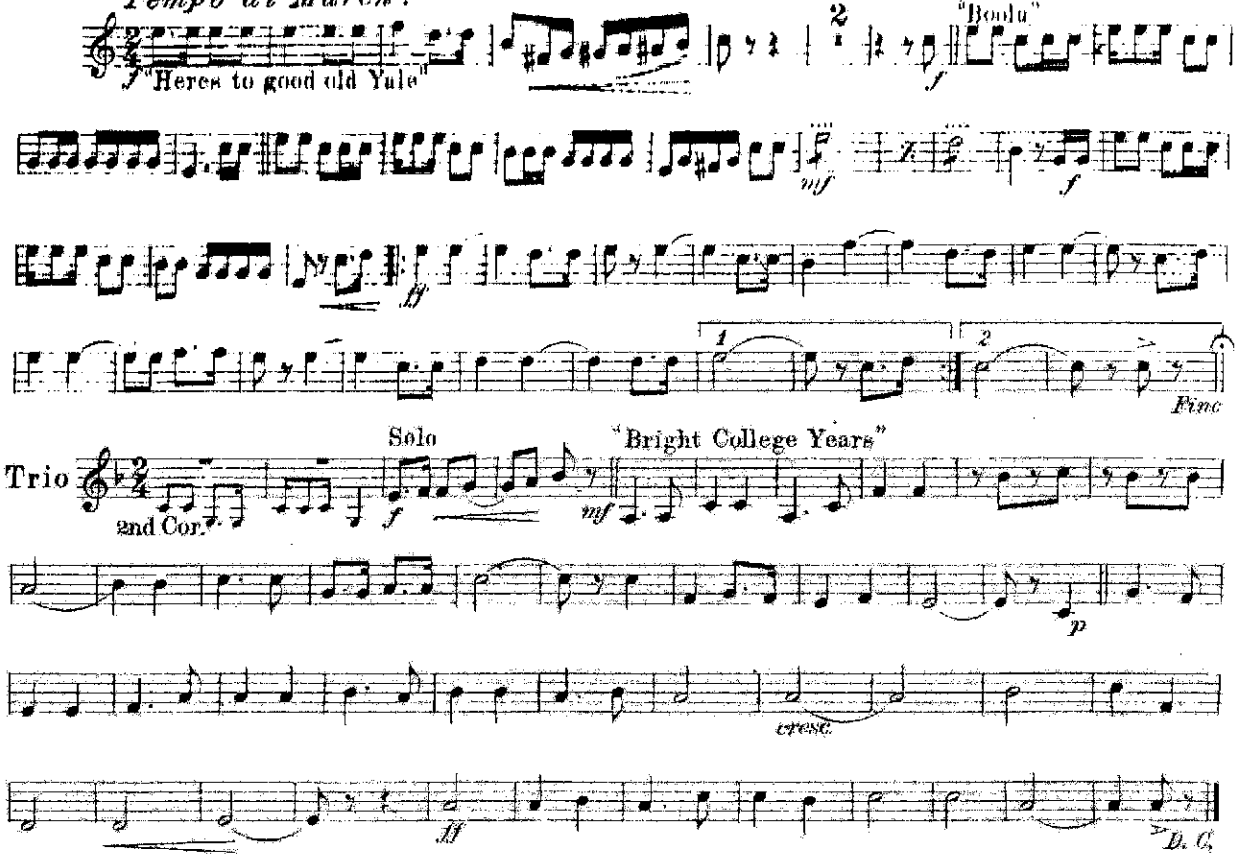
YALE BOOLA.

A.M.Hirsh.

3rd B♭ CLARINET.

Arr. by G. L. Atwater, Jr.

Tempo di March.



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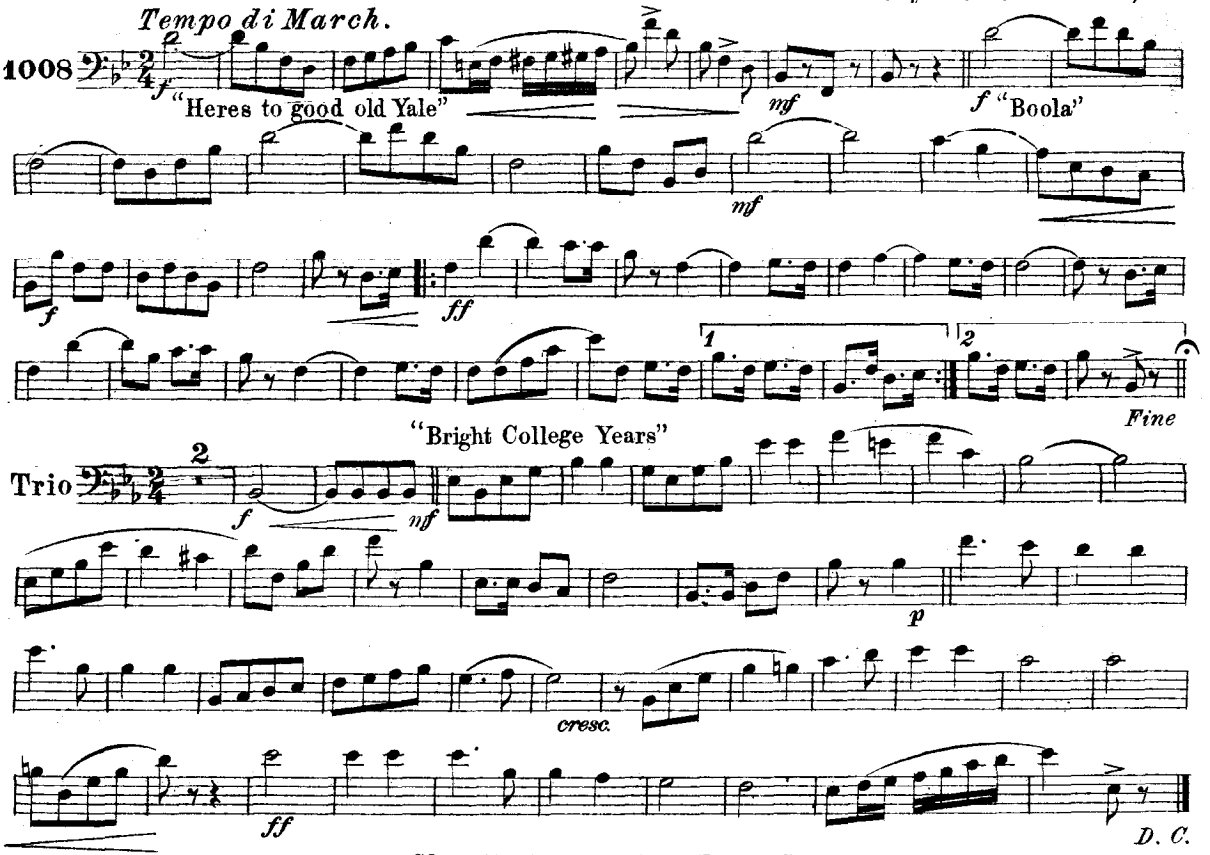
YALE BOOLA.

By A.M.Hirsh.
Arr.by G.L.Atwater,Jr.

BASSOON.



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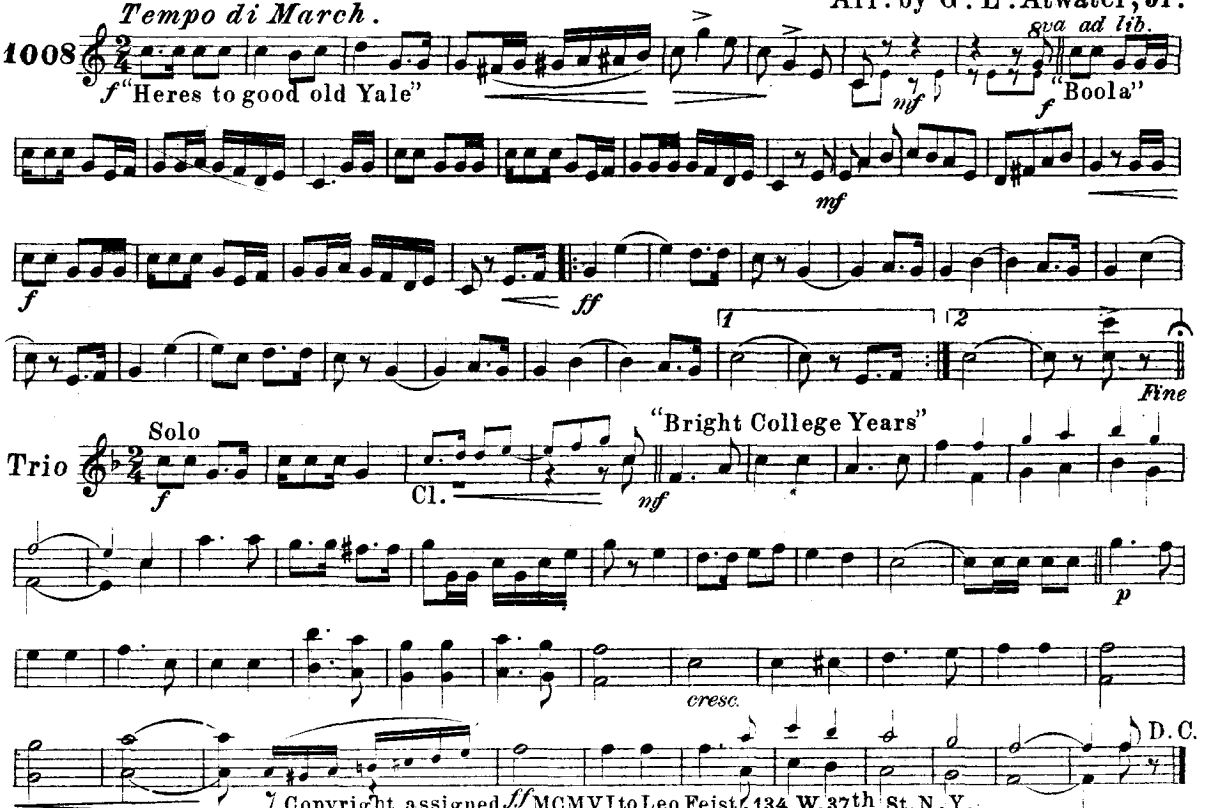
YALE BOOLA.

SOLO B♭ CORNET.

By A. M. Hirsh.
Arr. by G. L. Atwater, Jr.

Tempo di March.

1008



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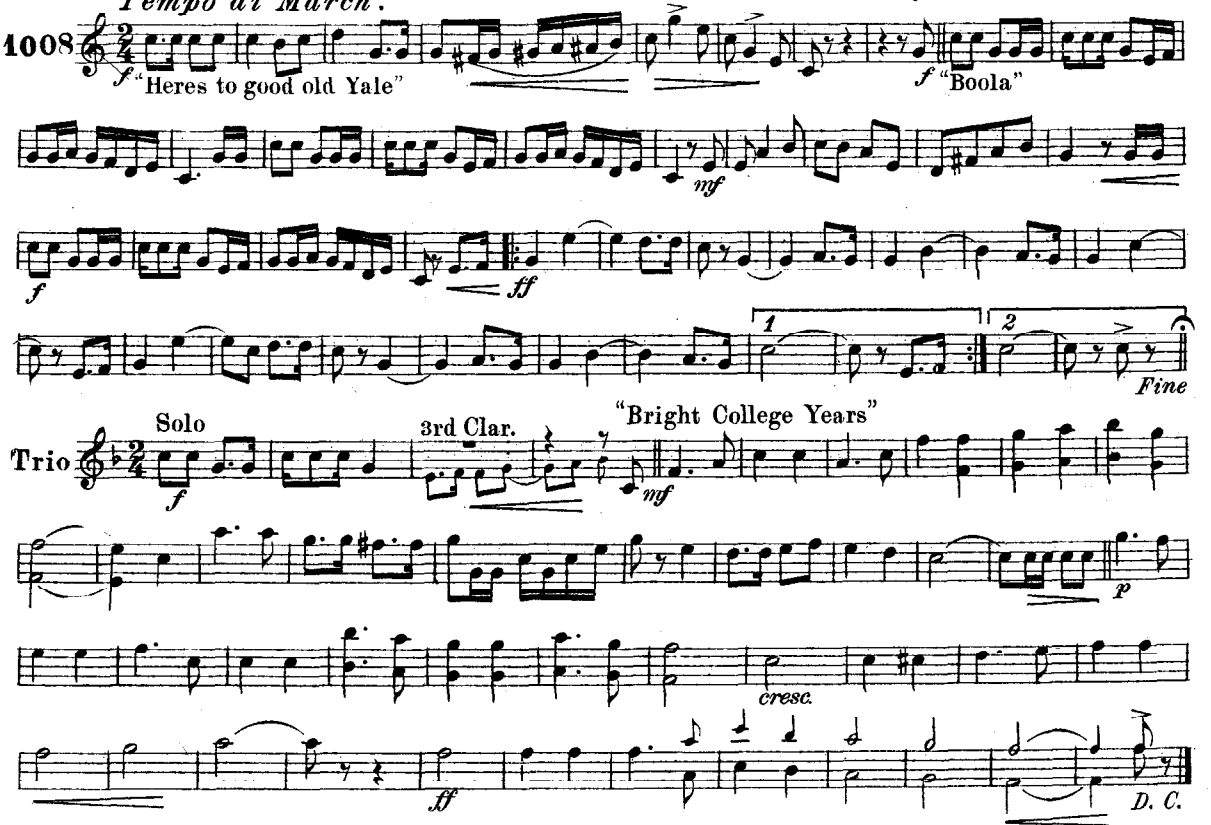
YALE BOOLA.

1st B♭ CORNET.

By A.M.Hirsh.
Arr.by G.L.Atwater,Jr.

Tempo di March.



Chas.H. Loomis New Haven Ct.

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YALE BOOLA.

2nd & 3rd B♭ CORNETS.

By A.M.Hirsh.
Arr. by G.L.Atwater, Jr.

Tempo di March.

1008

f "Heres to good old Yale"

Boola

mf *nff* *f*

f *ff*

1 2 *Fine*

Trio

Solo

f

Clar.

"Bright College Years"

mf *p*

cresc.

ff

D.C.

Chas. H. Loomis, New Haven, Ct.

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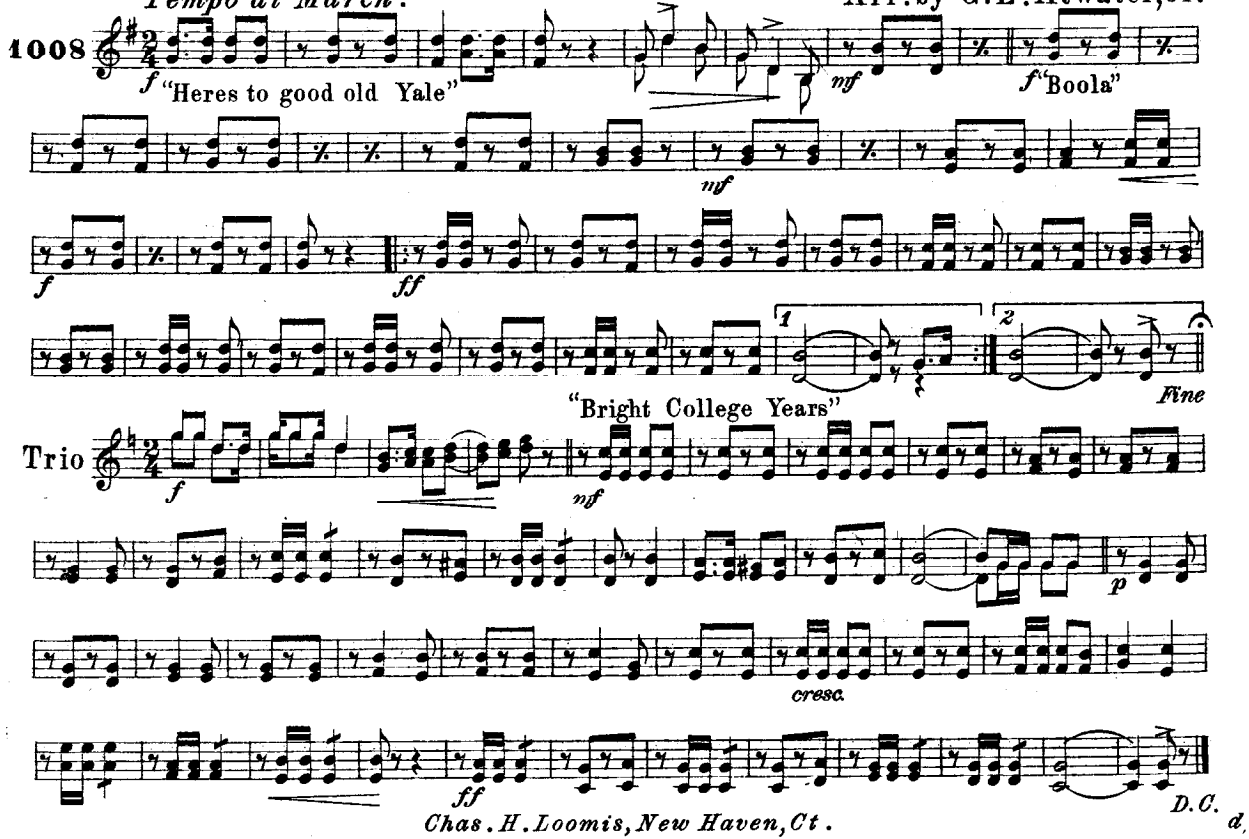
YALE BOOLA.

1st & 2nd Eb ALTOS.

By A.M.Hirsh.

Arr.by G.L.Atwater,Jr.

Tempo di March.



Chas. H. Loomis, New Haven, Ct.

d

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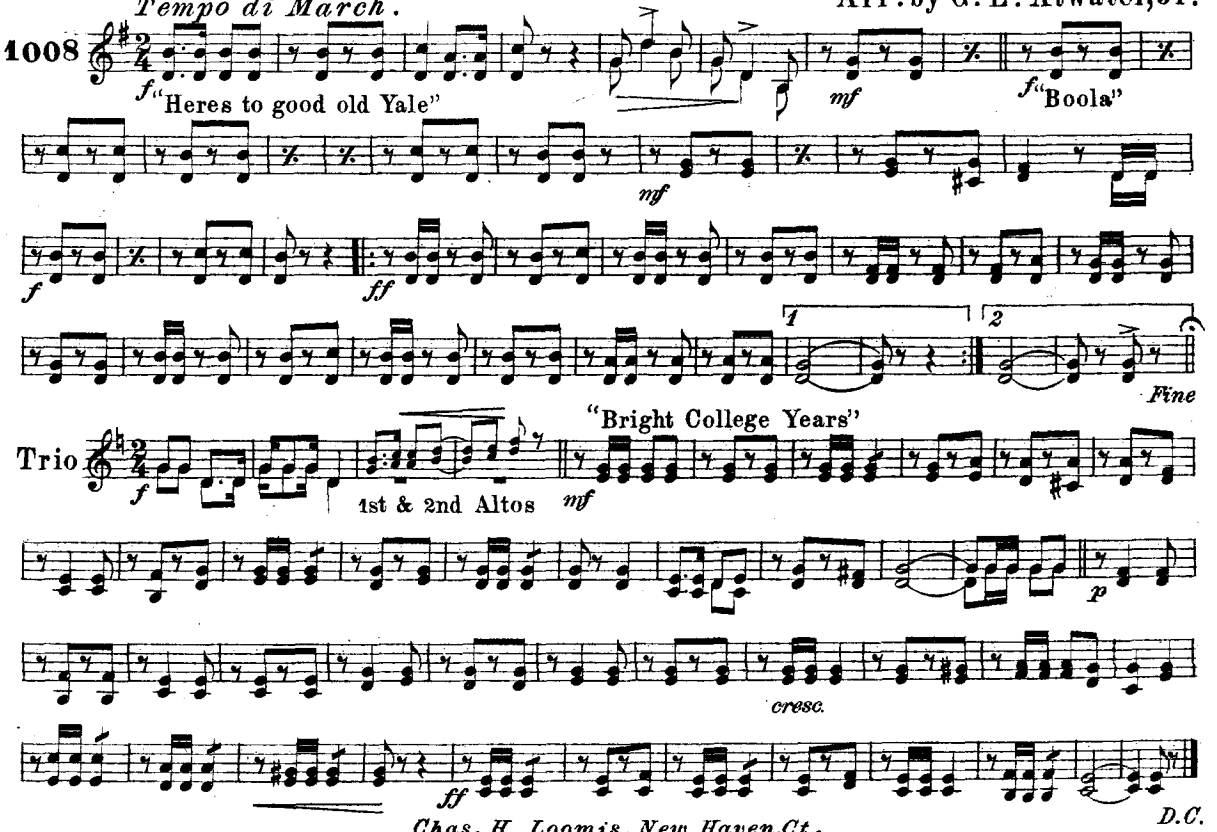
YALE BOOLA.

3rd & 4th E♭ ALTOS.

By A.M.Hirsh.
Arr.by G.L.Atwater,Jr.

Tempo di March.



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YALE BOOLA.

By A. M. Hirsh.

Arr. by G. L. Atwater, Jr.

1st & 2nd TROMBONES.

Tempo di March.

"Boola"

1008

f "Heres to good old Yale"

nf

f

mf

f

ff

1

2

Fine

"Bright College Years"

Trio

f

nf

p

cresc.

ff

D. C.

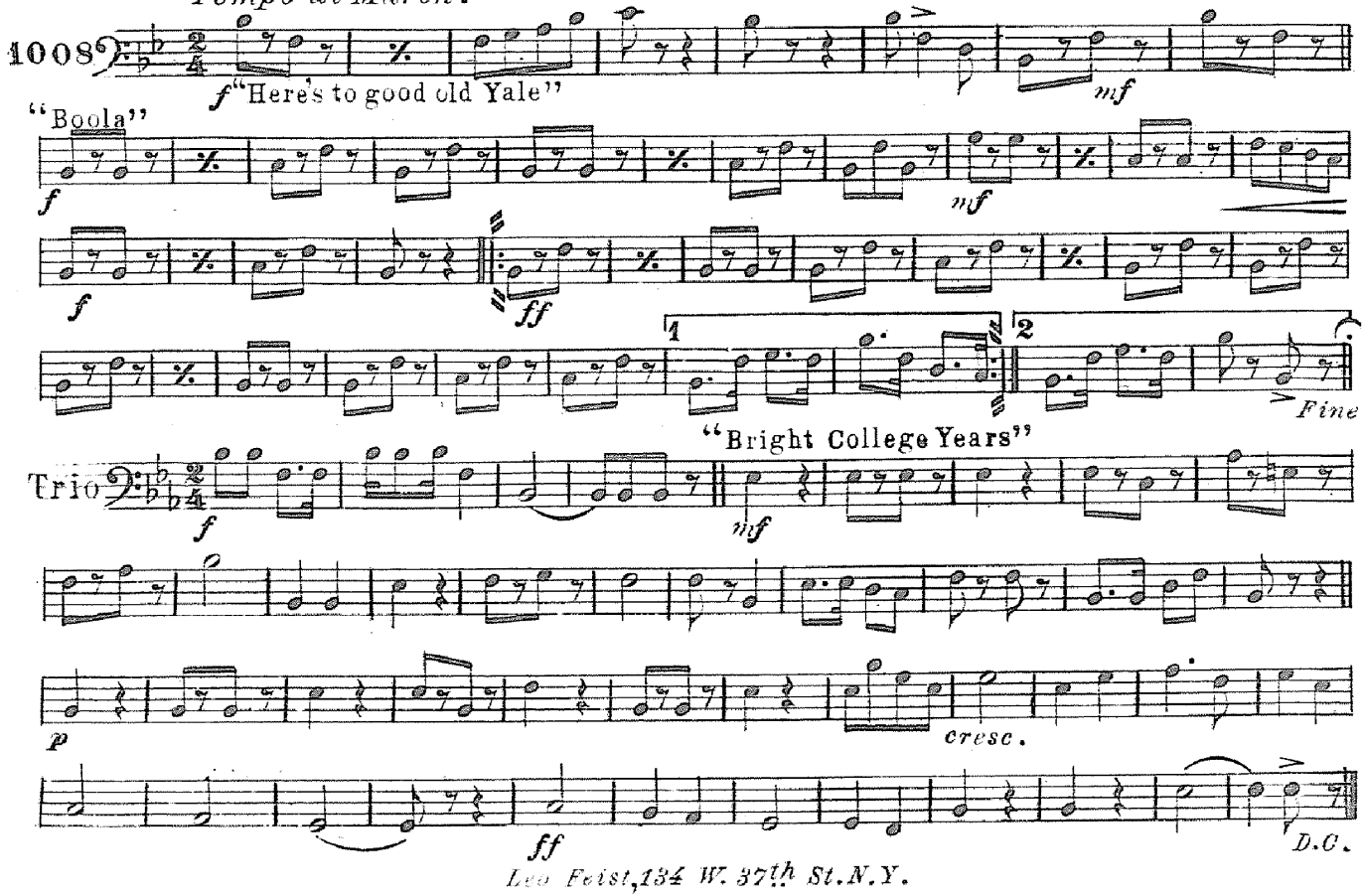
Chas. H. Loomis, New Haven, Ct.

YALE BOOLA.

BASS TROMBONE.

By A.M.Hirsh.
Arr.by G.L.Atwater Jr.

Tempo di March.



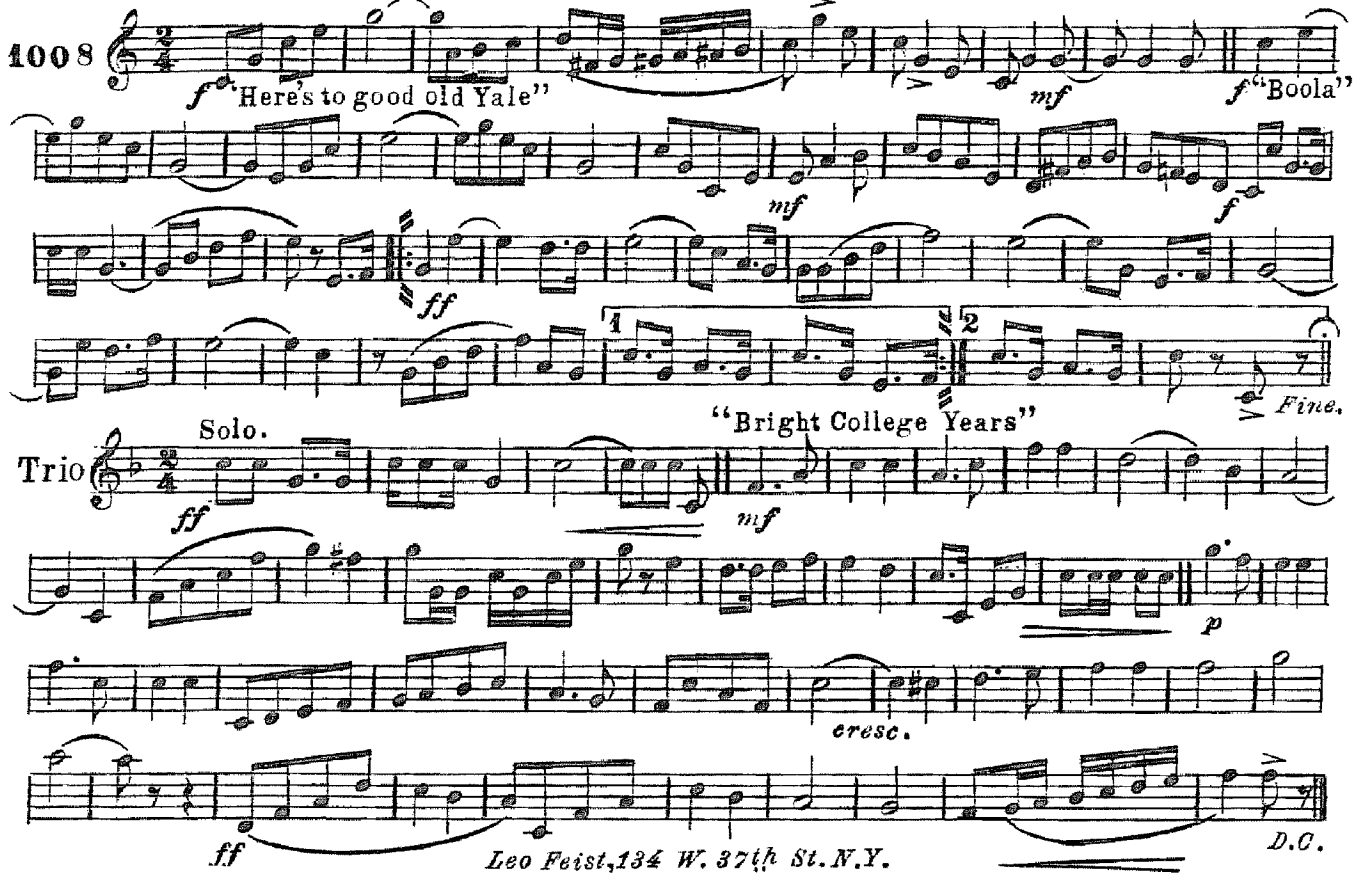
Leo Feist, 134 W. 37th St. N.Y.

BARITONE

YALE BOOLA.

By A.M.Hirsh.
Arr.by G.L.Atwater Jr.

Tempo di March.



Leo Feist, 134 W. 37th St. N.Y.

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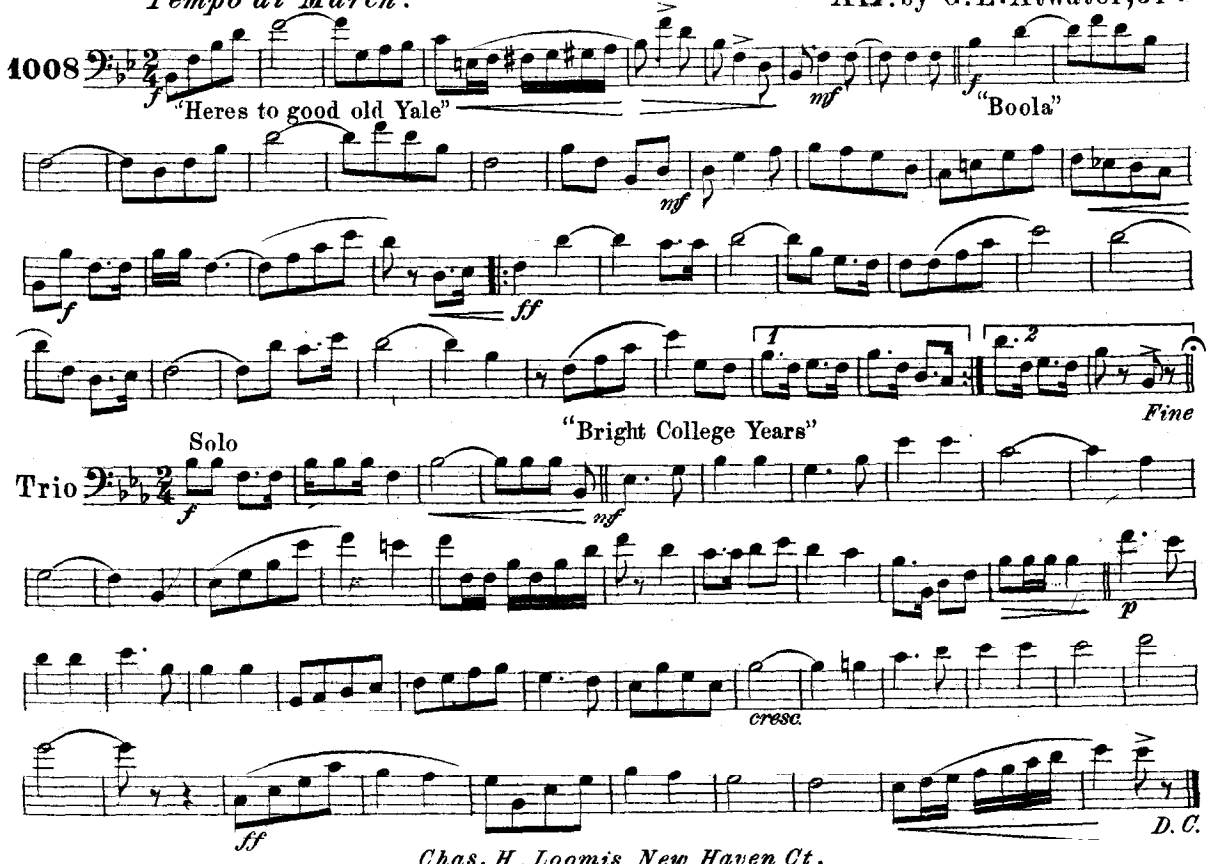
BARITONE.

YALE BOOLA.

By A. M. Hirsh.
Arr. by G. L. Atwater, Jr.

Tempo di March.



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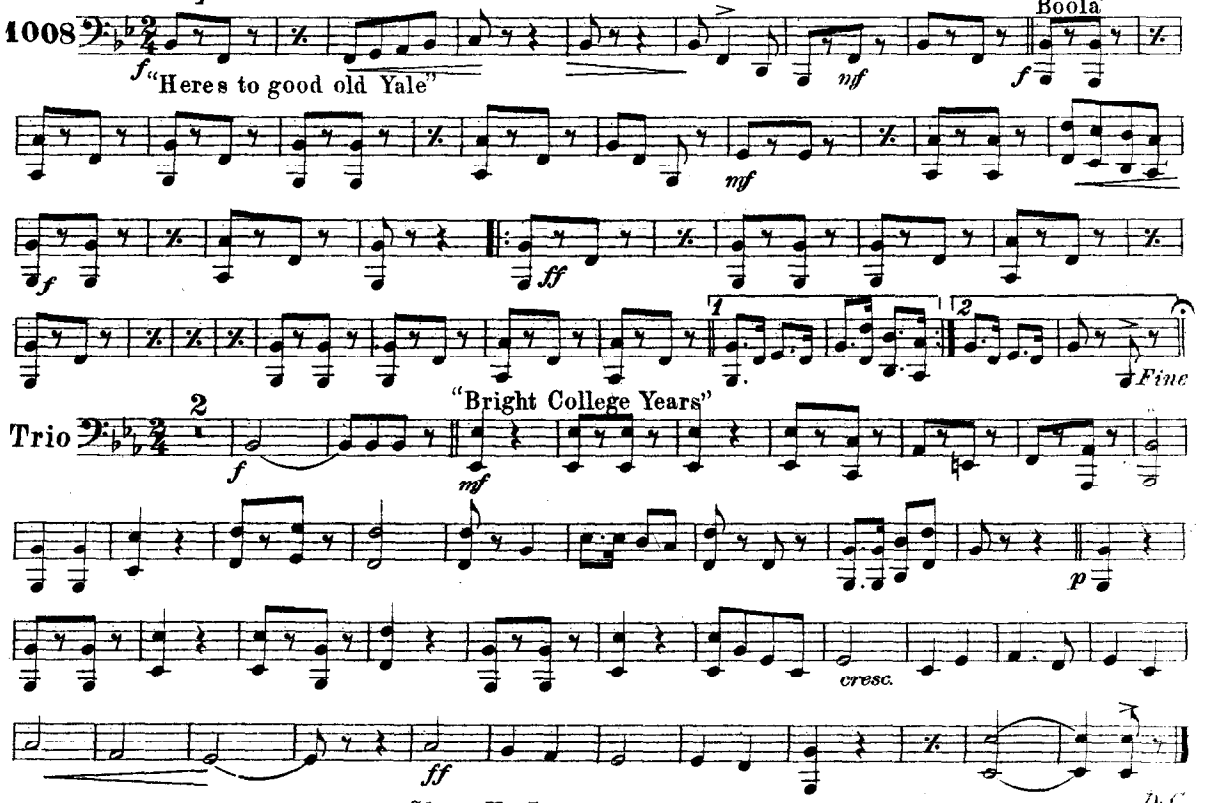
YALE BOOLA.

TUBA.

By A. M. Hirsh.
Arr. by G. L. Atwater, Jr.

Tempo di March.



Chas. H. Loomis, New Haven, Ct.

D. C.

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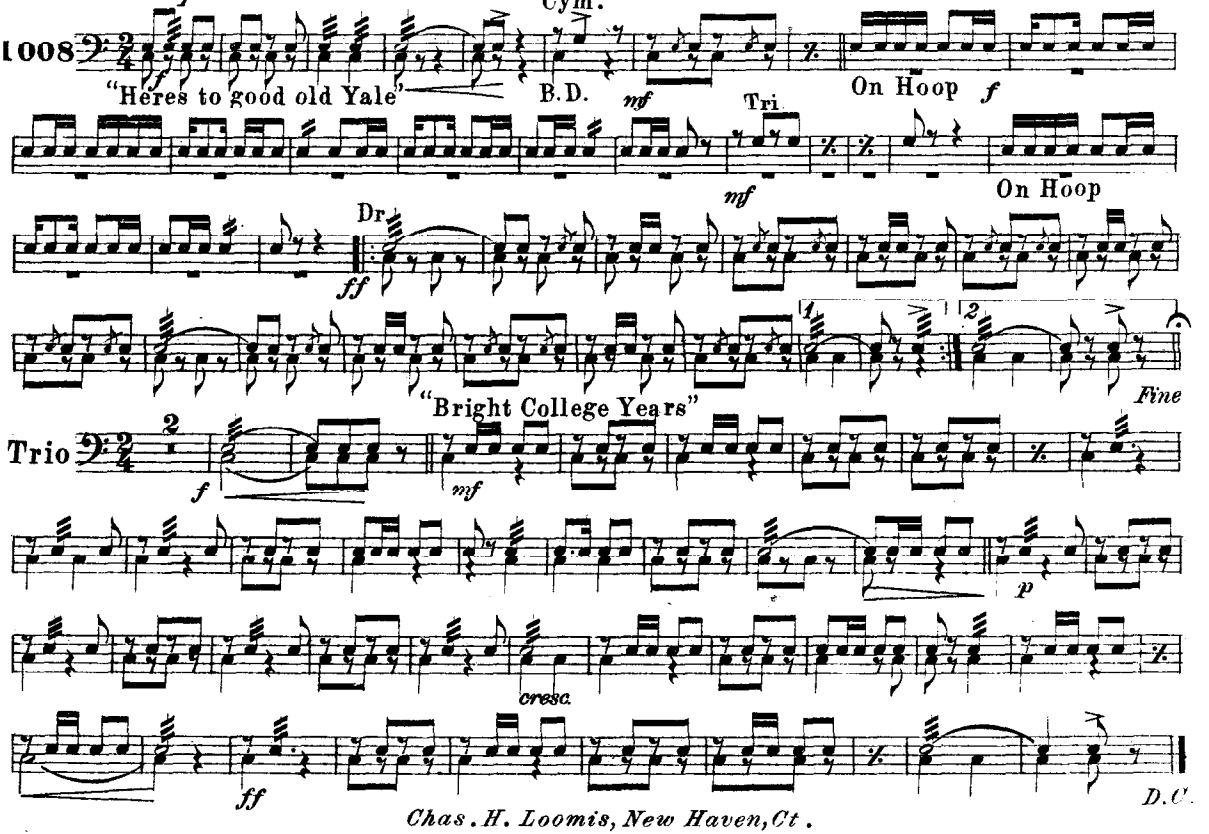
YALE BOOLA

DRUMS.

By A.M.Hirsh.
Arr.by G.L.Atwater,Jr.



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