

Mikado March (1885)

The popularity of Sousa's medley marches, which were based on themes of other composers, never approached that of his original compositions. Such was the case with the "Mikado March," which utilized themes from the celebrated Gilbert and Sullivan operetta.

Paul E. Bierley, The Works of John Philip Sousa (Westerville, Ohio: Integrity Press, 1984), 71. Used by permission.

Editorial Notes

Throughout Sousa's career as a conductor, he often altered the performance of his marches in specific ways without marking or changing the printed music. These alterations were designed for concert performances and included varying dynamics and omitting certain instruments on repeated strains to expand the range of the musical textures, as well as adding unscripted percussion accents for dramatic emphasis at key points in the music. Although Sousa never documented his performance techniques himself, several players who worked extensively with Sousa provided directions for his frequently performed marches, most notably from cornetist Frank Simon. Many of the marches in Volume 2 of "The Complete Marches of John Philip Sousa" were staples in Sousa's regular concert repertoire and were included in the "Encore Books" used by the Sousa Band. A complete set of his Encore Books resides in the U.S. Marine Band Library and Archives and are referenced extensively by the Marine Band not only as a guide for some of Sousa's special performance practice, but also to ascertain the exact instrumentation he employed in his own performances of his marches.

"The Complete Marches of John Philip Sousa" appears in chronological order and is based on some of the earliest known sources for each composition. These newly edited full scores correct many mistakes and inconsistencies found in the parts of early publications; however, all remaining markings and the original scoring are preserved. Where instruments are added to the original orchestration, it is guided by the additional parts Sousa sanctioned in his Encore Books where applicable or based on these typical doublings. Additionally, the alterations traditionally employed by the United States Marine Band in performance are incorporated throughout; either those specifically documented by Sousa's musicians or changes modeled on the customary practices of "The March King."

The musical decisions included in these editions were influenced by the work of several outstanding Sousa scholars combined with many decades of Marine Band performance tradition. These editions would not be possible without the exceptional contributions to the study of Sousa's marches by Captain Frank Byrne (USMC, ret.), Jonathan Elkus, Colonel Timothy Foley (USMC, ret.), Loras Schissel, Dr. Patrick Warfield, and "The March King's" brilliant biographer, Paul Bierley.

Performance practices that deviate from the original printed indications are described below and appear in [brackets] in the score. In many instances these indications appear side-by-side with the original markings. An open diamond marked with an accent in the cymbal part indicates that the cymbal player should let that accent ring for an additional beat before rejoining the bass drum part.

Introduction (m. 1-8): All notes are accented in all parts. Note that the cymbal and bass drum parts are separate here and the cymbal can be initially played with a snare drum stick. The crash cymbals enter right away on the first strain, so if performed this way, it will require two players or an attached cymbal on the bass drum. A *subito mezzo-forte* was added in m. 8 to facilitate the following crescendo back to forte for the first strain.

First Strain (m. 9-24): This strain is essentially a repeated 8-bar phrase written out with the trombones playing a counter line the second time. The trombones should play a true *fortissimo* beginning in m. 17.

Second Strain (m. 25-50): This longer tune in the medley march has more dynamic shaping opportunities than the previous strain. Accents are added on beat two of m. 34 and 35 before an added *decrescendo* right as the percussion drops out. After a bar of *mezzo-piano*, a crescendo leads back to the base *forte* dynamic and the colorful addition of a triangle in percussion.

Trio (m. 50-82): Sousa changes key to the subdominant and changes the meter to 6/8 here. The trombones lead another tune in the medley and are joined by the woodwinds and cornets in m. 58. A new strain of the melody is introduced in m. 67 and on the repeat of that melody in m. 74, it is effective to raise the dynamic to *fortissimo* and add accents in the percussion in m. 76 and 78.

Final Strain and Coda (m. 82-end): Unusually, Sousa modulates again to the new subdominant and goes back to cut time. Accents are added in percussion throughout this extended final strain of the medley to punctuate the tunes. Additionally, the original accents written in the rest of the band are important to give proper character to the music. The grace notes in the upper woodwinds beginning in m. 107 should be played short and close to the resulting notes. The cymbal played with a snare stick returns in m. 111 to finish the march with a similar feel to the opening, but the crash cymbals play the final two bars and have one final accent in m. 121.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band MIKADO MARCH Flute/Piccolo





















1st & 2nd Oboes (1885)**JOHN PHILIP SOUSA** March Tempo. 6 0 > [mf]< 14 0 22 þ^p, 0 • . 0 f marc. 27 32 • • [mp]37 C ╞╋┛ 43 **6** 8 Ó 51 ŧ Ż \neq _____/ 58

> This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH 1st & 2nd Oboes



















E Clarinet

(1885)





















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH E Clarinet























This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

























This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH 2nd Bb Clarinet























This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band























(1885)





















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band



















E Cornet





















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH Eb Cornet





















Solo Bb Cornet



















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH Solo Bb Cornet























This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band





















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band





















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH 3rd Bb Cornet



1st F Horn [originally Eb Alto]

(1885)



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH 1st F Horn



















2nd F Horn



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH 2nd F Horn



















3rd F Horn [originally Eb Alto]

(1885)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band MIKADO MARCH 3rd F Horn



4th F Horn [originally Eb Alto]



JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band MIKADO MARCH 4th F Horn





Baritone

(1885)





















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band




















Baritone, T.C.

(1885)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.





















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band





















1st Trombone

(1885)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA





















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH 1st Trombone



















2nd Trombone

(1885)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA





















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH 2nd Trombone



















Bass Trombone

(1885)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA





















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

MIKADO MARCH Bass Trombone





This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band























This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band























Bass Drum/Cymbals

(1885)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



















This Edition in the Public Domain - 2016 As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band MIKADO MARCH Bass Drum/Cymbals

