

## MARCH OF THE ROYAL TRUMPETS TRUMPETS

FULL \* SCORE

"THE PRESIDENT'S OWN" UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

## March, "March of the Royal Trumpets" (1892)

Six Egyptian trumpets, nearly five feet long, were used by the Sousa Band in featuring this composition on the first tour in 1892. There is no record of the piece being performed by the band after that season. However, in 1904 Sousa appropriated some of the themes for "Her Majesty the Queen," a movement of his *At the King's Court* suite. Band parts of the original "March of the Royal Trumpets" found their way to the Detroit Concert Band in 1966, and the piece was revived for a radio broadcast. This was the first performance in seventy-four years, and the march was never published in the original form.

Paul E. Bierley, The Works of John Philip Sousa (Westerville, Ohio: Integrity Press, 1984), 70. 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 this volume 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.

**First Strain (m. 1-28):** This unusual march does not have an intro, and the first strain includes an original timpani part. The featured trumpet fanfares enter at fortissimo at m. 9. For the subsequent subito piano "echoes" of the fanfare, the number of players can be reduced. In many of the marches from this period, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> cornet parts are also doubled by one trumpet player on each part. This is especially effective in this march and others with similar fanfare figures.

**Second Strain (m. 29-42):** The end of the first strain ends rather suddenly, and the unresolved roll in m. 28 is original. A solo cornet is featured in this strain, which ends with a final set of trumpet/cornet flourishes alternating with low brass.

**Trio (m. 43-58):** Because this trio melody is led by horn, low clarinets, and saxophones, it is important that it be played expressively and including some of the added dynamics.

**Break strain (m. 59-66):** This break strain begins quietly in low brass. The roll in percussion beginning in m. 63 should be snare drum and bass drum only (no cymbals).

**Final Strain (m. 67-82):** This final strain is played fortissimo both times with cymbals back in. The repeat of the break strain begins with a sudden return to piano. On the second pass through the final strain, accents can be added in percussion in m. 72-74 and 80 for dramatic variety.

Coda (m. 83-88): A brief coda brings this grand march to its conclusion, once again showcasing a solo cornet alternating with the full band.

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