

John Philip Sousa (November 6, 1854 – March 6, 1932) was an American composer and conductor of the late Romantic era, known particularly for American military and patriotic marches. Because of his mastery of march composition, he is known as "The March King." Sousa joined the U.S. Marine Band as its head in 1880 and remained as its conductor until 1892. Sousa led "The President's Own" band under five presidents from Rutherford B. Hayes to Benjamin Harrison. Sousa's band played at two Inaugural Balls, those of James Garfield in 1881, and Benjamin Harrison in 1889. Sousa organized his own band the year he left the Marine Band. The Sousa Band toured from 1892–1931, performing at 15,623 concerts.

King Cotton is a military march composed in 1895 for the Cotton States and International Exposition (1895). The expression "King Cotton" in general refers to the historically high importance of cotton as a cash crop in the southern United States. The tune is often included in compilations of Sousa's works. It was also included in the musical soundtrack (though not the soundtrack album) as carousel music in the 1973 film, *The Sting*. The tune is also featured in the film *The Adventures of Milo and Otis* as background music. It is also featured in "Emanuelle Goes to Dinosaur Land", an episode of the American television show *30 Rock*.

Dr. Michael Pratt has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan.

He has sung with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Croswell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band.

He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreech, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson.

Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

King Cotton

March

Duration 2:45

John Philip Sousa
Arr. Michael Pratt

March Tempo ♩ = 120

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes parts for Trumpet in B♭ 1, Trumpet in B♭ 2, Horn in F, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The second system includes parts for B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., Euph., and Tuba. The score is in 6/8 time and features dynamic markings of *ff* and *f*. Measure numbers 1 through 12 are indicated above the staves. The first system ends at measure 6, and the second system begins at measure 7.