

John Philip Sousa (1854 – 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" or the "American March King" due to his British counterpart Kenneth J. Alford also being known as "The March King". Among his best known marches are "The Washington Post", "Semper Fidelis" (Official March of the United States Marine Corps), and "The Stars and Stripes Forever" (National March of the United States of America).

The Stars and Stripes Forever is a patriotic American march widely considered to be the magnum opus of composer John Philip Sousa. By act of Congress, it is the National March of the United States of America. In his autobiography, *Marching Along*, Sousa wrote that he composed the march on Christmas Day 1896. He was on an ocean liner on his way home from a vacation with his wife in Europe and had just learned of the recent death of David Blakely, the manager of the Sousa Band. He composed the march in his head and committed the notes to paper on arrival in the United States. It was first performed in Philadelphia on May 14, 1897, and was immediately greeted with enthusiasm.

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 Crosswell 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.

The Stars and Stripes Forever

Duration 3:32

March

John Philip Sousa, 1897

Arr. Michael Pratt
for Brass Septet

March tempo $\text{♩} = 120$

A

The image shows a musical score for a brass septet. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system contains staves for Trumpet in B♭ 1, Trumpet in B♭ 2, Trumpet in B♭ 3, Horn in F, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The second system contains staves for B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, B♭ Tpt. 3, Hn., Tbn., Euph., and Tuba. The music is in 2/4 time with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B♭ and E♭). The score includes dynamics such as *ff* and articulation marks like accents and slurs. A section labeled 'A' begins at measure 5. The score ends at measure 12 with a final cadence.

Trumpet in B♭ 1
ff

Trumpet in B♭ 2
ff

Trumpet in B♭ 3
ff

Horn in F
ff

Trombone
ff

Euphonium
ff

Tuba
ff

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba