The Complete Marches of John Philip Sousa

Vol. 4 No. 57

The Man Behind The Gun

March

(1899)

Full Score

As performed by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band
March, “The Man Behind the Gun” (1899)

In telling a reporter how this march was inspired, Sousa also gave his explanation of why his marches have been more successful than those of the master composers:

A composition in march tempo must have the military instinct, and that is one reason why so few of the great composers have written successful marches. They lived in an atmosphere of peace. The roll of musketry had no meaning for them, so that quality is entirely absent from their work. The Spanish War was an inspiration to me. “The Man Behind the Gun” was a musical echo of it.

The march first appeared in the operetta Chris and the Wonderful Lamp (1899).


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 of the other expressive markings and the original scoring are largely preserved. Where instruments are added to the original published 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” in his own performances.

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. There are many instances in which these alterations appear side-by-side with the original markings in this edition in an effort to clearly document where and how these deviations occur. 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. 1-4): The recommended tempo is 122 bpm. The cymbal crash in the first measure may ring, however, the one in m. 4 should be choked to clear the air for the pick-up notes to the first strain. The entire introduction in played at fortissimo with good accents on each note.

First Strain (m. 5-20): The dynamic immediately drops a bit to forte with the pick-up notes to the first strain. The “galloping” figures in second and third cornets/trumpets should come through the texture, and the decorative trills in the flute/piccolo and clarinets throughout this strain should be fast and sustained. The dropping out of percussion in m. 13-19 is original; in order to highlight this unusual orchestration, an overall drop in dynamic to mezzo-forte beginning in m. 13 also adds nice contrast to the strain. Cymbals are choked again in m. 20 as in m. 4.
**Second Strain (m. 21-38):** Piccolo, E-flat clarinet, cornets, trombones, and cymbals are *tacet* first time, and all others play at *mezzo-piano*. All instruments are back in at *fortissimo* in m. 37 on beat two, and added percussion accents in m. 22 and *sfz* accents in m. 29 and m. 33 as indicated highlight key moments in this martial melody.

**Trio (m. 38-54):** The trio moves from 6/8 to 2/4 time. Although Sousa usually did not specifically indicate that pick-up notes should be played in the new time signature, the Marine Band’s performance practice is to do so, and this edition indicates that practice with the duples in m. 38. The strong *sf* notes followed by an immediate *piano* is a typical device of many similar 2/4 trios in Sousa’s 6/8 marches. This effect can be highlighted further by having the cymbal play on the accented notes, but remain *tacet* for the other parts of the strain, as indicated in this edition.

**Break Strain (m. 55-62):** This brief break strain is really just an interlude to the final strain and it is not repeated. The indicated accents in the cymbal part help add some interesting shape to the line.

**Final Strain (m. 62-94):** The dynamic of the final strain beginning on beat two of m. 62 immediately drops to *mezzo-piano* and piccolo, E-flat clarinet, cornets, trombones, and cymbals are *tacet* first time. All instruments play again in m. 77 after the downbeat as indicated, with a *tutti* molto crescendo to *fortissimo*. A *sfz* accent in percussion in m. 86 last time adds an exclamation point to the peak of the melody.
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN

(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President's Own” United States Marine Band
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
Flute/Piccolo

45

50

55

61

69

77

83

89
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
1st Oboe

\[f\]
\[p\]
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

[Music notation for clarinet in Eb]

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President's Own” United States Marine Band
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
1st B♭ Clarinet

45

50

55

61

68

77

83

89
March
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900) JOHNP HILIP SOUSA

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

3rd B♭ Clarinet

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
Eb Alto Clarinet

43

47

52

57

63

71

79

87
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

Bb Bass Clarinet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President's Own” United States Marine Band
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN

(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

TRIO.

s

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

Eb Cornet
[optional]

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

Solo B♭ Cornet

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN

(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

1st B♭ Cornet

[Staff notation of the music score]

TRIO.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President's Own” United States Marine Band
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

2nd B♭ Cornet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

John Philip Sousa

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band.
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
3rd B♭ Cornet

TRIO.

\( \text{bars 39-44} \)

\( \text{bars 50-55} \)

\( \text{bars 63-70} \)

\( \text{bars 77-83} \)

\( \text{bars 89} \)
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
1st F Horn

TRIO.

\[\text{\textcopyright 2023 TRIO.}\]

\[\text{\textcopyright 2023 TRIO.}\]

\[\text{\textcopyright 2023 TRIO.}\]
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018

4th F Horn
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
4th F Horn

TRIO.

\[ \text{Music notation of the Trio section for the 4th F Horn} \]
March

THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN

(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by "The President’s Own" United States Marine Band
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
1st Trombone

45

51

57

[tacet]

63

70

77

[Play]

[mf  ———— ] ff

83

89
March
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900) JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

2nd Trombone

March Tempo.

ff

f

6

ff

12

19

[mp] (ff 2nd X)

24

29

34

[ff]

39

TRIO.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
March
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)  
JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

Bass Trombone

March Tempo.

This Edition in the Public Domain - 2018  
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band
THE MAN BEHIND THE GUN
(1900)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.

ff

March Tempo.