The Complete Marches of

John Philip Sousa

Vol. 6 — No. 100

The Black Horse Troop

March

(1924)

FULL SCORE

AS PERFORMED BY

"THE PRESIDENT'S OWN" UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

March, "The Black Horse Troop" (1924)

Sousa's love for horses is reflected in this march dedicated to the mounted troops of a Cleveland National Guard unit. Their exclusive use of black horses was the inspiration for the title. Troop A, once known as the First City Troop of Cleveland, was originally an independent militia group and has had a long, distinguished history since its formation in 1877. Sousa's most noteworthy association with the troop came in 1898. The Sousa Band, having arrived in Cleveland just as the troop was preparing to leave for the Spanish-American War, marched in a parade escorting them from the Armory to the train depot. His first association was much earlier, however. As leader of the U.S. Marine Band in 1881, he marched with the organization in the funeral cortege of President James A. Garfield.

At a dinner held in Sousa's honor in November, 1924, the march was requested by Captain Walker Nye of Troop A. The request was fulfilled promptly, and the march was presented in Cleveland on October 17, 1925, at a Sousa Band concert which also marked the forty-eighth anniversary of Troop A. For the occasion, the mounted troopers were dressed in the blue uniforms of 1877, complete with black fur busbies. Sousa presented a manuscript of the march to Captain Nye. Troop A reciprocated by presenting Sousa with a beautiful bronze statuette entitled "The Last Drop," which depicted a trooper on horseback.

Many of the former Sousa Band members expressed their fondness for this composition and commented on the descriptive character it assumed when performed by Sousa himself. Part of the effect was due to the 6/8 rhythm, which suggests the canter of horses. Also contributing to the effect was Sousa's use of simulated hoofbeats.

Paul E. Bierley, *The Works of John Philip Sousa* (Westerville, Ohio: Integrity Press, 1984), 42. 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 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, which can be found online at https://www.marineband.marines.mil/About/Library-and-Archives/Encore-Books/. A complete set of his Encore Books resides in the U.S. Marine Band Library and Archives, and they 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): This march starts at *fortissimo*, but the originally-written crescendo in the first measure adds a bit of style to the rising chromatic shape of the music. After a choked cymbal crash in m. 4, the dynamic suddenly drops for a little sweep into the *forte* dynamic of the first strain.

First Strain (m. 5-21): As one of Sousa's best "cavalry" marches, the 6/8 meter in this piece should be played with a galloping lilt throughout and a tempo that is not too fast. This is another march with dynamic contrasts built into the first strain: in m. 8, a diminuendo leads to a more gentle and light four measures, before the subsequent crescendo brings the dynamic back to *forte*. The repeat of the strain is played exactly the same. Some harmonic misprints have been corrected in the published oboe and horn parts in this strain.

Second Strain (m. 22-53): Unlike many Sousa marches, this second strain is traditionally played as originally written from the start, as there is no repeat of this extended section, and there is already dynamic contrast built in. In m. 37, the cornets have a short interlude figure in a *piano* dynamic with woodwind "answers," and then a dramatic crescendo in m. 44 leads to the return of the main melody of the second strain one more time.

Trio (m. 54-85): Starting with the pick-up notes in m. 53, E-flat clarinet, cornets, trombones, and cymbals are *tacet*. Piccolo may still play the written interjections throughout the trio. Horse hoof sounds played on temple blocks or coconut shells are traditionally added to this march

beginning with the trio, as indicated in this edition. Since this is an extended trio, a drop to *pianissimo* with a four-measure crescendo works very well in m. 69-73. Slurs and other articulations were inconsistent throughout this trio melody, and those articulations have been regulated in this edition.

Break Strain (m. 86-101): All instruments are back in on the pick-up to m. 86 with a *subito fortissimo*. The cornet fanfares here should be crisply articulated and to the fore of the texture to highlight the drama of this exciting break strain.

Final Strain (m. 102-134): The dynamic drops suddenly to *piano* on beat 2 of m. 101, first time through the final strain. Piccolo, E-flat clarinet, cornets, trombones, and cymbals are once again *tacet* first time. Slurs are now removed from the trio melody here (except for m. 118-122), and high woodwinds have a decorated figure that should be played with a short and light articulation. All instruments are back in at *fortissimo* on beat 2 of m. 133 for the repeat of the break strain, which is played exactly as before. In m. 101 this time, the dynamic stays at *fortissimo*. The second and third cornets' galloping fanfare figures should be clearly heard through the texture, as well as the added horse hoof sounds. Like the trio, the dynamic drops (this time to *mezzo-forte*) in m. 117, with a strong crescendo back to *fortissimo* in m. 125, and an added *sffz* accent in the percussion at this moment catapults the momentum to the end of this excellent march.

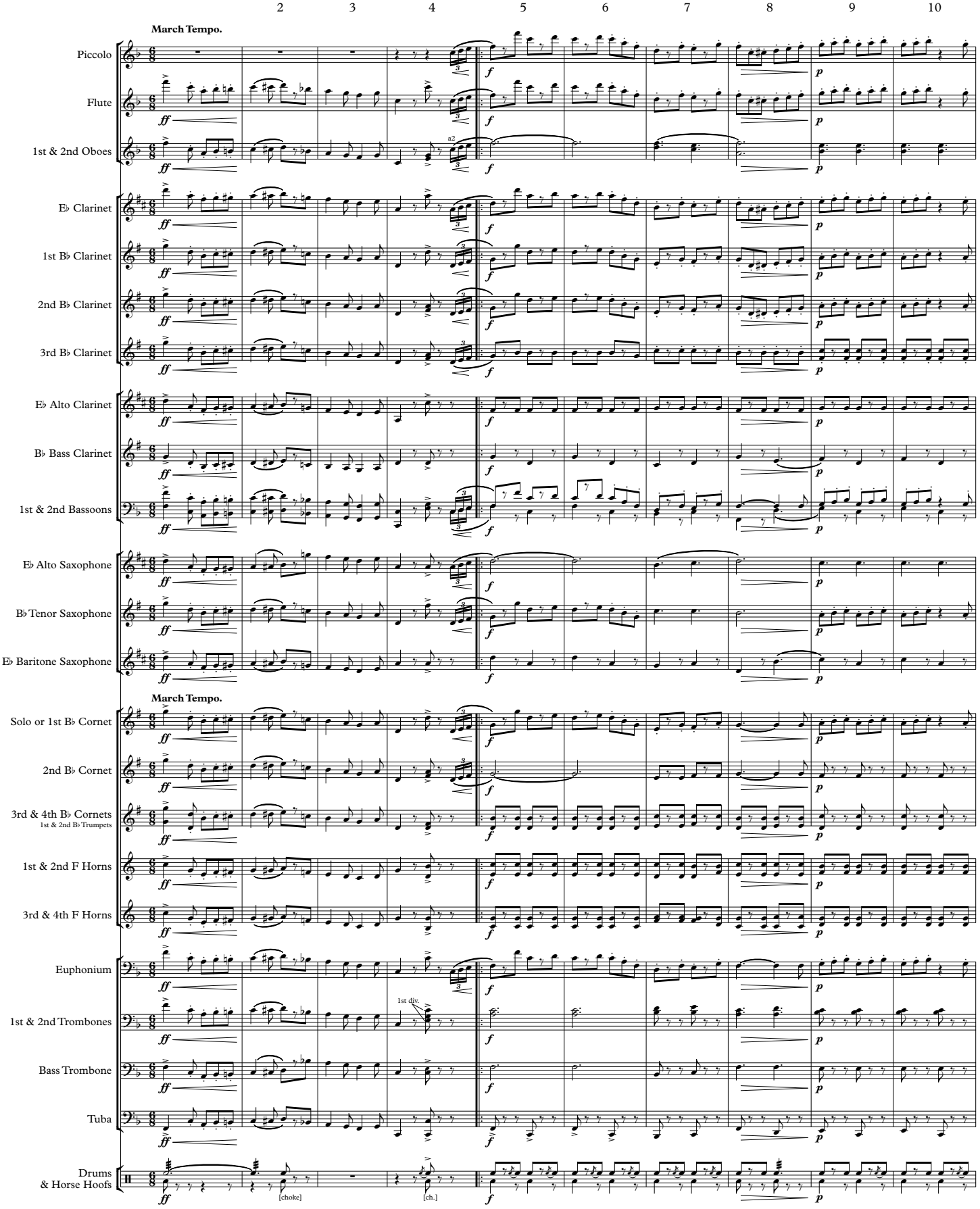
March

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

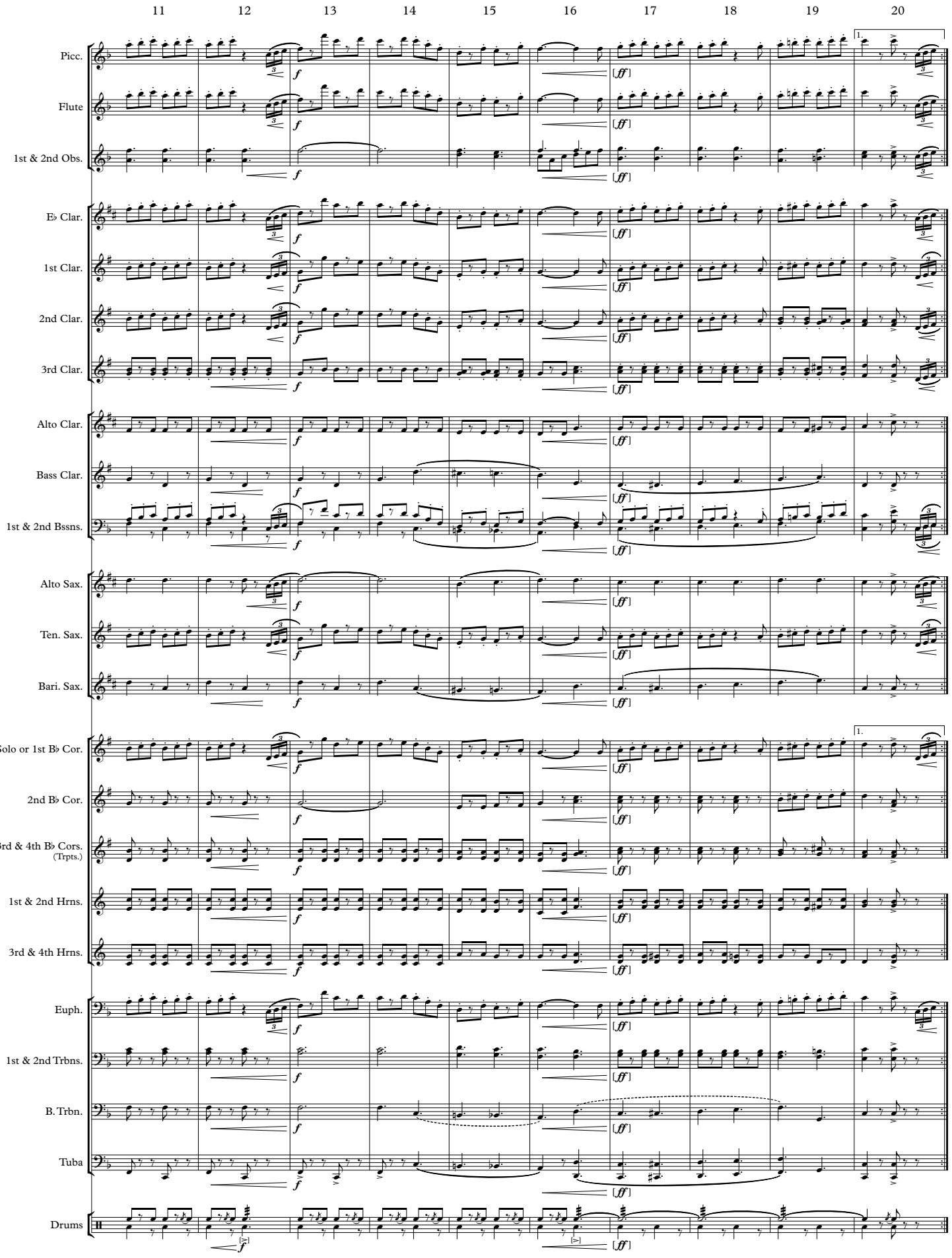
(1924)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

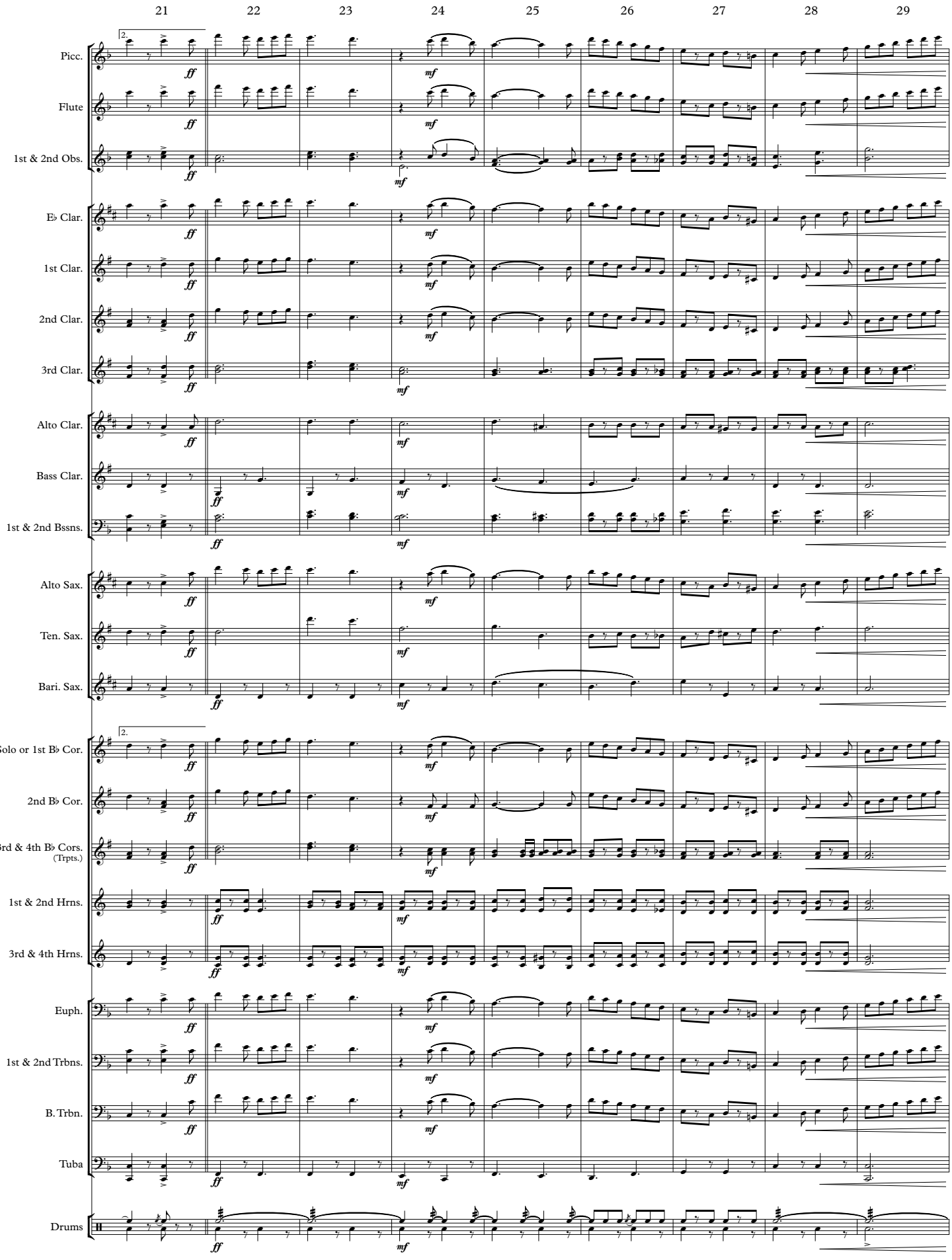
Full Score

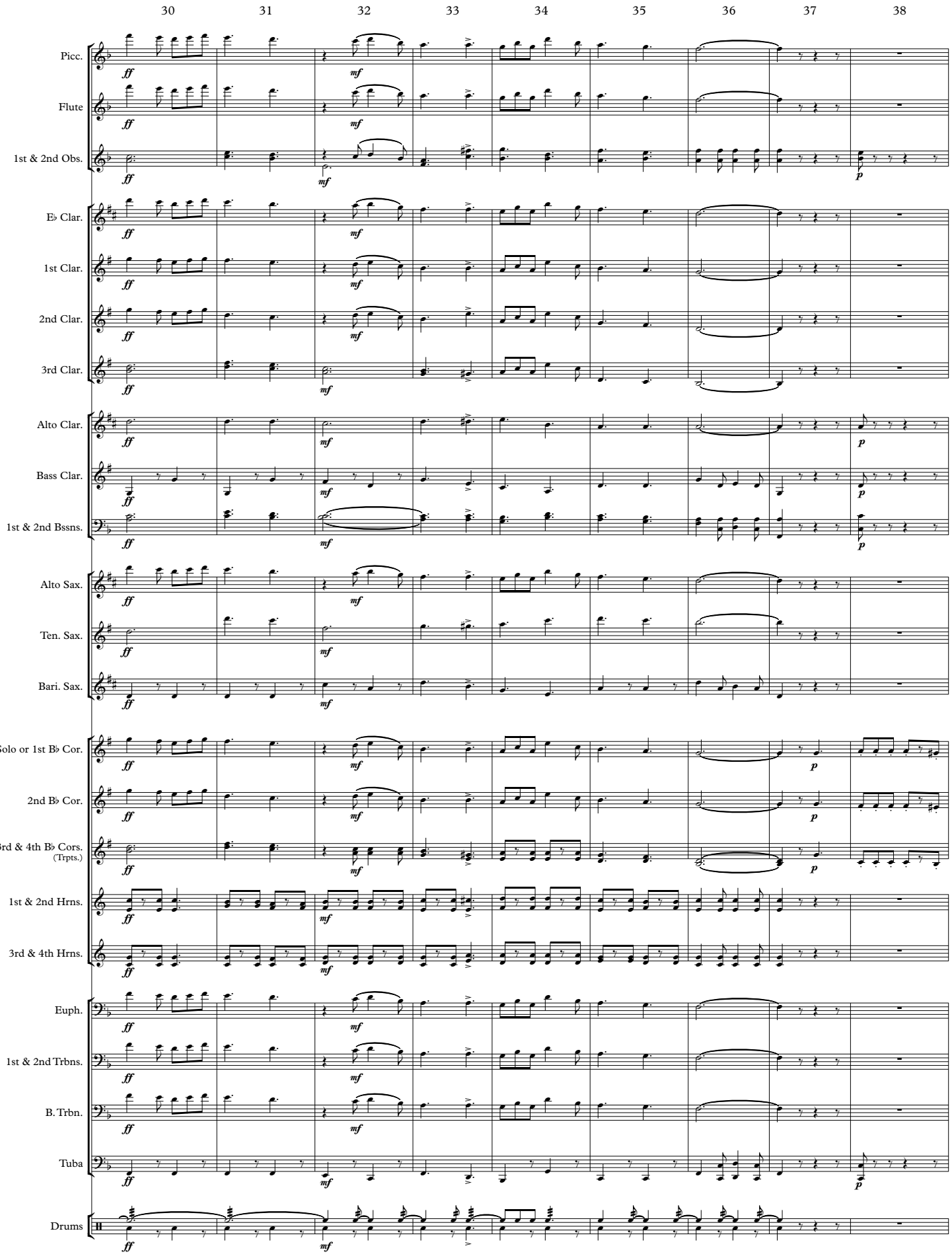


This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band

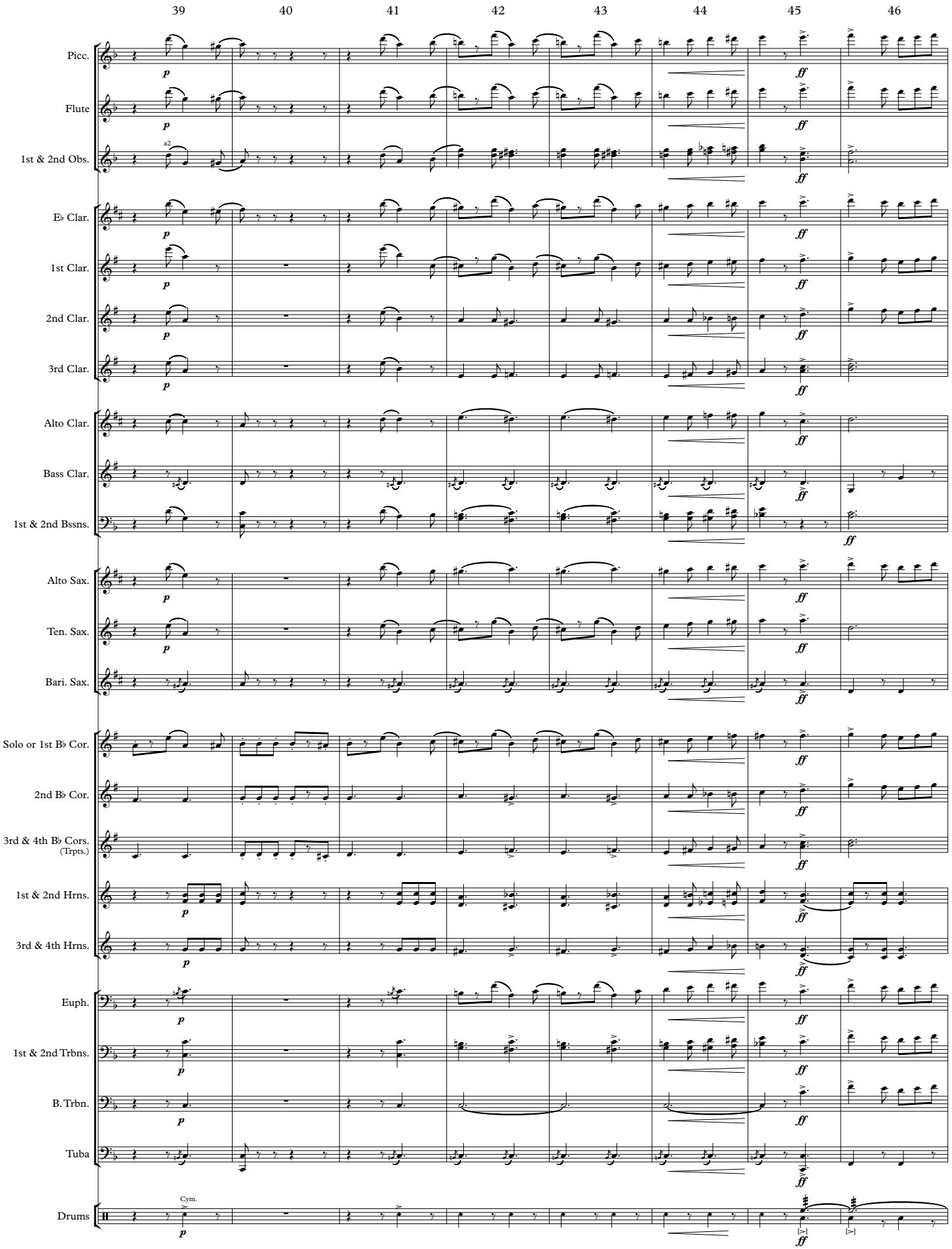

11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
Picc.
Flute
1st & 2nd Obs.
E♭ Clar.
1st Clar.
2nd Clar.
3rd Clar.
Alto Clar.
Bass Clar.
1st & 2nd Bssns.
Alto Sax.
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.
Solo or 1st B♭ Cor.
2nd B♭ Cor.
3rd & 4th B♭ Cors. (Trpts.)
1st & 2nd Hrns.
3rd & 4th Hrns.
Euph.
1st & 2nd Trbns.
B. Trbn.
Tuba
Drums
1.
f
[ff]

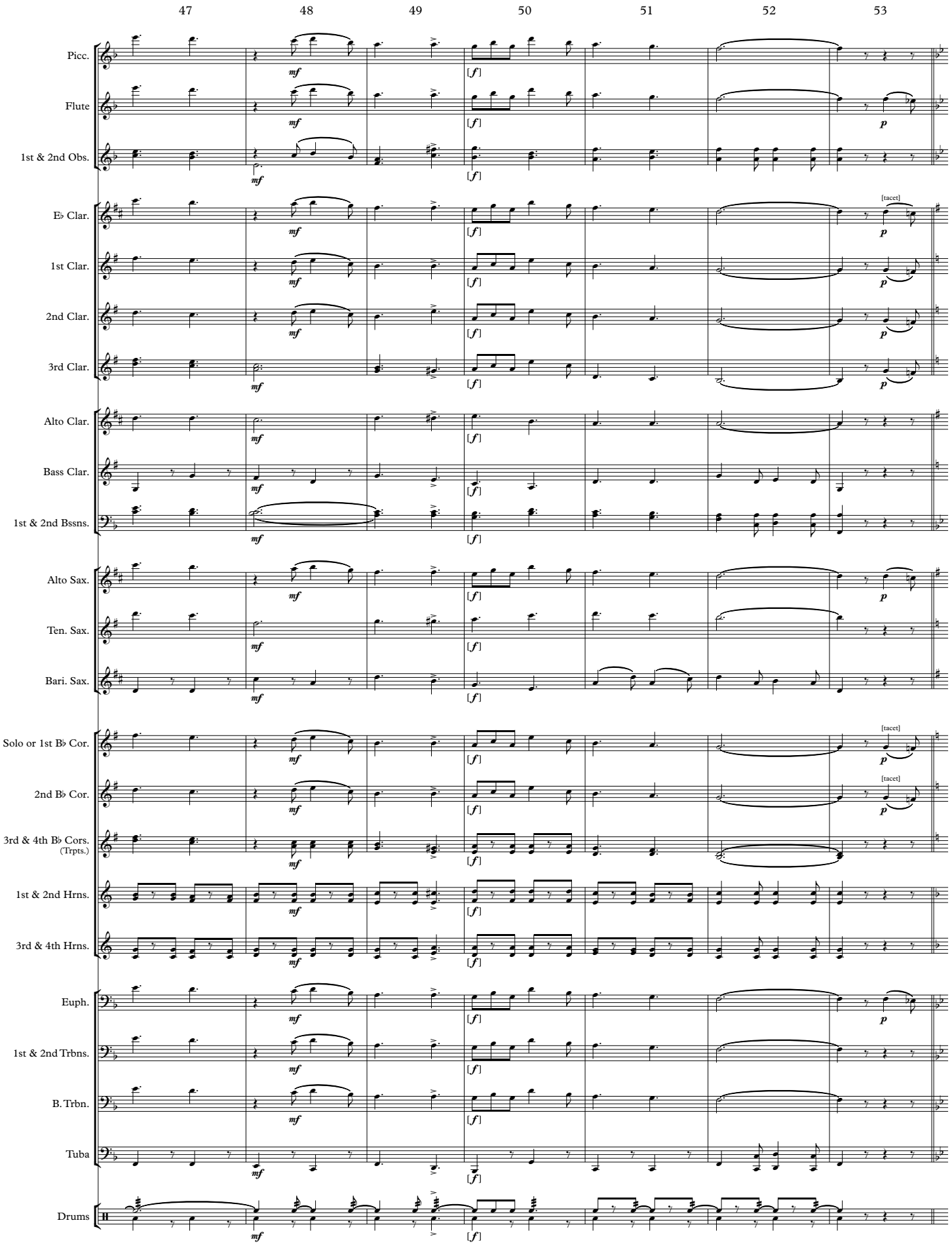
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP
Full Score




30
31
32
33
34
35
36
37
38
Picc.
Flute
1st & 2nd Obs.
E♭ Clar.
1st Clar.
2nd Clar.
3rd Clar.
Alto Clar.
Bass Clar.
1st & 2nd Bssns.
Alto Sax.
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.
Solo or 1st B♭ Cor.
2nd B♭ Cor.
3rd & 4th B♭ Cors. (Trpts.)
1st & 2nd Hrns.
3rd & 4th Hrns.
Euph.
1st & 2nd Trbns.
B. Trbn.
Tuba
Drums

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP
Full Score




47
48
49
50
51
52
53
Picc.
Flute
1st & 2nd Obs.
E♭ Clar.
1st Clar.
2nd Clar.
3rd Clar.
Alto Clar.
Bass Clar.
1st & 2nd Bssns.
Alto Sax.
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.
Solo or 1st B♭ Cor.
2nd B♭ Cor.
3rd & 4th B♭ Cors.
(Trpts.)
1st & 2nd Hrns.
3rd & 4th Hrns.
Euph.
1st & 2nd Trbns.
B. Trbn.
Tuba
Drums
mf
[f]
p
[tacet]

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP
Full Score

54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

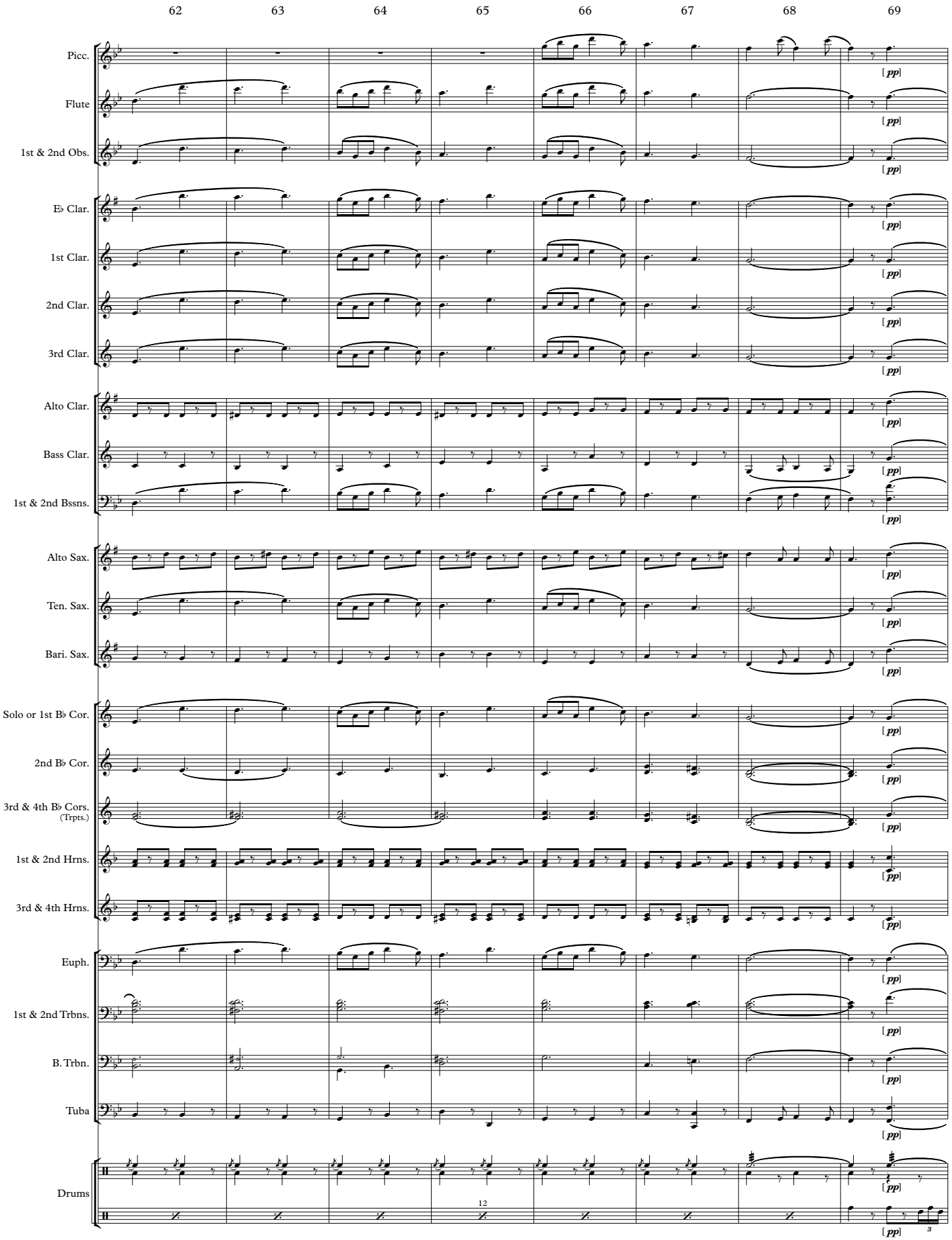
TRIO.

Picc.
Flute
1st & 2nd Obs.
E♭ Clar.
1st Clar.
2nd Clar.
3rd Clar.
Alto Clar.
Bass Clar.
1st & 2nd Bssns.
Alto Sax.
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.

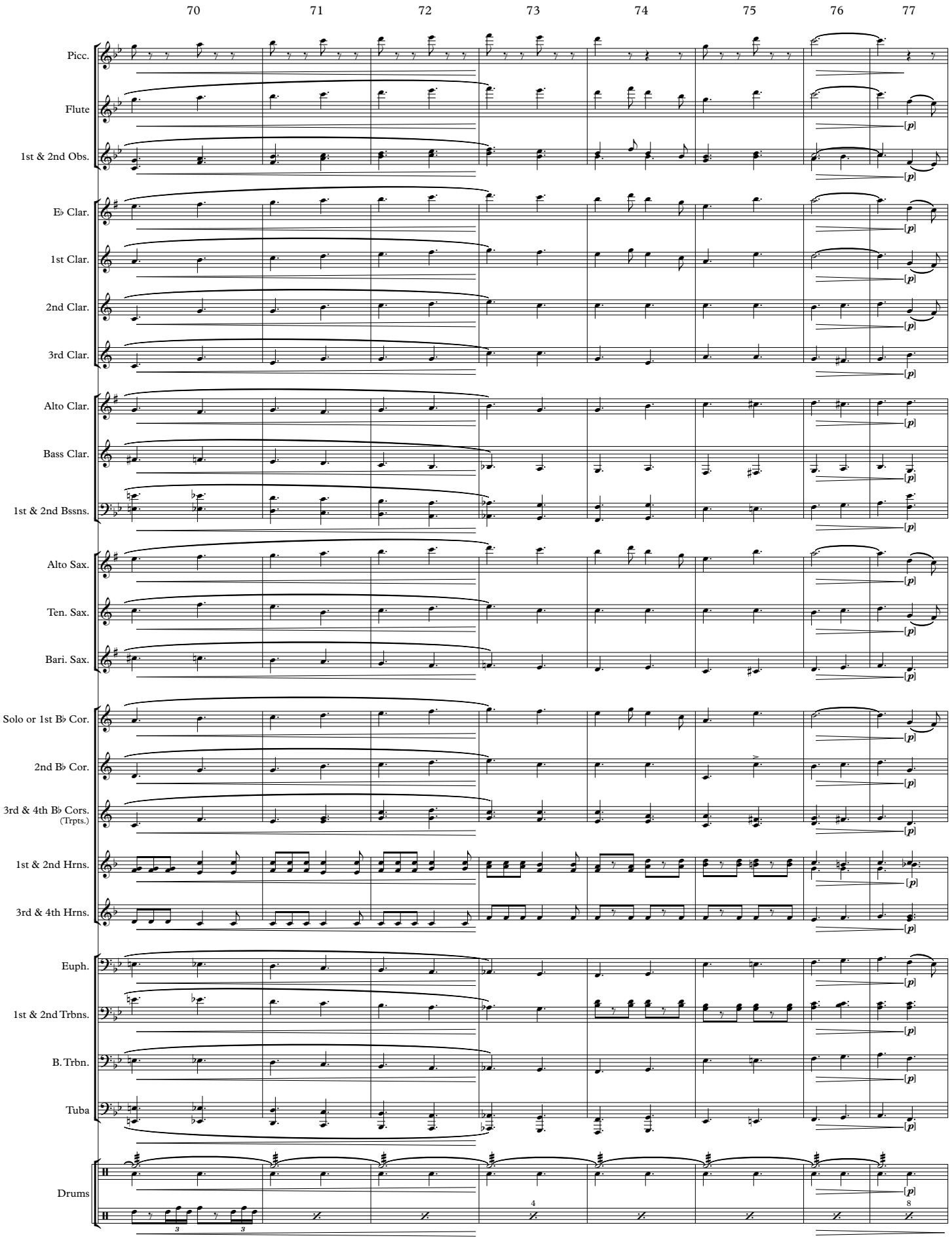
TRIO.

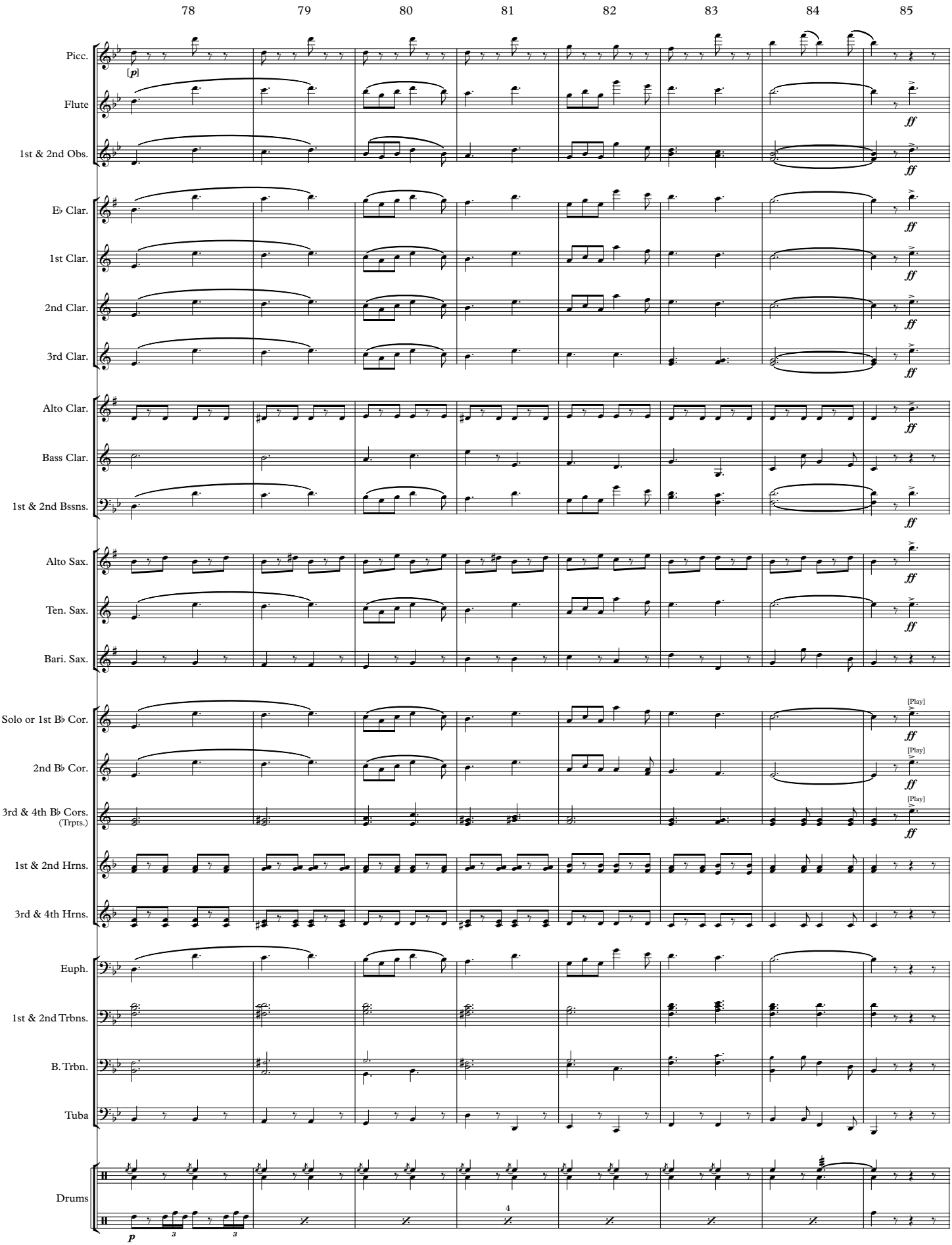
Solo or 1st B♭ Cor.
2nd B♭ Cor.
3rd & 4th B♭ Cors. (Trpts.) [tacet]
1st & 2nd Hrns.
3rd & 4th Hrns.
Euph.
1st & 2nd Trbns. [tacet] 1st div.
B. Trbn. [tacet]
Tuba
Drums [- Cyms.] [not in mauscript] Horse Hoofs (Temple Blocks or Coconut Shells)

4 8

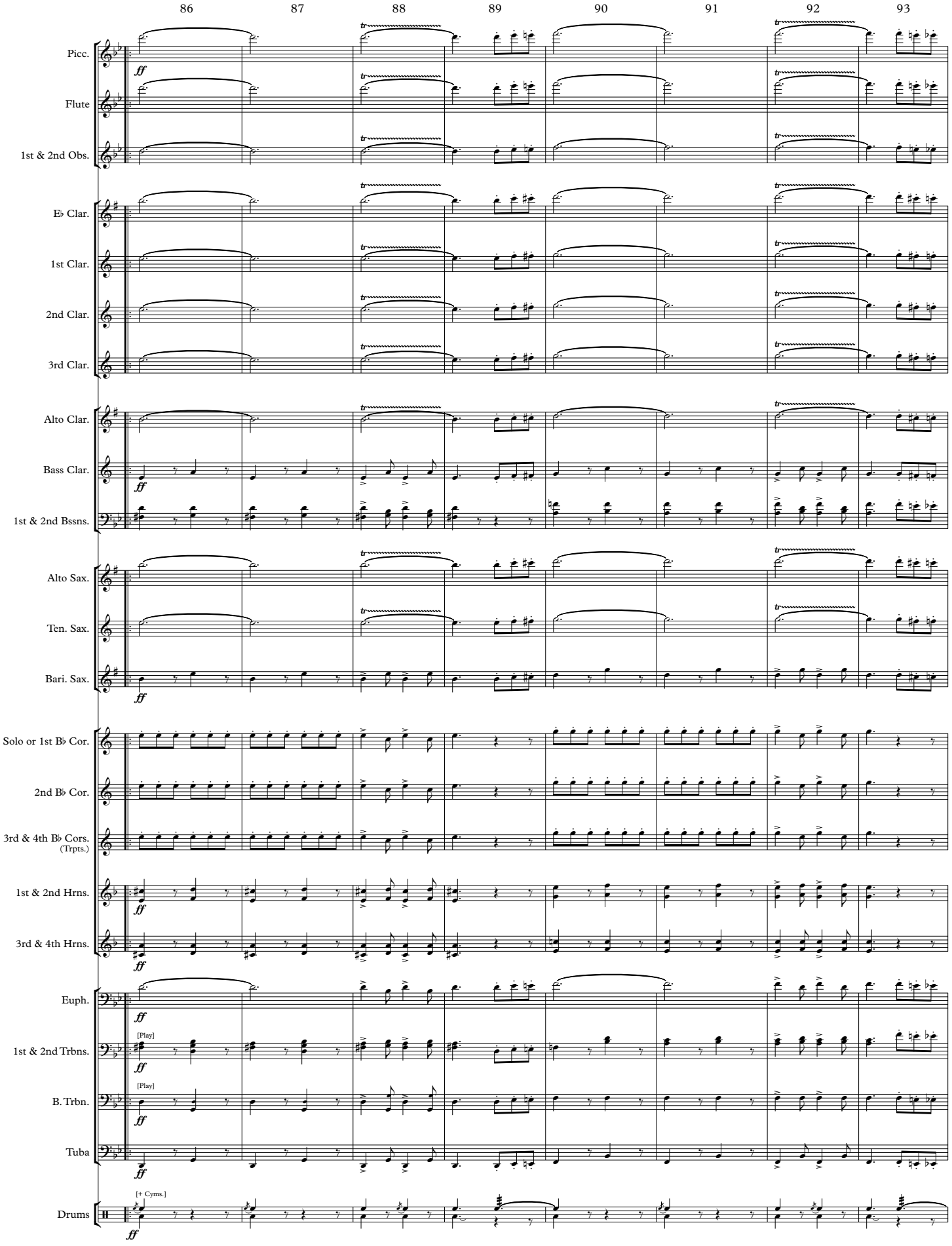

62
63
64
65
66
67
68
69
Picc.
Flute
1st & 2nd Obs.
E♭ Clar.
1st Clar.
2nd Clar.
3rd Clar.
Alto Clar.
Bass Clar.
1st & 2nd Bssns.
Alto Sax.
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.
Solo or 1st B♭ Cor.
2nd B♭ Cor.
3rd & 4th B♭ Cors. (Trpts.)
1st & 2nd Hrns.
3rd & 4th Hrns.
Euph.
1st & 2nd Trbns.
B. Trbn.
Tuba
Drums
[pp]
12
3

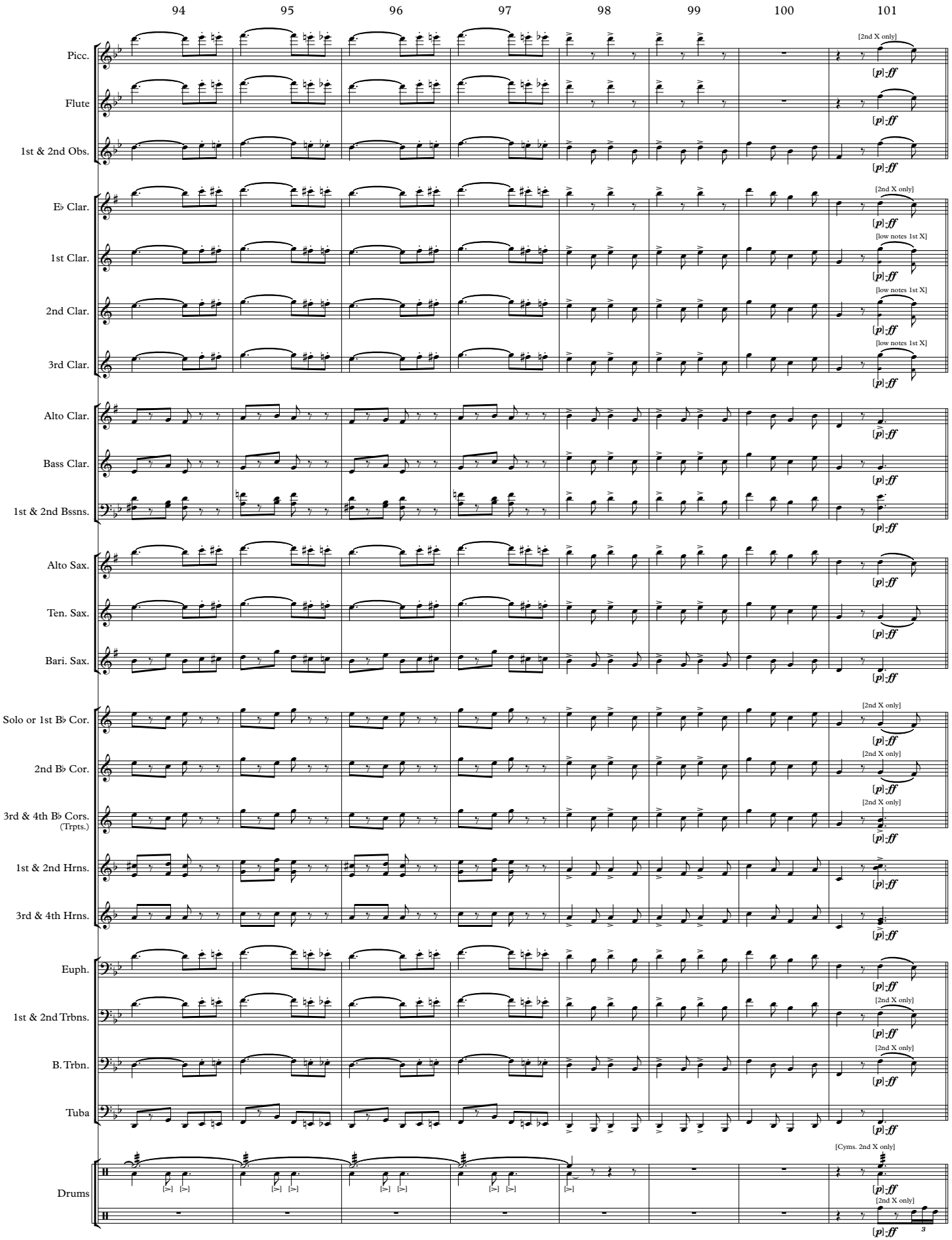
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP
Full Score



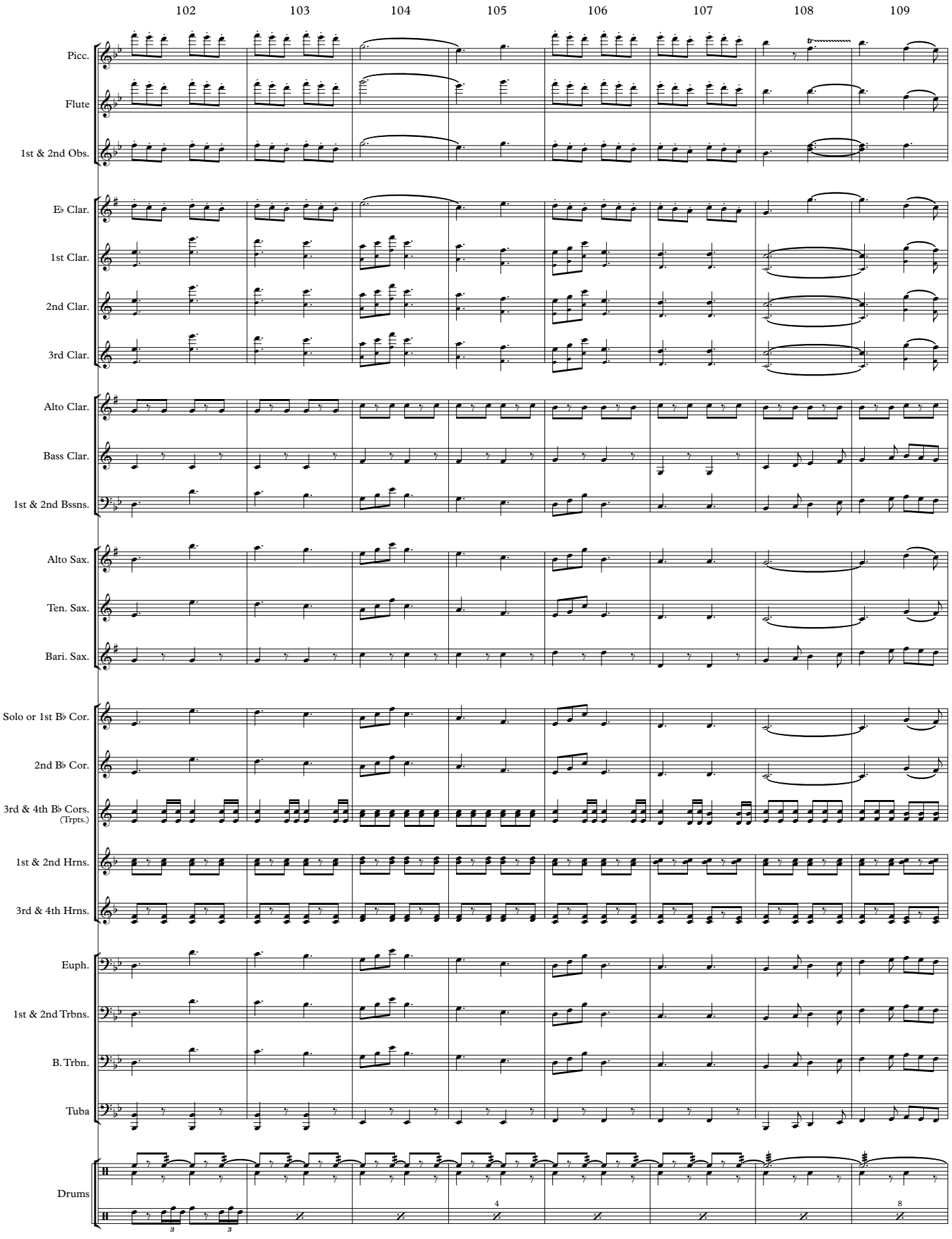

78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
Picc.
[p]
Flute
1st & 2nd Obs.
E♭ Clar.
1st Clar.
2nd Clar.
3rd Clar.
Alto Clar.
Bass Clar.
1st & 2nd Bssns.
Alto Sax.
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.
Solo or 1st B♭ Cor.
2nd B♭ Cor.
3rd & 4th B♭ Cors.
(Trpts.)
[Play]
1st & 2nd Hrns.
3rd & 4th Hrns.
Euph.
1st & 2nd Trbns.
B. Trbn.
Tuba
Drums
ff
p
4

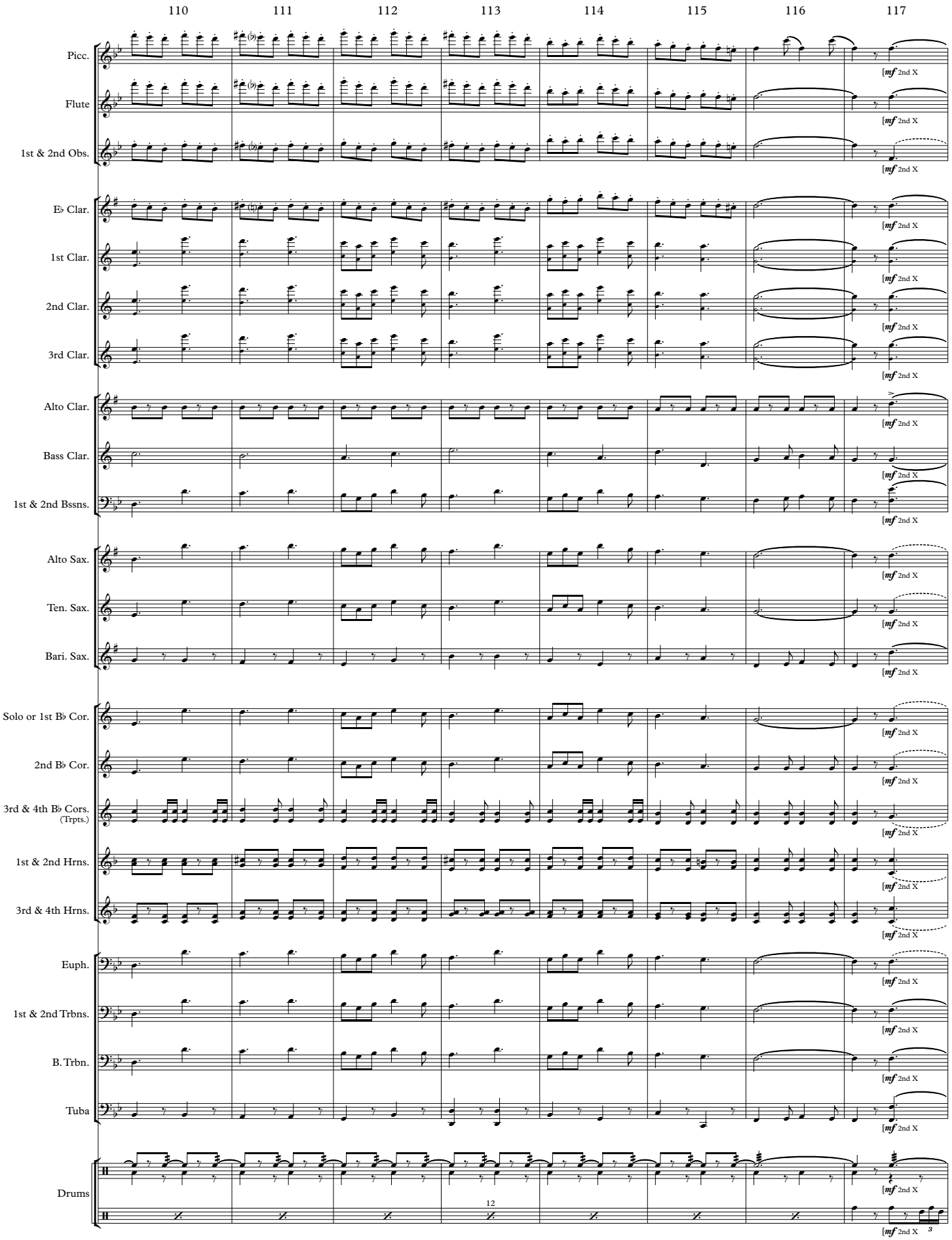
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP
Full Score



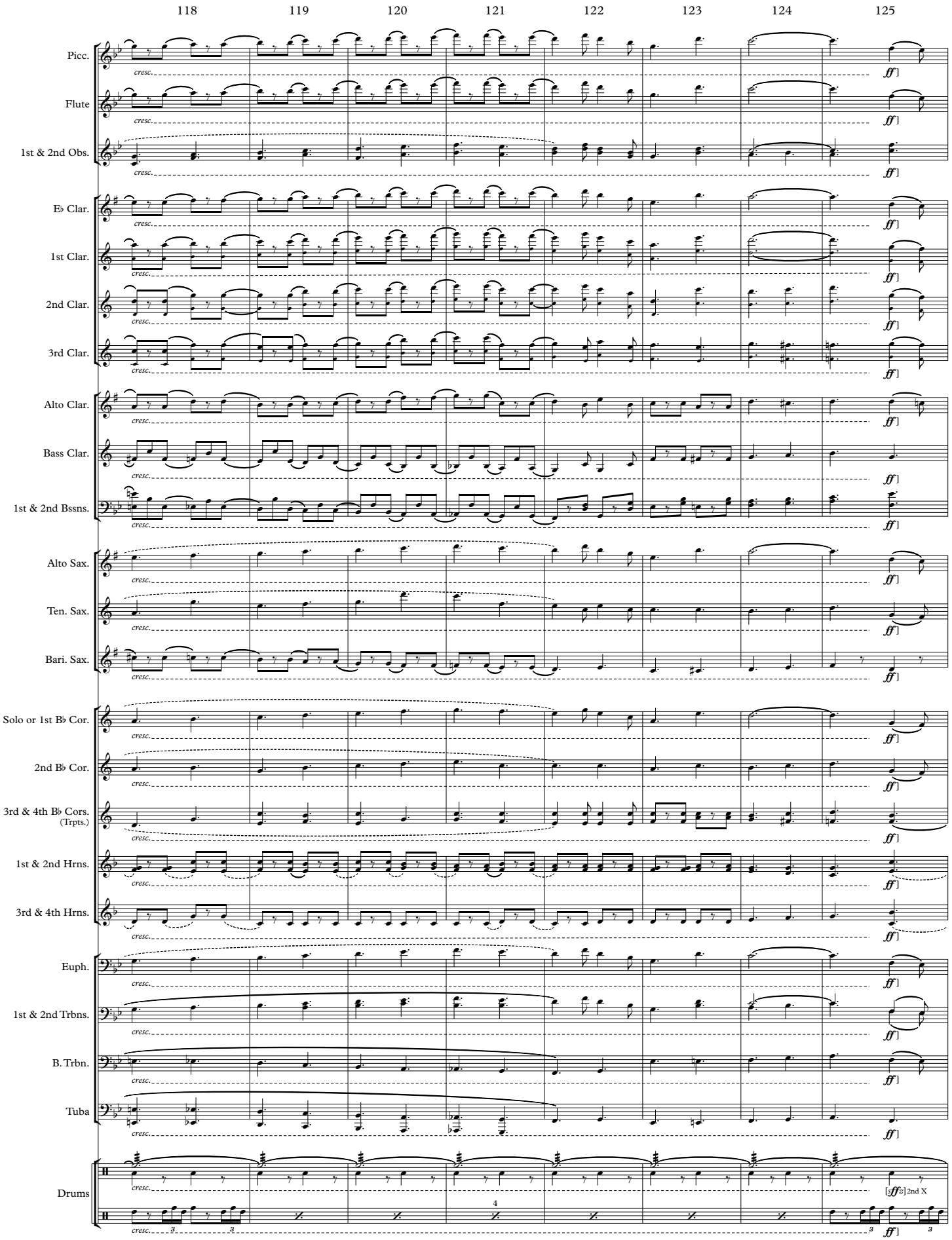

94
95
96
97
98
99
100
101
Picc.
Flute
1st & 2nd Obs.
E♭ Clar.
1st Clar.
2nd Clar.
3rd Clar.
Alto Clar.
Bass Clar.
1st & 2nd Bssns.
Alto Sax.
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.
Solo or 1st B♭ Cor.
2nd B♭ Cor.
3rd & 4th B♭ Cors. (Trpts.)
1st & 2nd Hrns.
3rd & 4th Hrns.
Euph.
1st & 2nd Trbns.
B. Trbn.
Tuba
Drums
[2nd X only]
[low notes 1st X]
[Cyms. 2nd X only]
[p]-ff

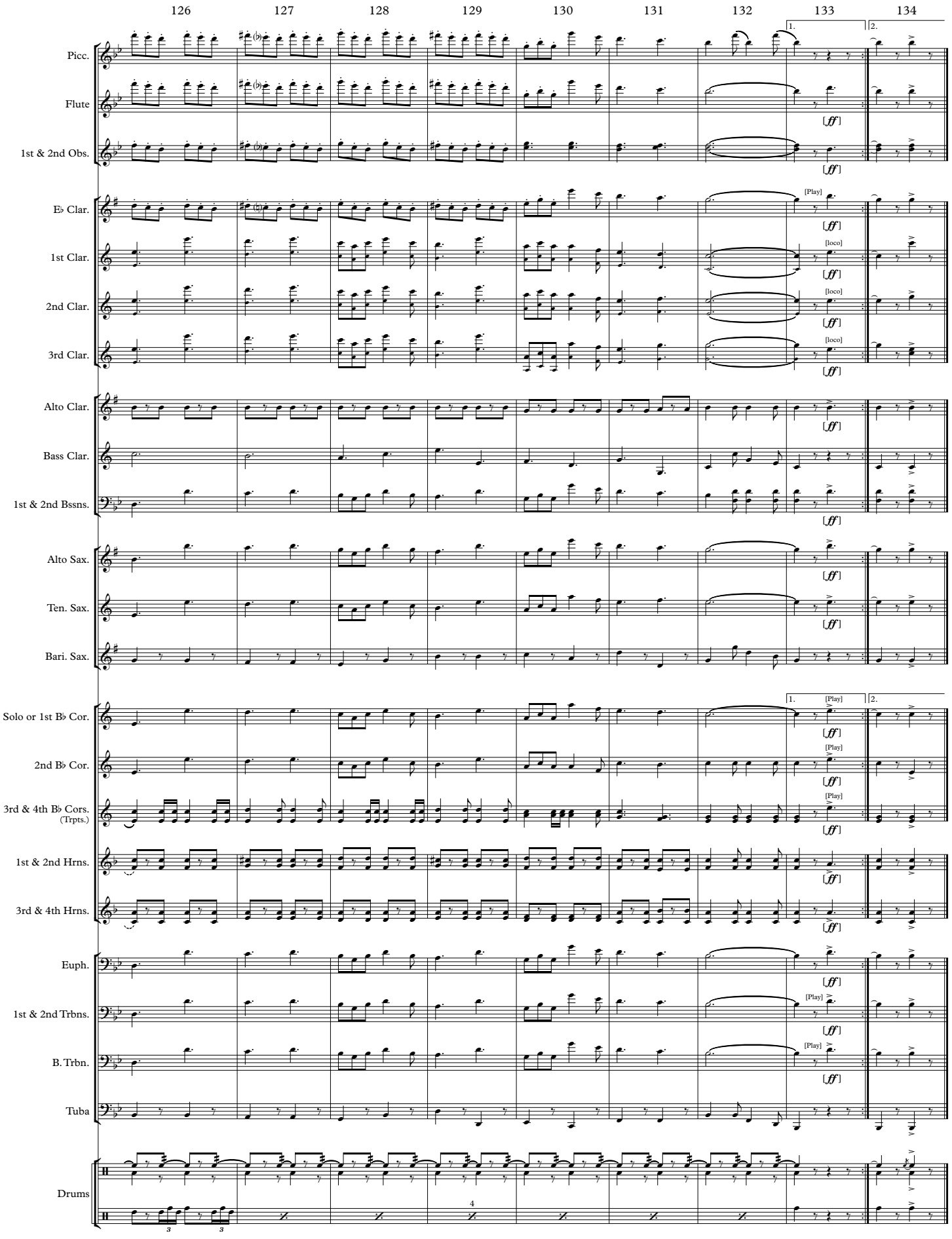
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP
Full Score




110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
Picc.
Flute
1st & 2nd Obs.
E♭ Clar.
1st Clar.
2nd Clar.
3rd Clar.
Alto Clar.
Bass Clar.
1st & 2nd Bssns.
Alto Sax.
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.
Solo or 1st B♭ Cor.
2nd B♭ Cor.
3rd & 4th B♭ Cors.
(Trpts.)
1st & 2nd Hrns.
3rd & 4th Hrns.
Euph.
1st & 2nd Trbns.
B. Trbn.
Tuba
Drums
[mf 2nd X
12

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP
Full Score




126
127
128
129
130
131
132
133
134
Picc.
Flute
1st & 2nd Obs.
E♭ Clar.
1st Clar.
2nd Clar.
3rd Clar.
Alto Clar.
Bass Clar.
1st & 2nd Bssns.
Alto Sax.
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.
Solo or 1st B♭ Cor.
2nd B♭ Cor.
3rd & 4th B♭ Cors. (Trpts.)
1st & 2nd Hrns.
3rd & 4th Hrns.
Euph.
1st & 2nd Trbns.
B. Trbn.
Tuba
Drums
1.
2.
[ff]
[Play]
[loco]
4

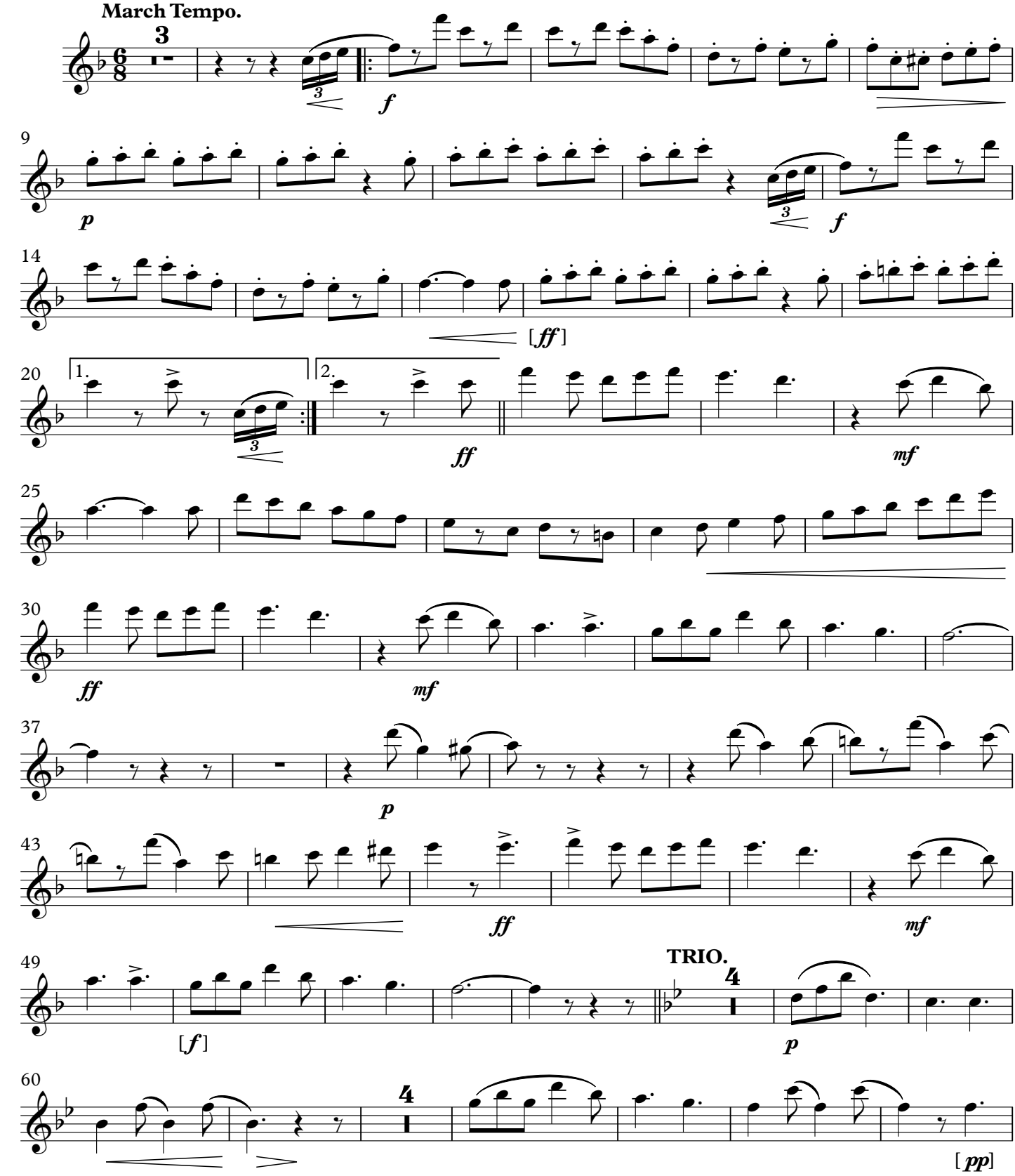
March

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

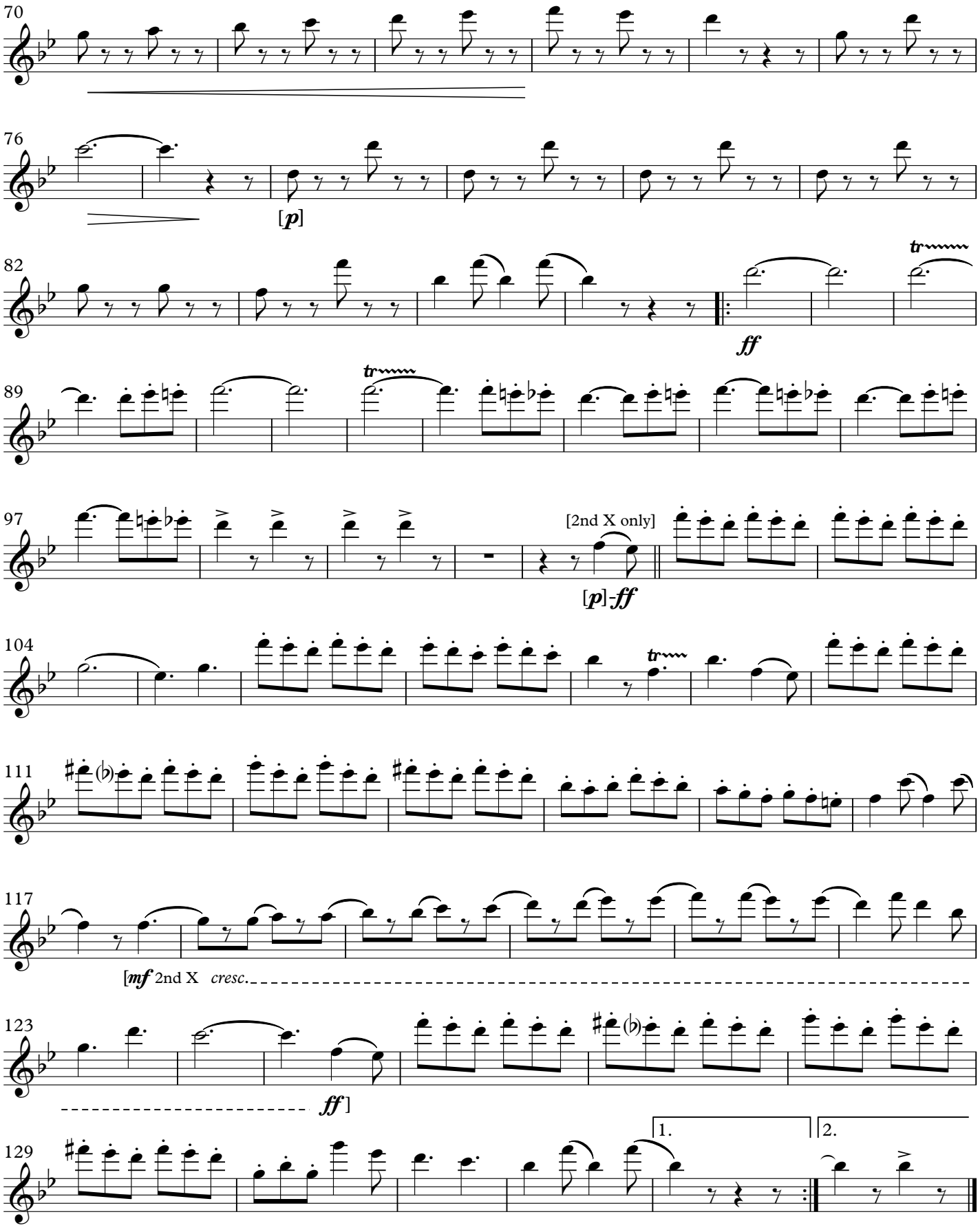
(1924)

Piccolo

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band


70
76
[p]
82
ff
89
97
[2nd X only]
[p]-ff
104
111
117
[mf 2nd X cresc.
123
ff]
129
1.
2.

March

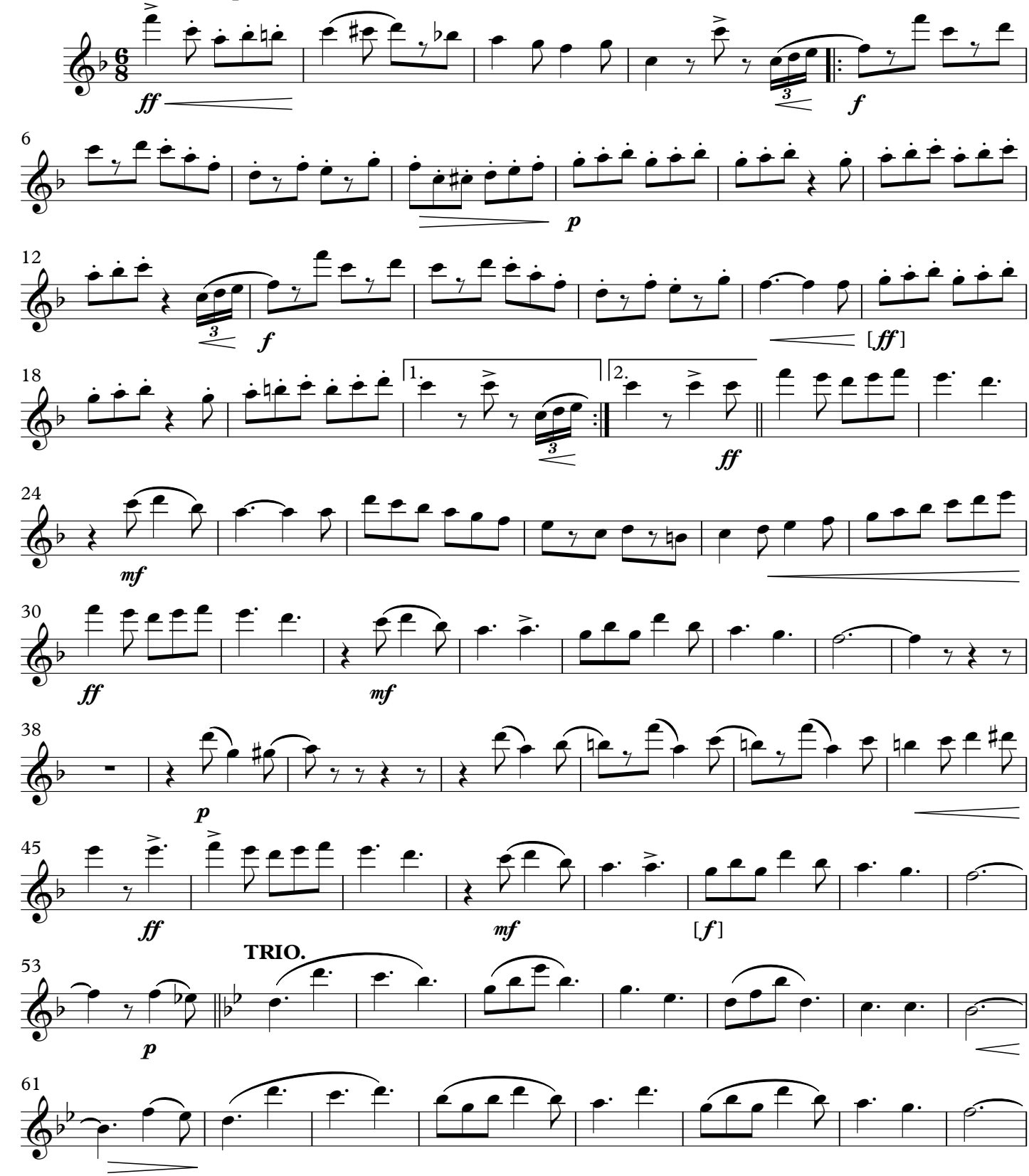
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

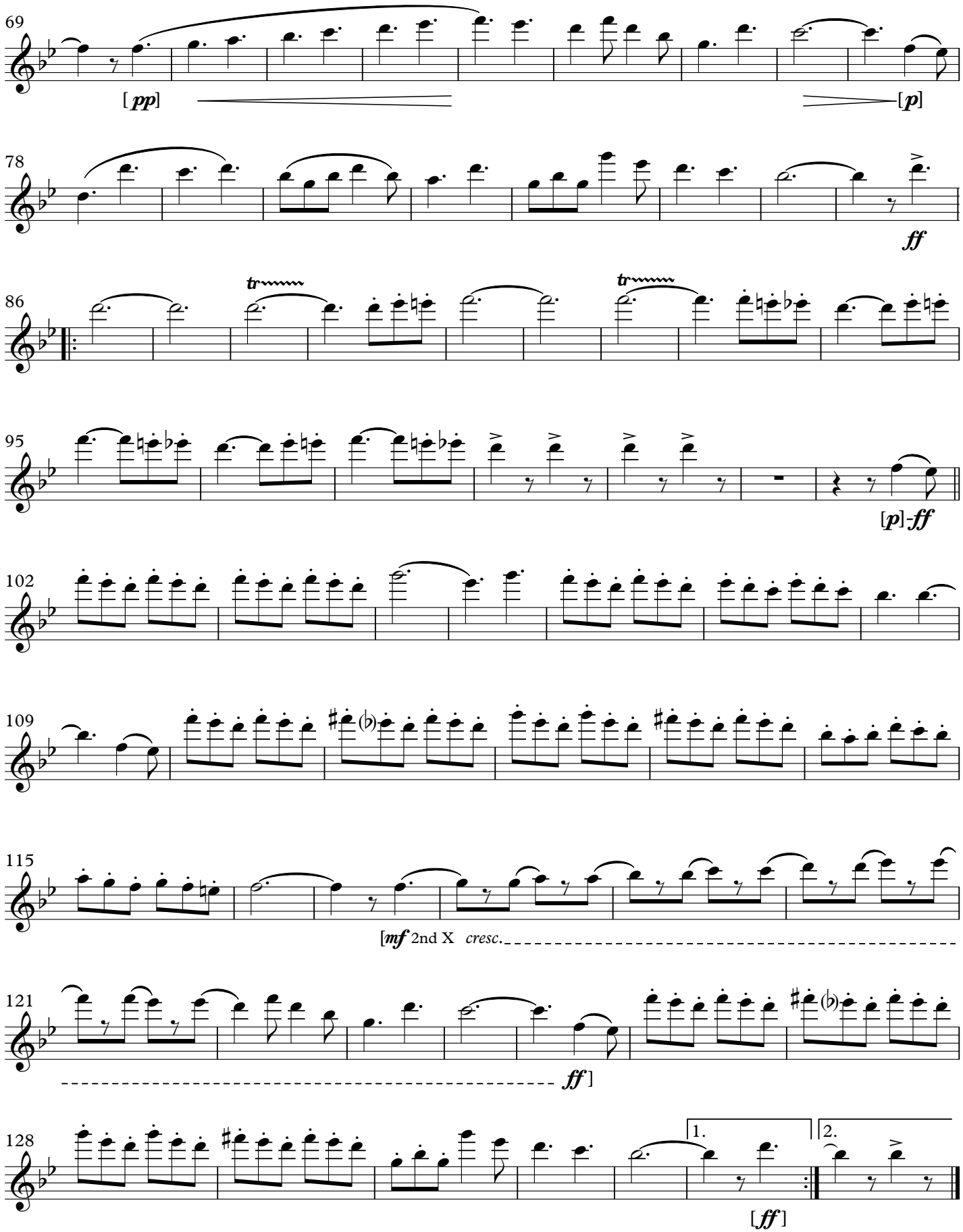
Flute

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


69
[pp]
[p]
78
ff
86
tr
tr
95
[p]-ff
102
109
115
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
2.
[ff]

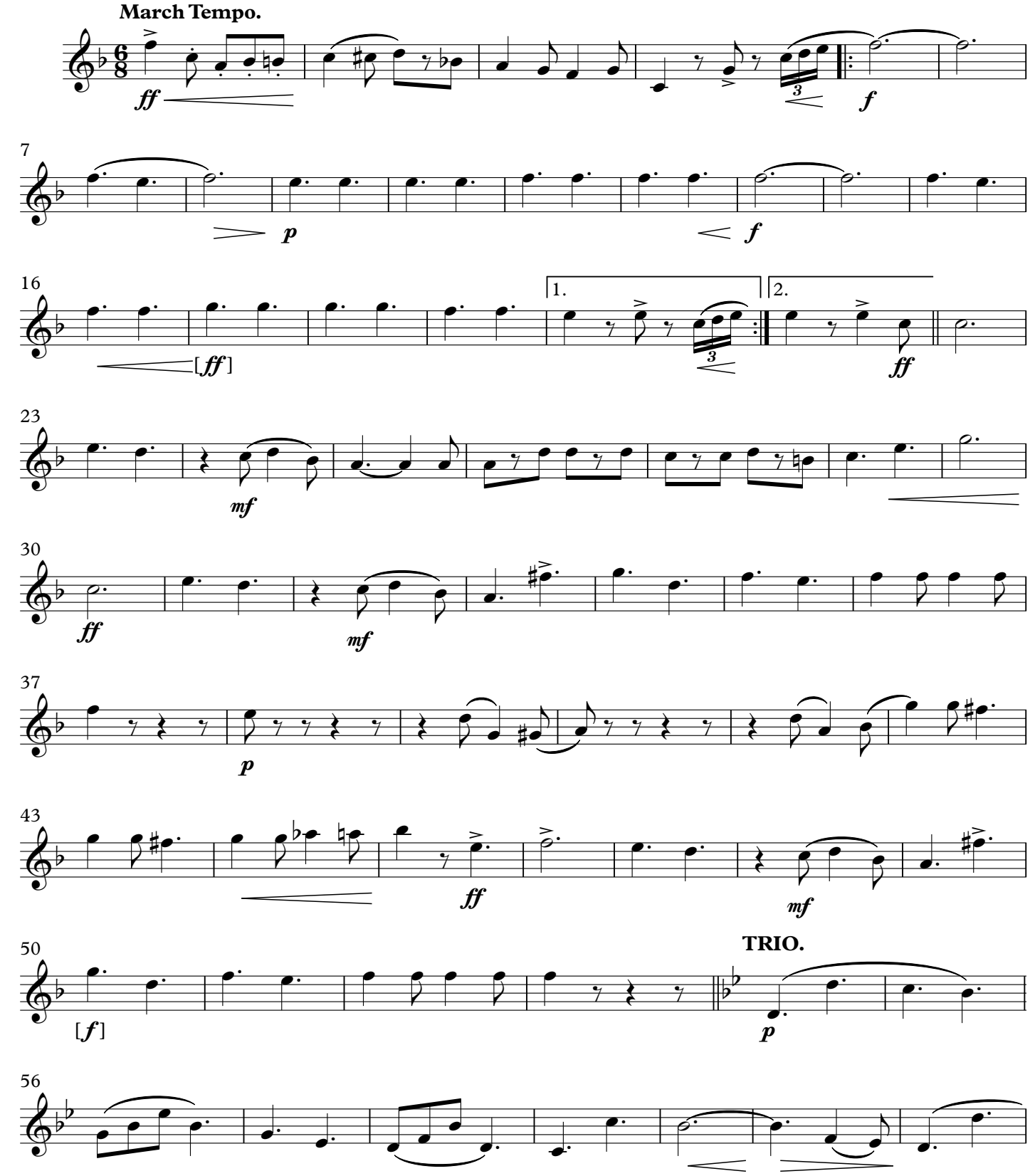
March

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

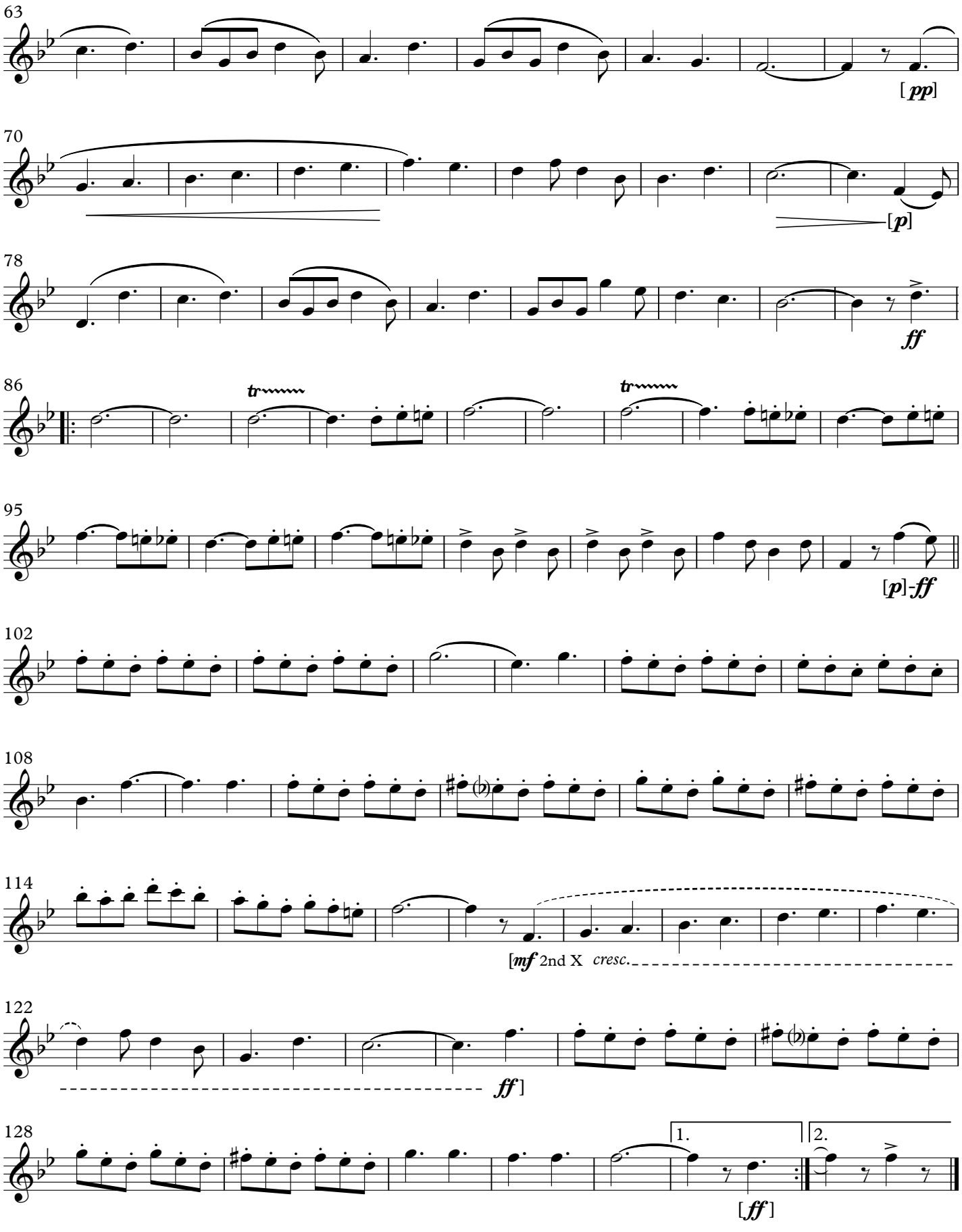
(1924)

1st Oboe

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


63
[pp]
70
[p]
78
ff
86
tr
tr
95
[p]-ff
102
108
114
[mf 2nd X cresc.
122
ff]
128
1.
2.
[ff]

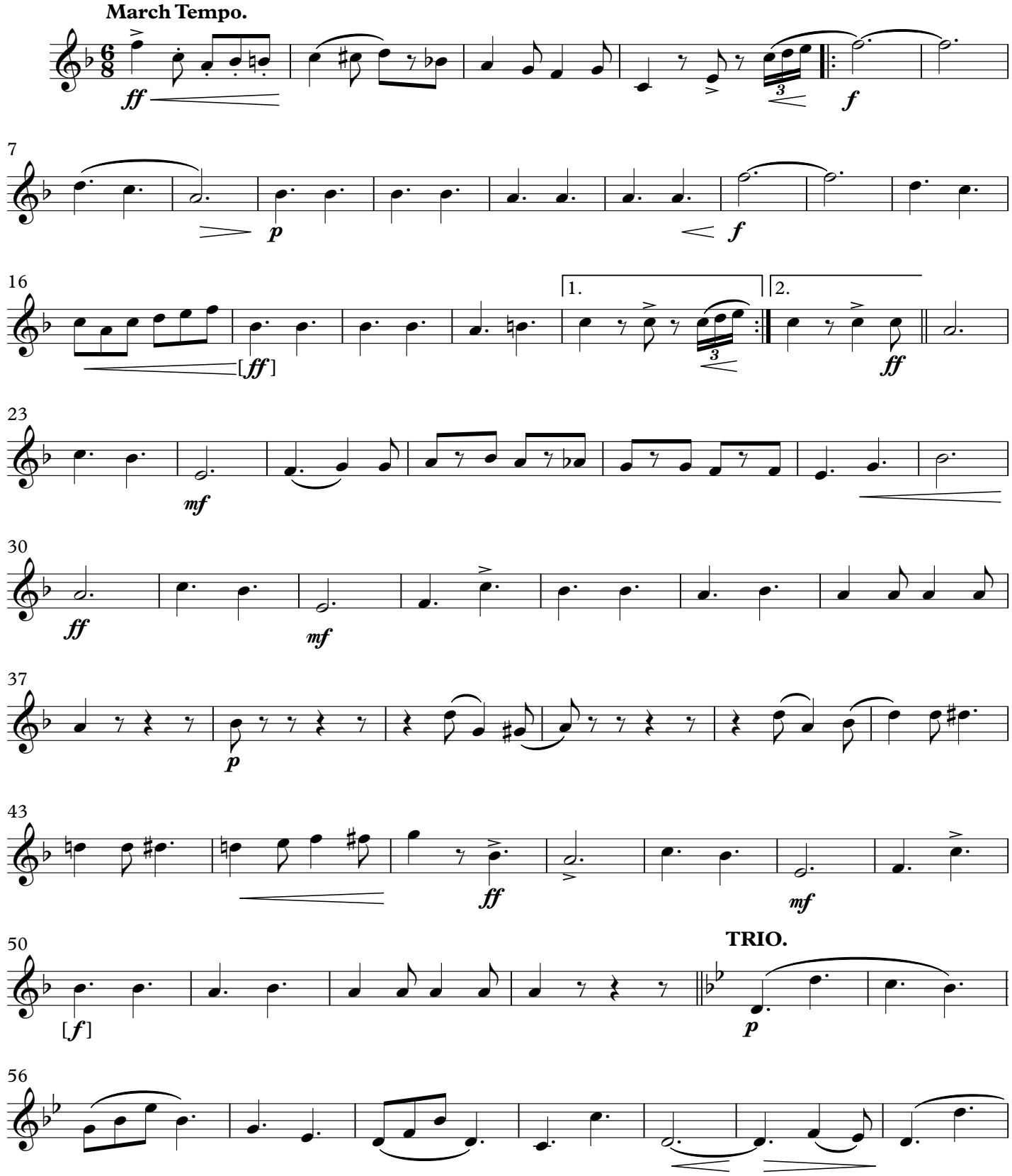
March

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

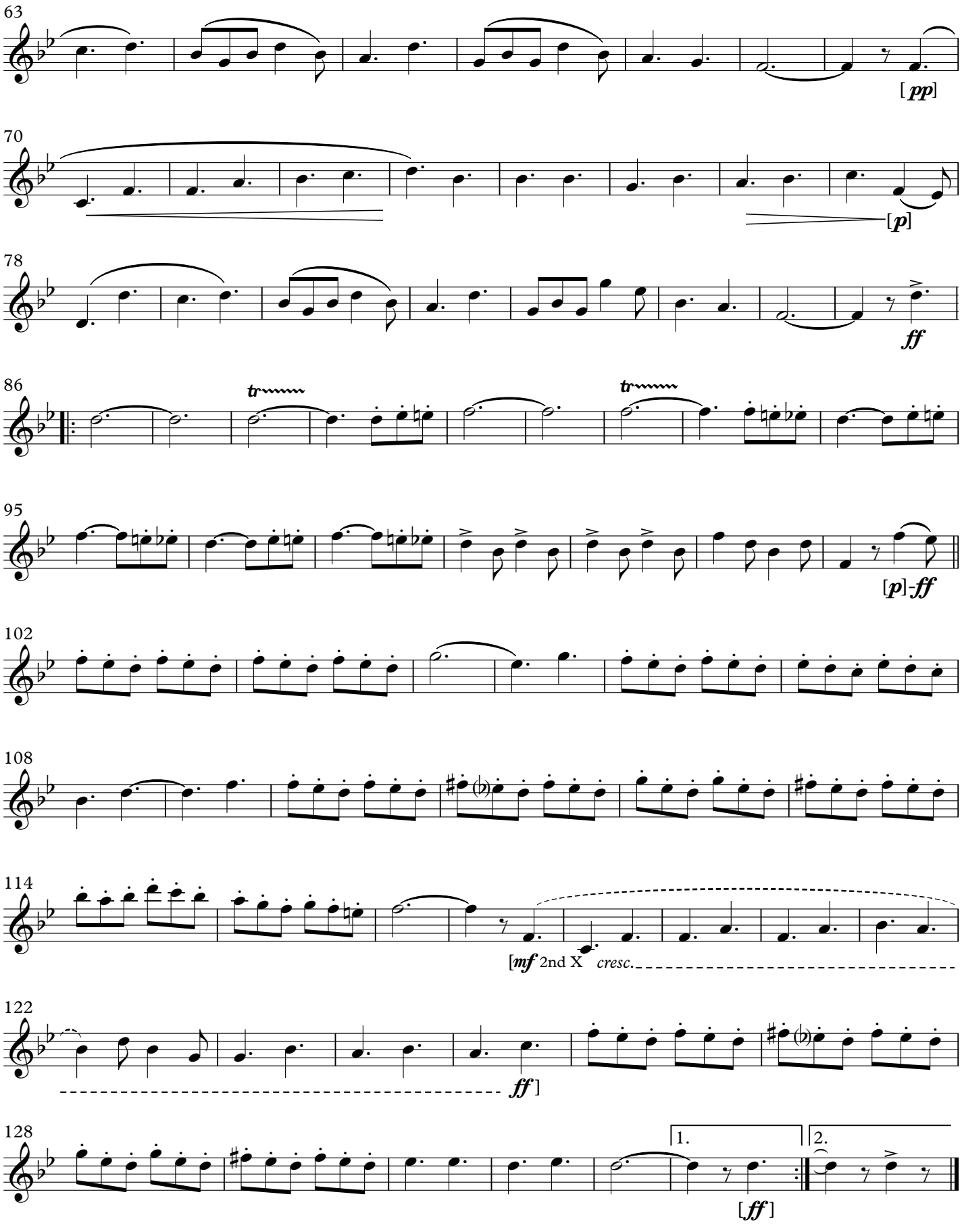
(1924)

2nd Oboe

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


63
[pp]
70
[p]
78
ff
86
tr
tr
95
[p]-ff
102
108
114
[mf 2nd X cresc.
122
ff]
128
1.
2.
[ff]

March

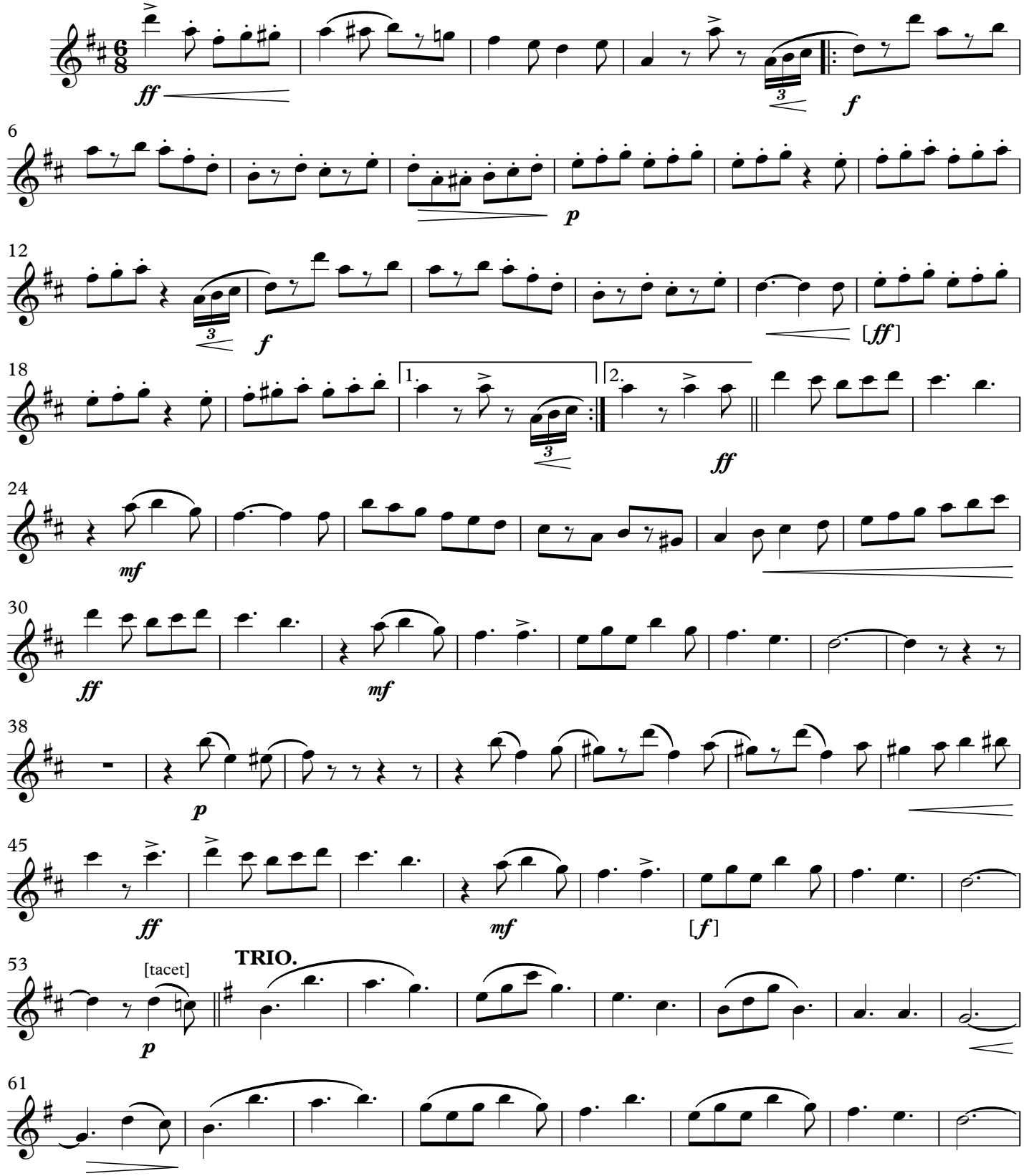
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

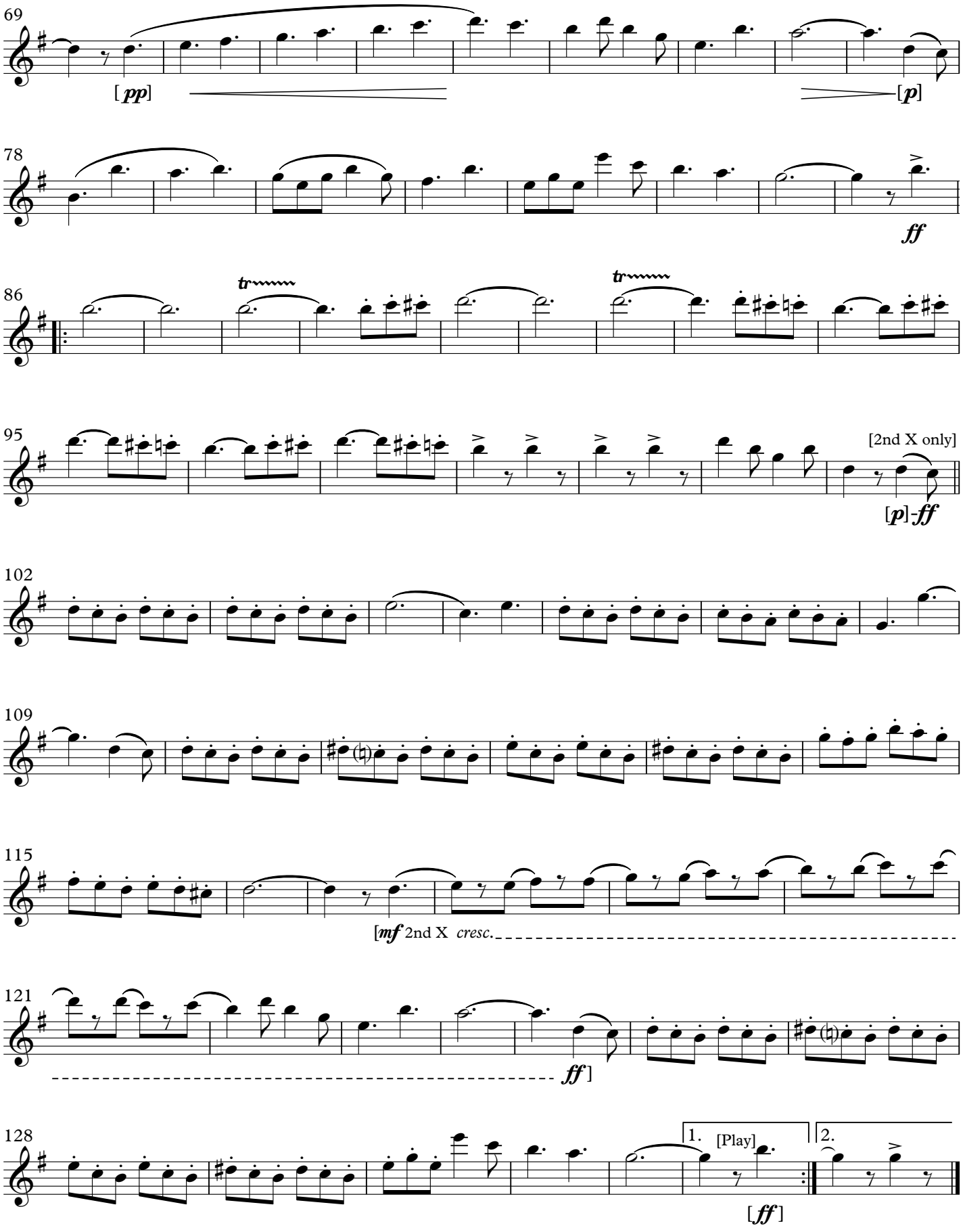
E♭ Clarinet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


69
[pp]
[p]
78
ff
86
tr
tr
95
[2nd X only]
[p]-ff
102
109
115
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
[Play]
2.
[ff]

March

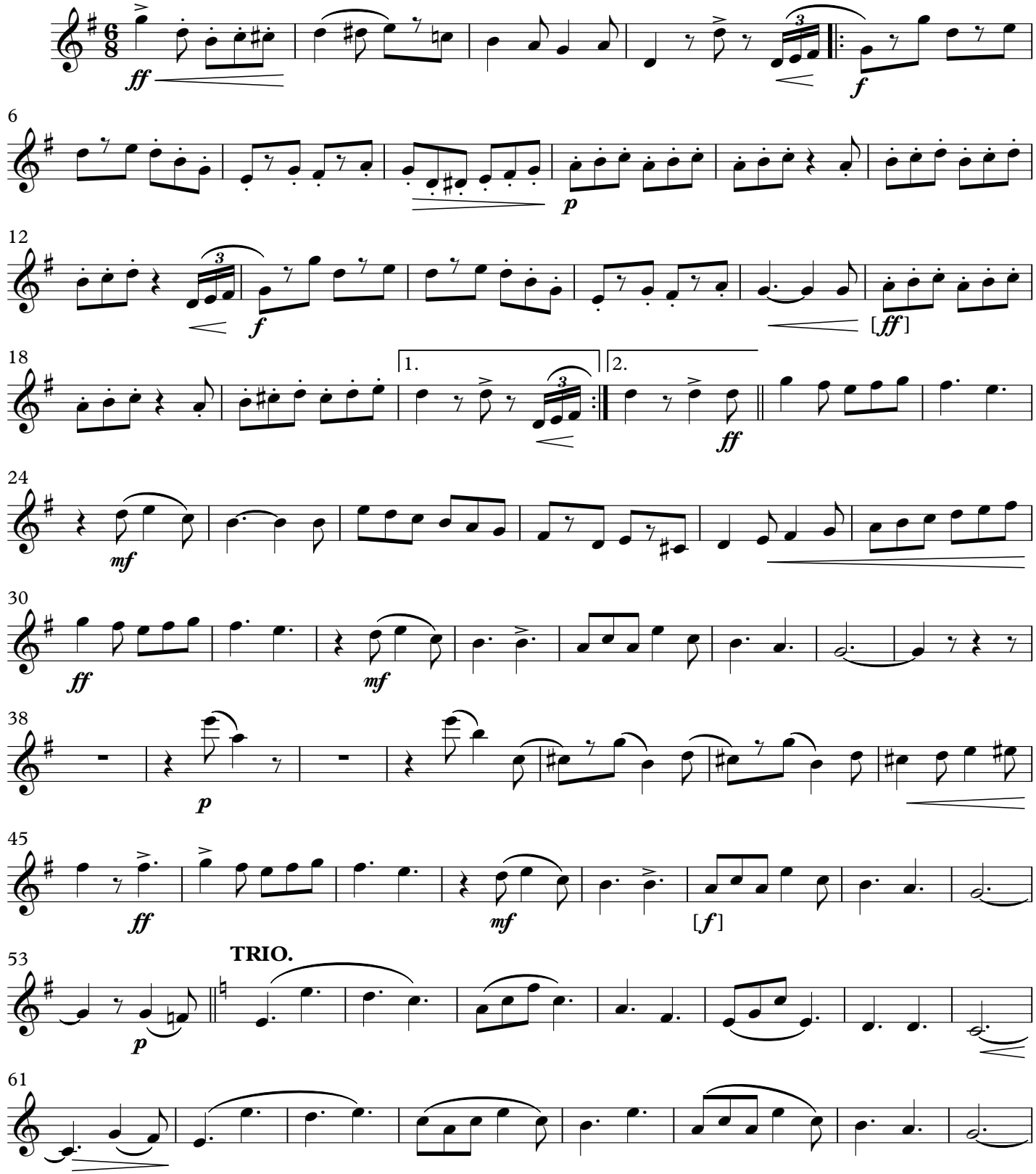
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

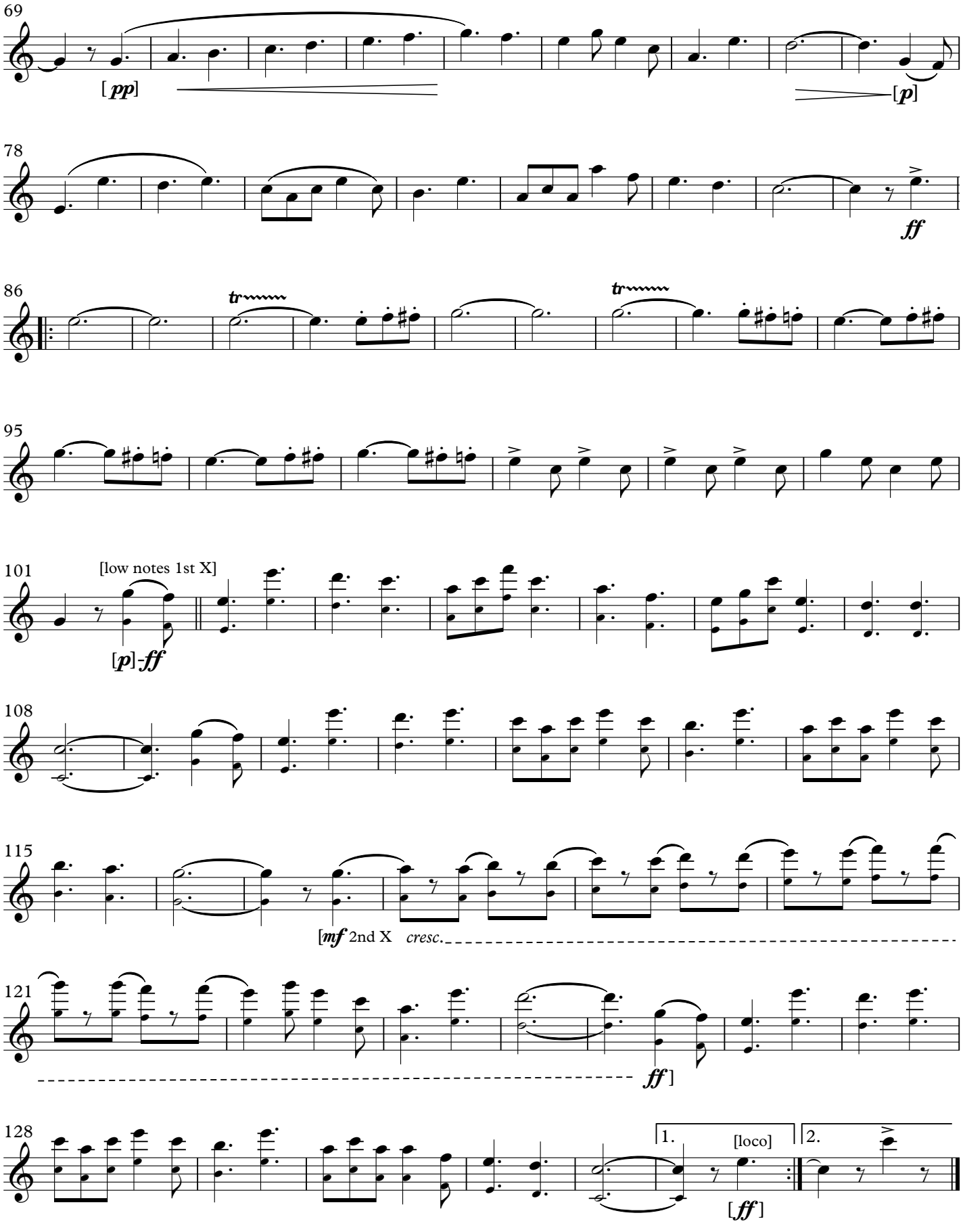
1st B♭ Clarinet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


69
[pp]
[p]
78
ff
86
tr
tr
95
101
[low notes 1st X]
[p]-ff
108
115
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
[loco]
2.
[ff]

March

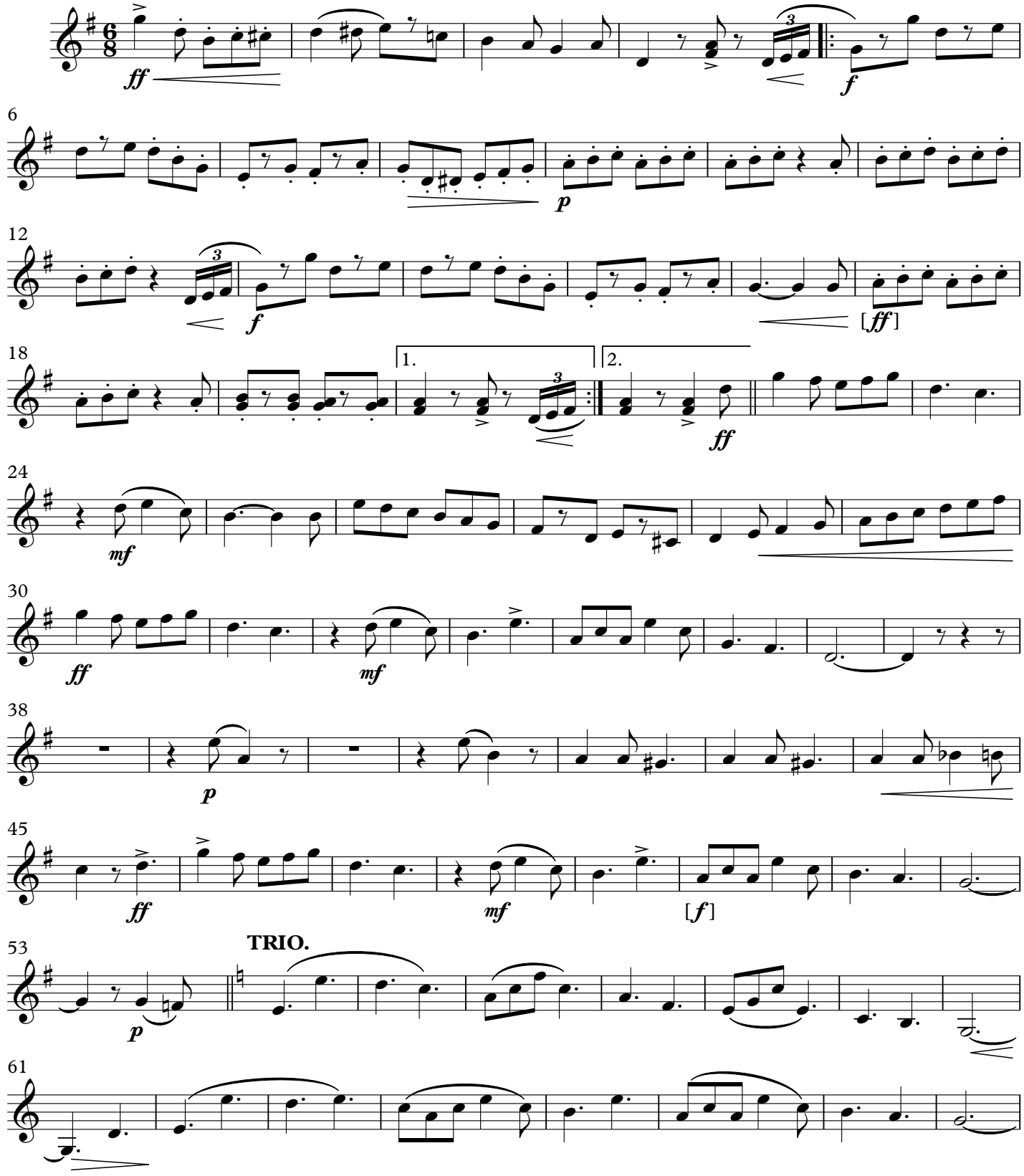
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

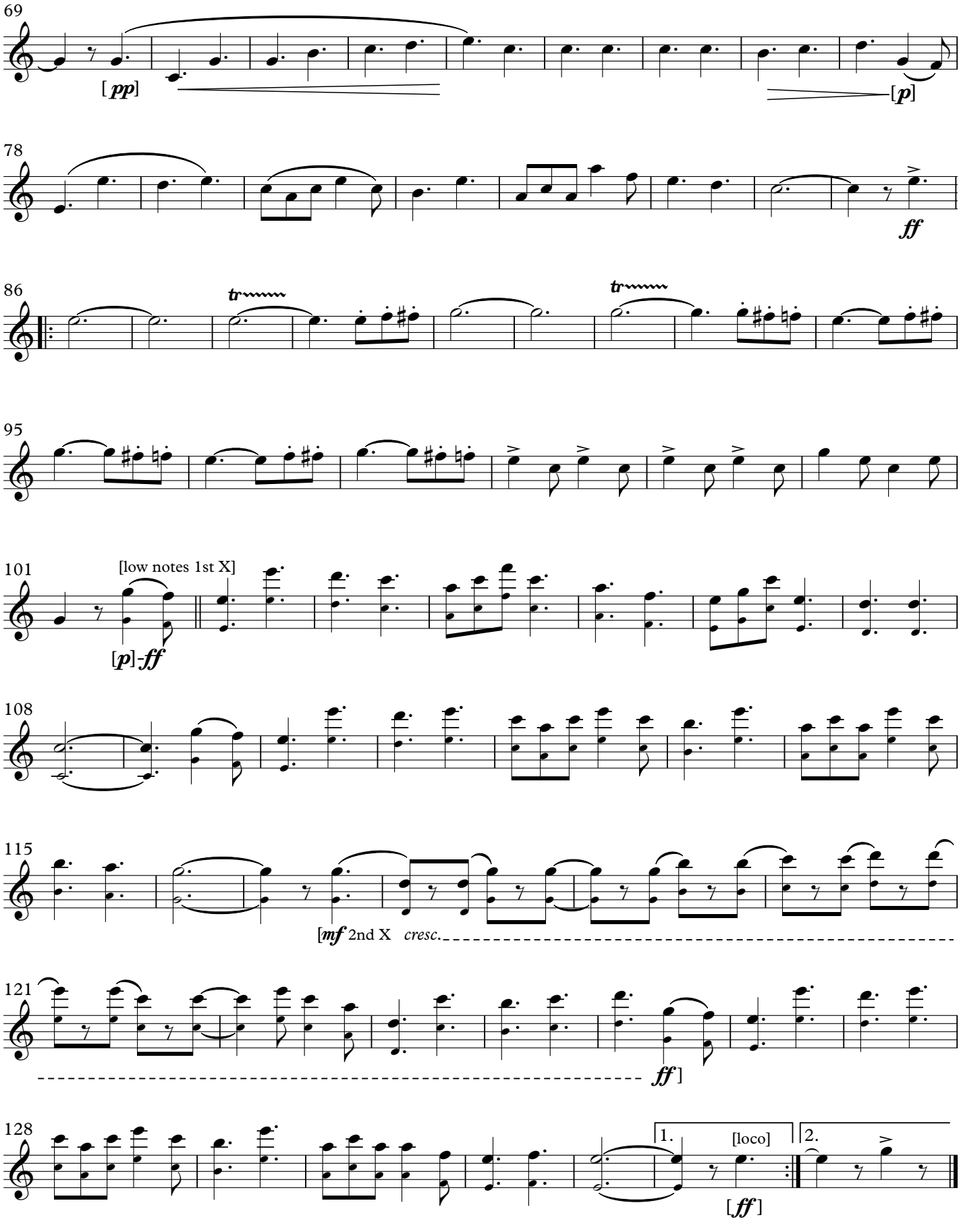
2nd B♭ Clarinet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


69
[pp]
[p]
78
ff
86
tr
tr
95
101
[low notes 1st X]
[p]-ff
108
115
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
[loco]
2.
[ff]

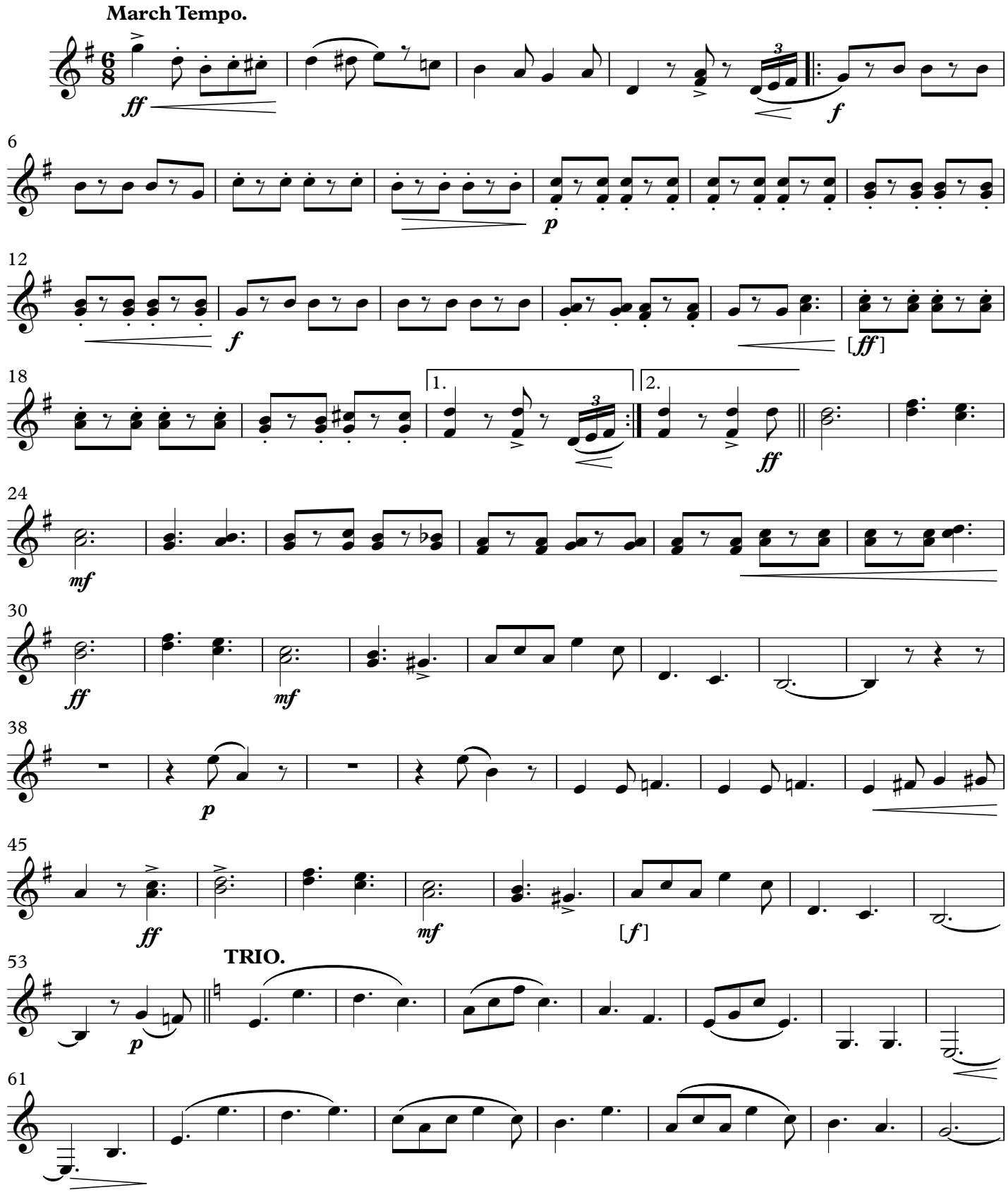
March

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

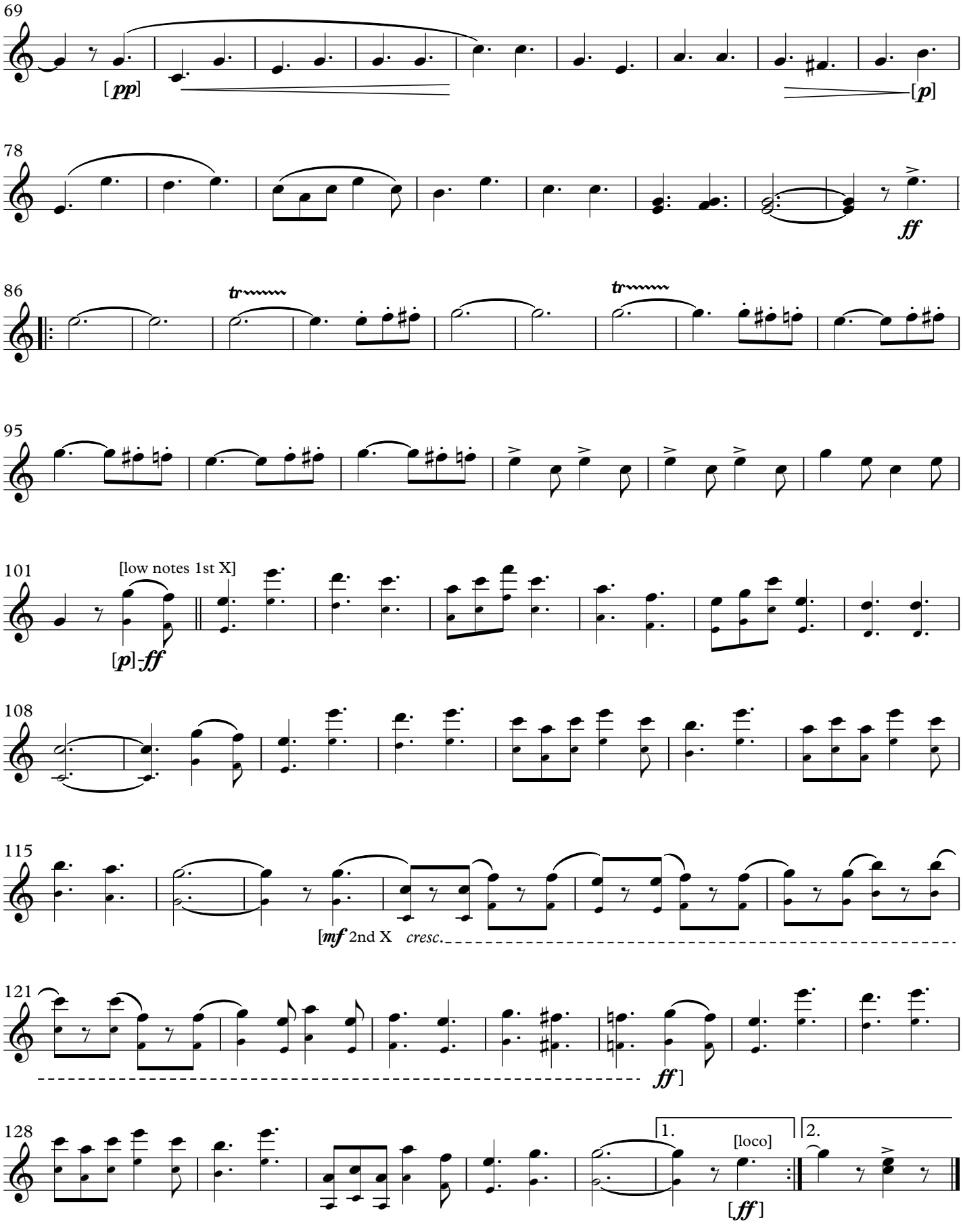
(1924)

3rd B♭ Clarinet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


69
[pp]
[p]
78
ff
86
tr
tr
95
101
[low notes 1st X]
[p]-ff
108
115
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
[loco]
[ff]
2.

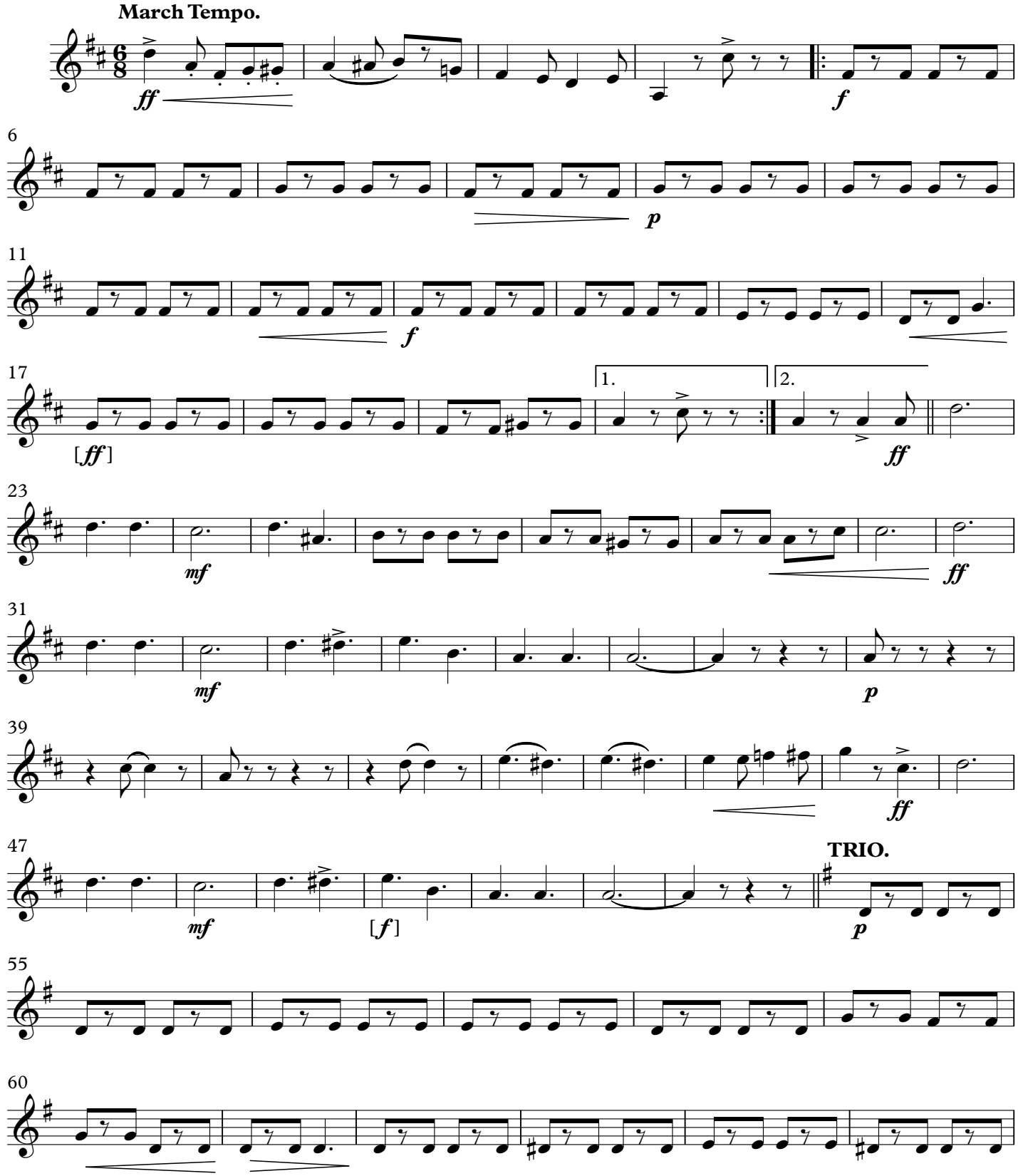
March

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

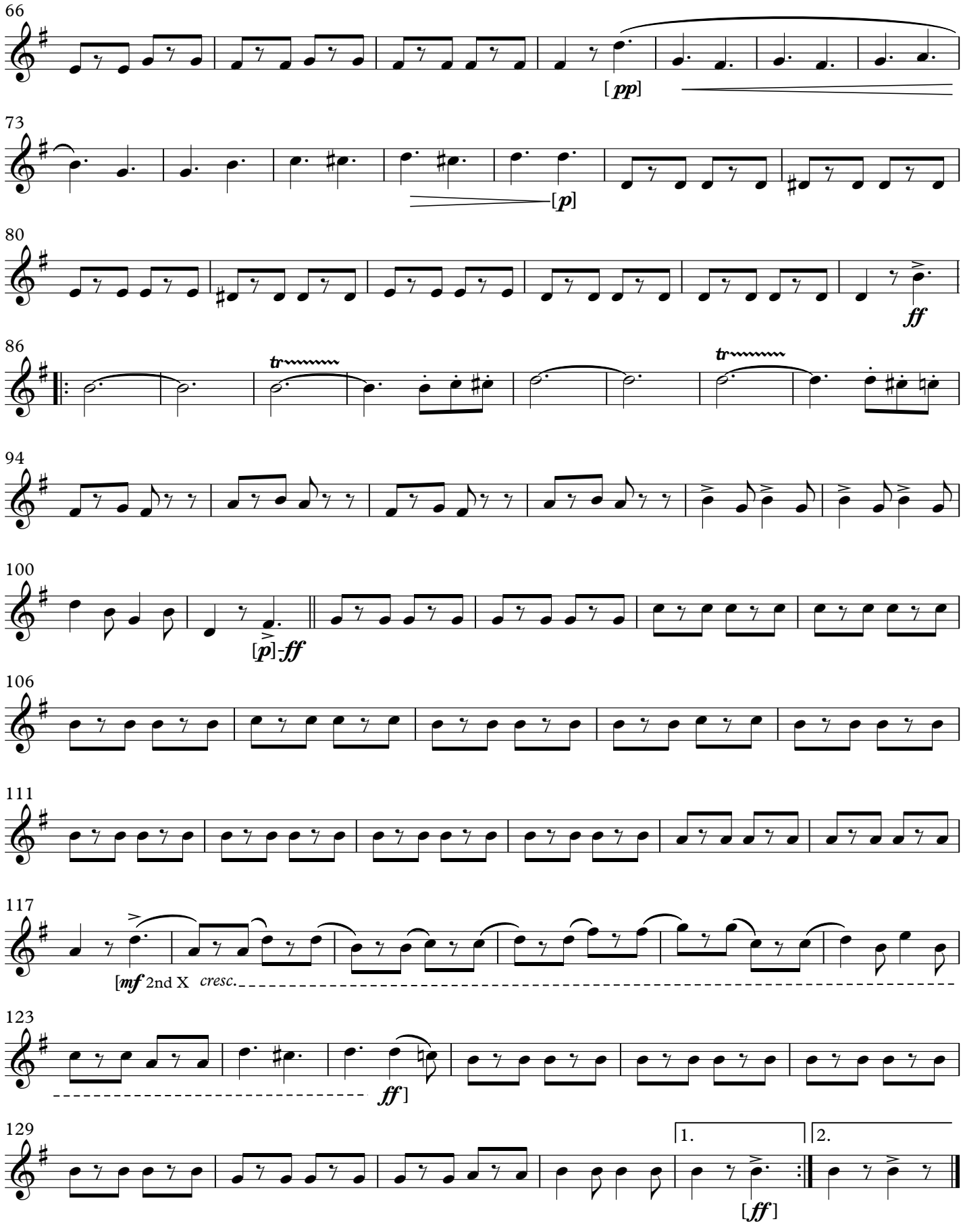
(1924)

E♭ Alto Clarinet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


66
[pp]
73
[p]
80
ff
86
tr
tr
94
100
[p]-ff
106
111
117
[mf 2nd X
cresc.
123
ff]
129
1.
2.
[ff]

March

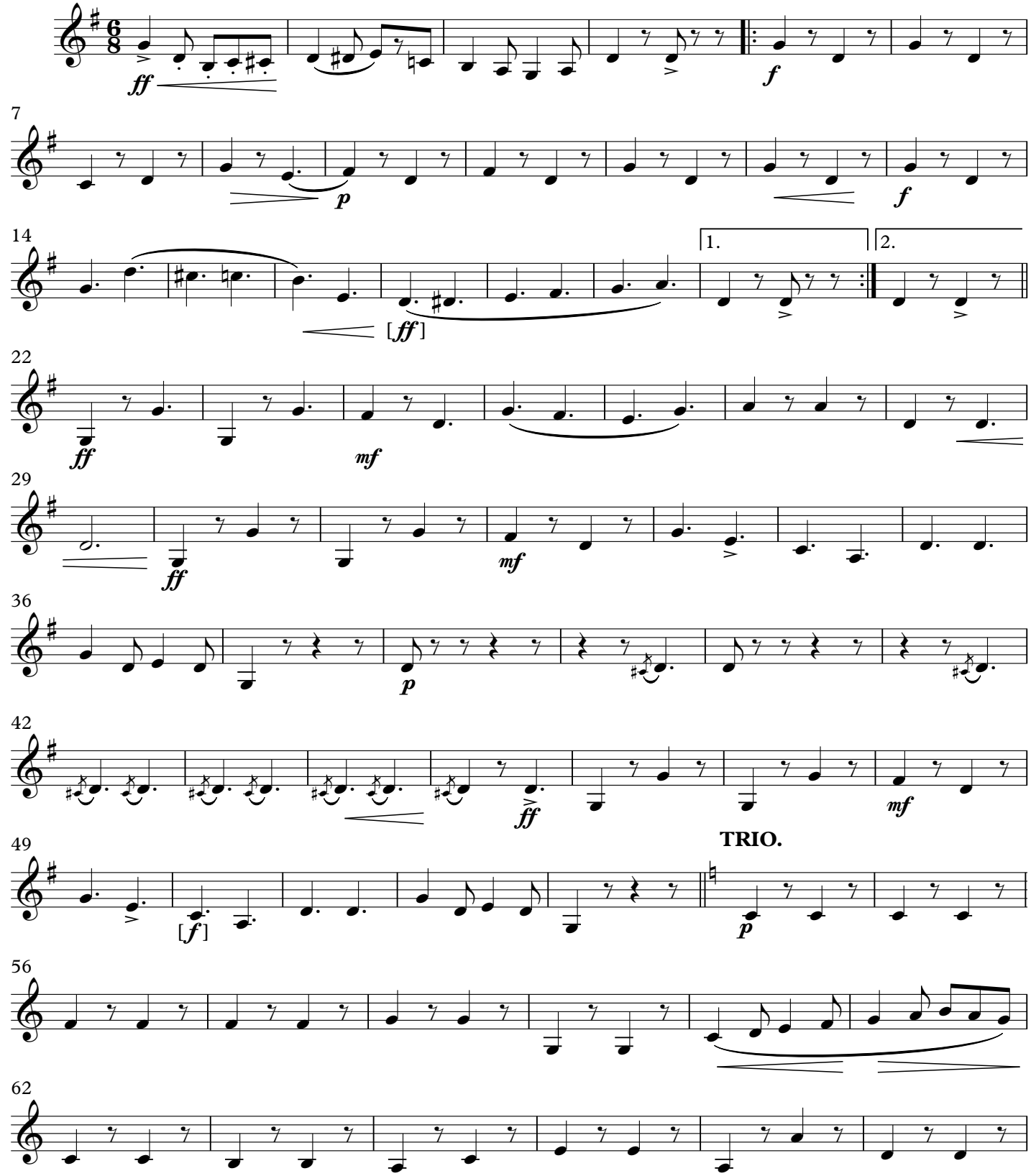
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

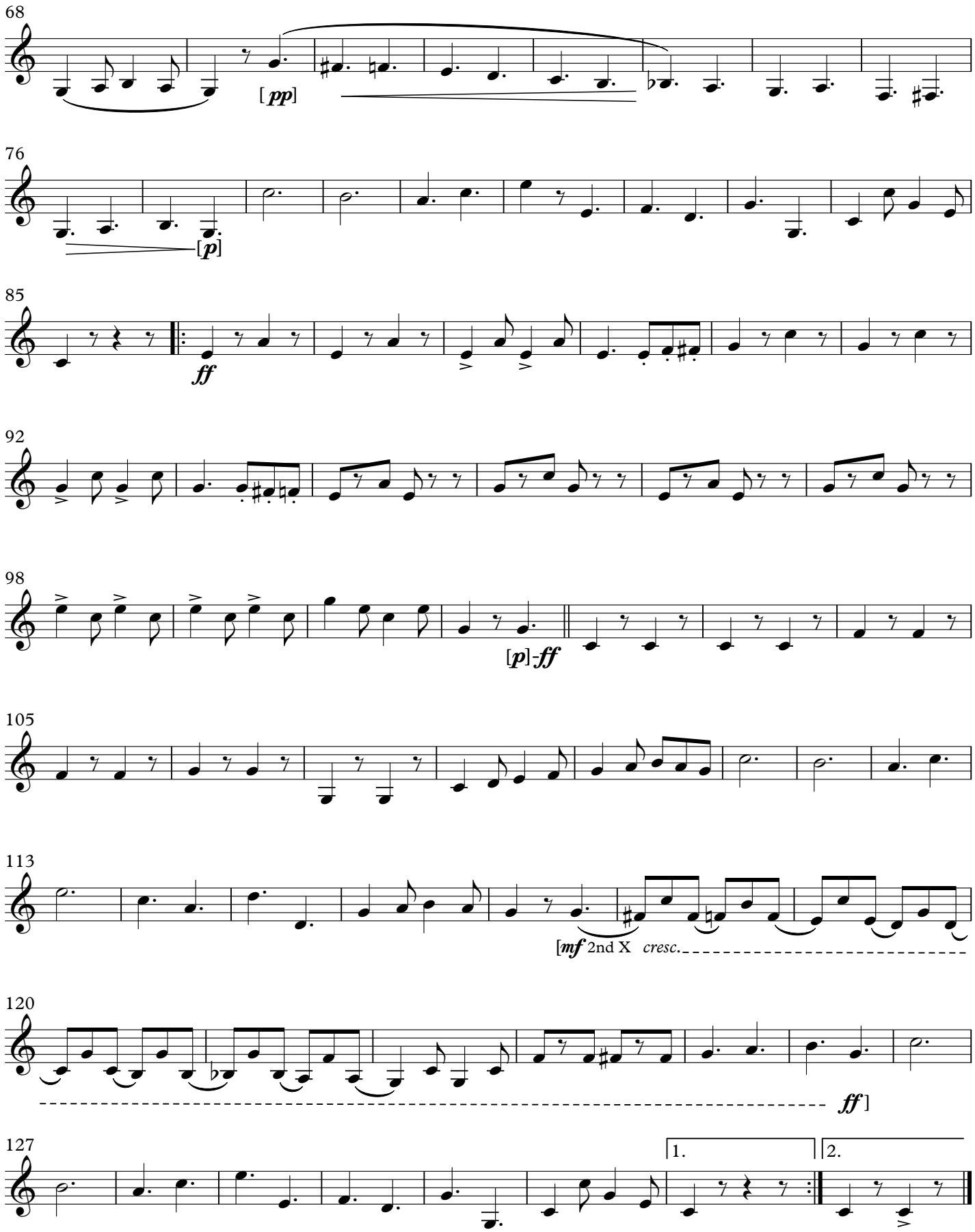
B♭ Bass Clarinet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band


68
[pp]
76
[p]
85
ff
92
98
[p]-ff
105
113
[mf 2nd X cresc.
120
ff]
127
1.
2.

March

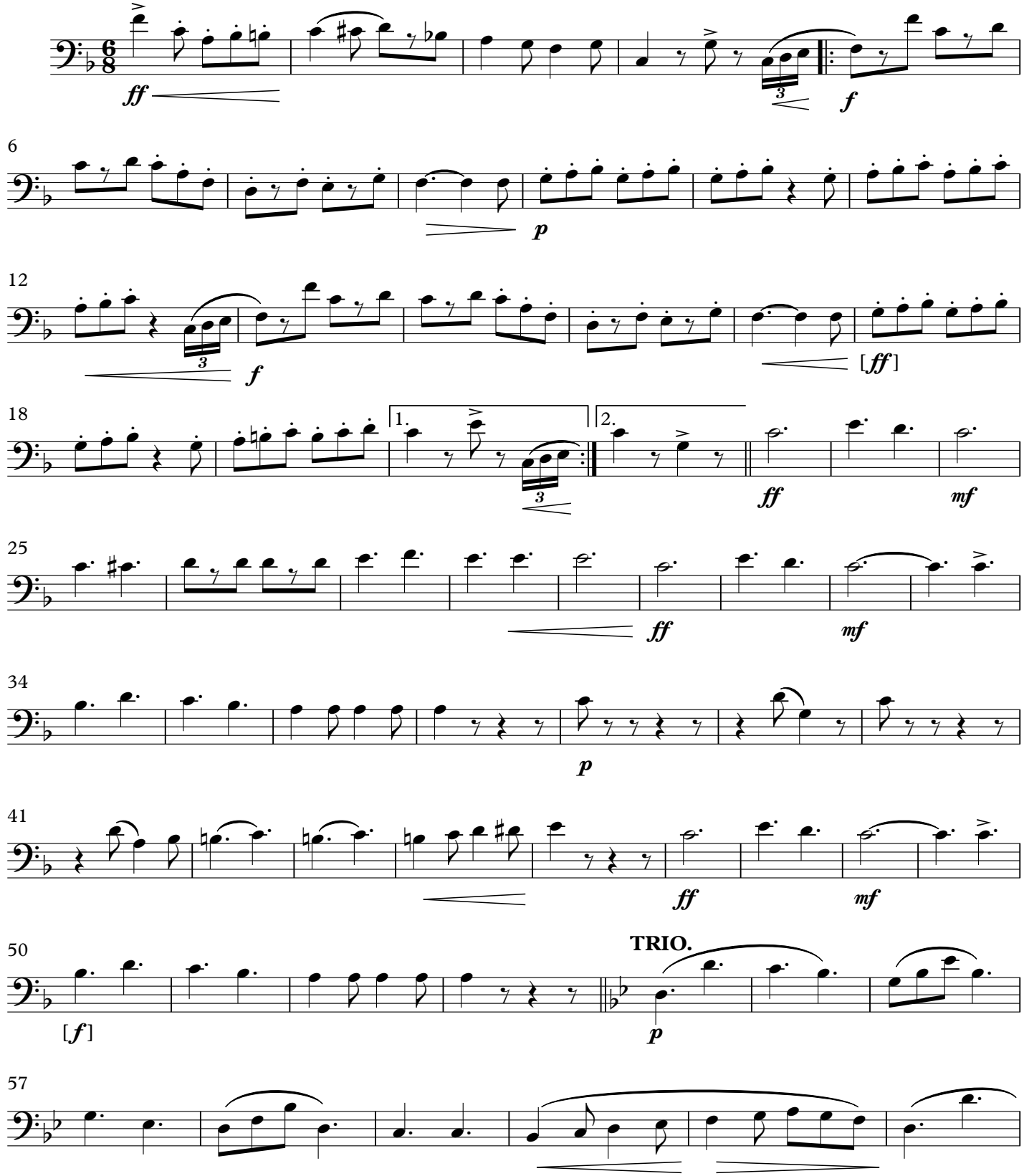
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

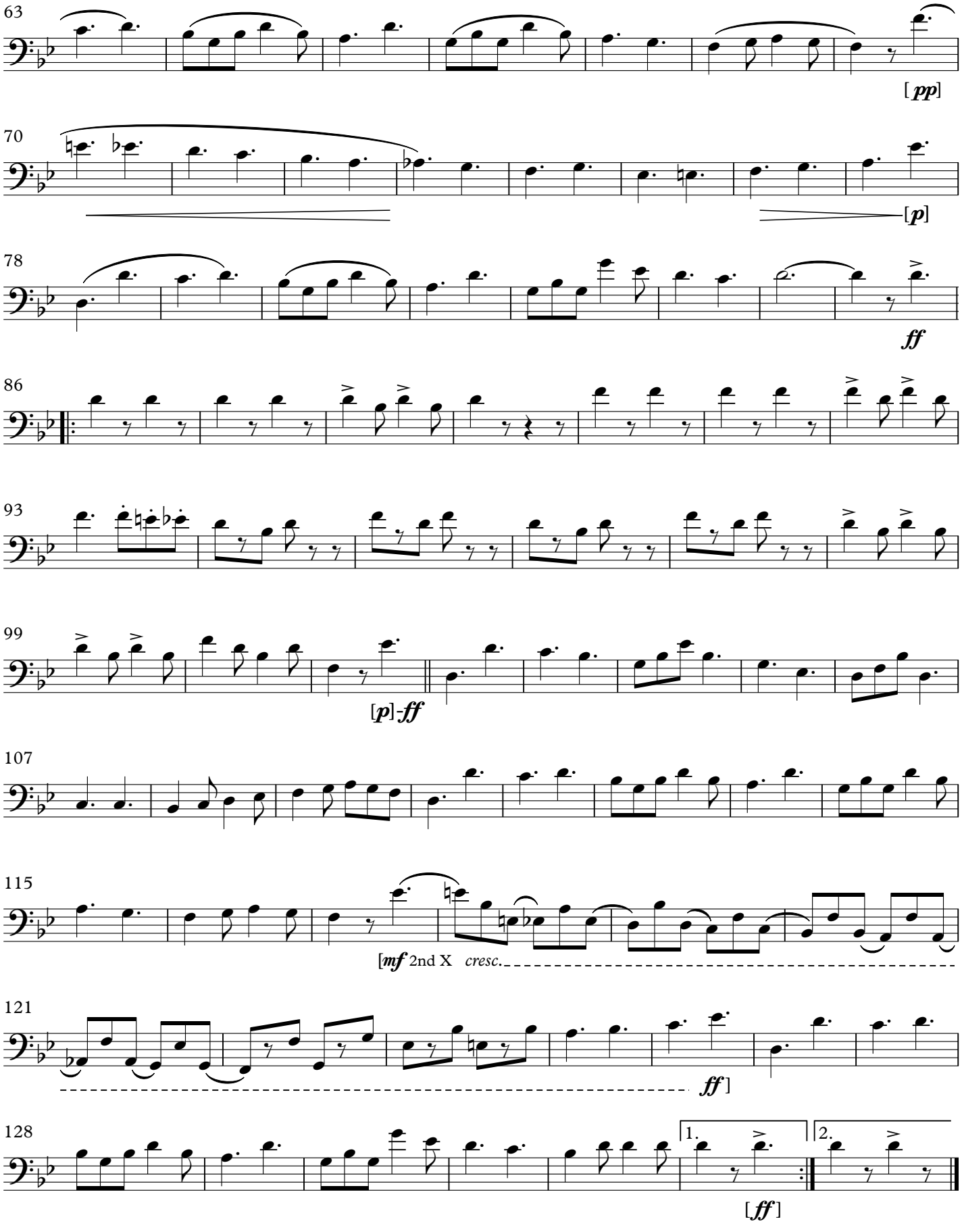
1st Bassoon

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


63
[pp]
70
[p]
78
ff
86
93
99
[p]-ff
107
115
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
2.
[ff]

March

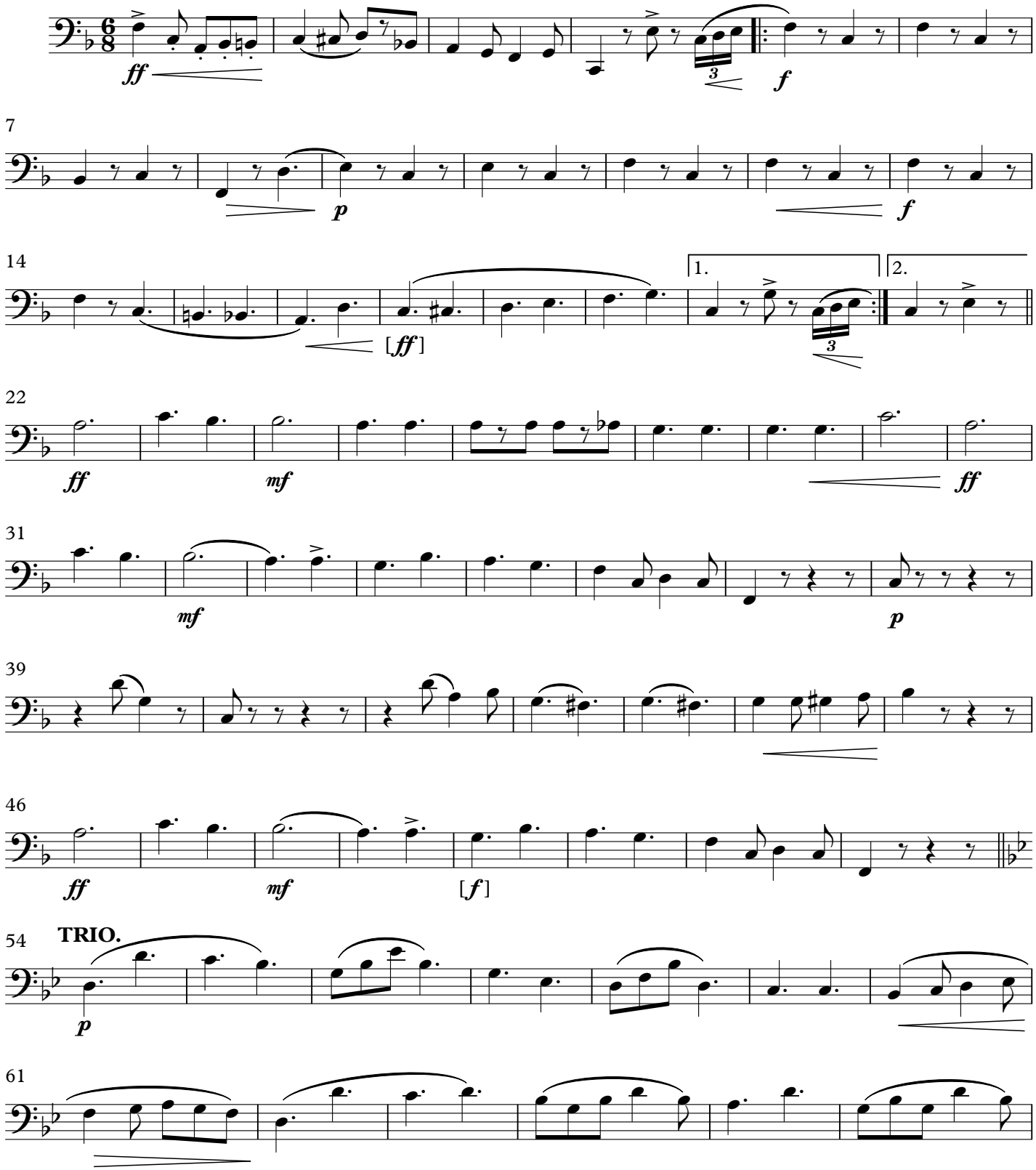
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

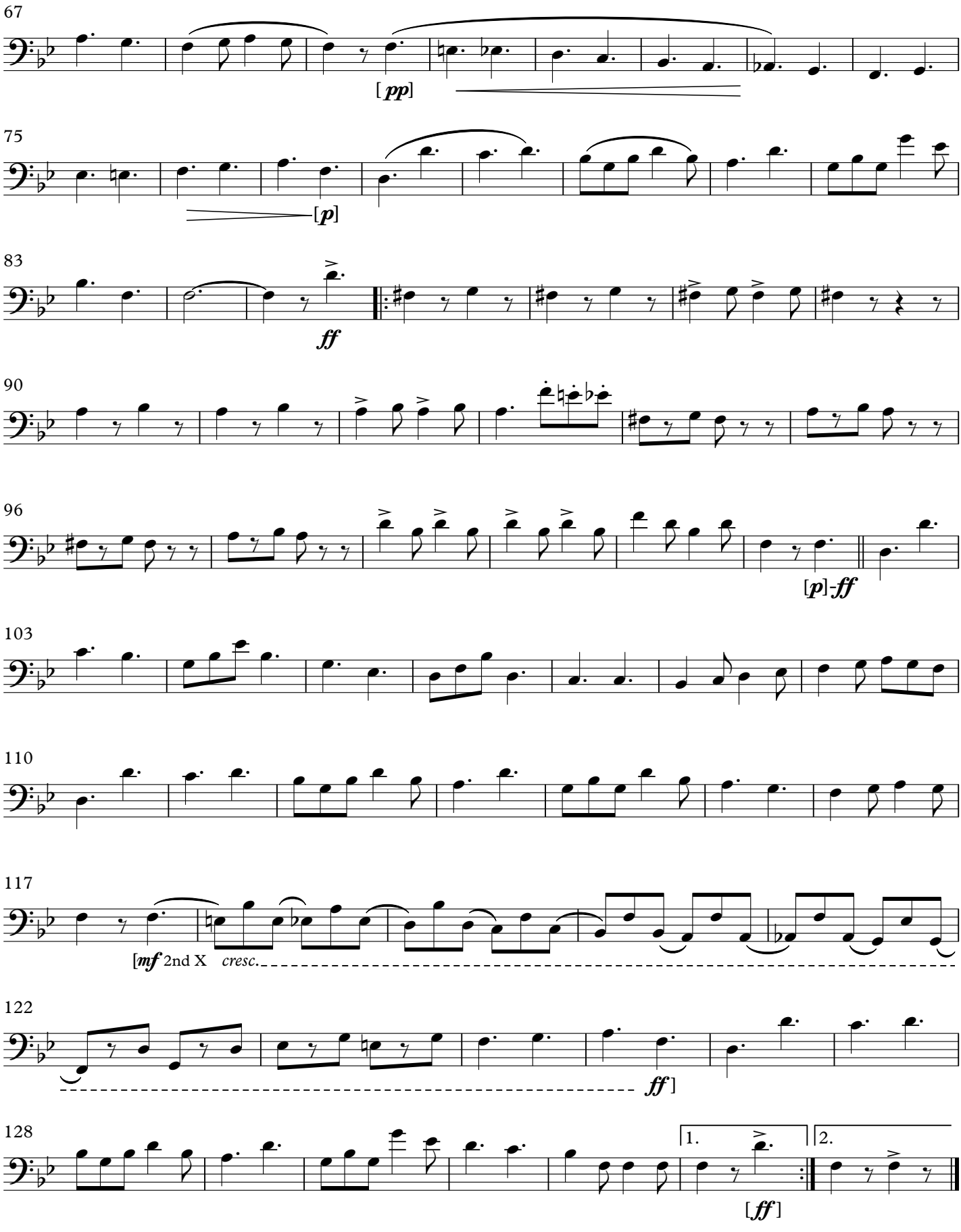
2nd Bassoon

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


67
[pp]
75
[p]
83
ff
90
96
[p]-ff
103
110
117
[mf 2nd X
cresc.
122
ff]
128
1.
2.
[ff]

March

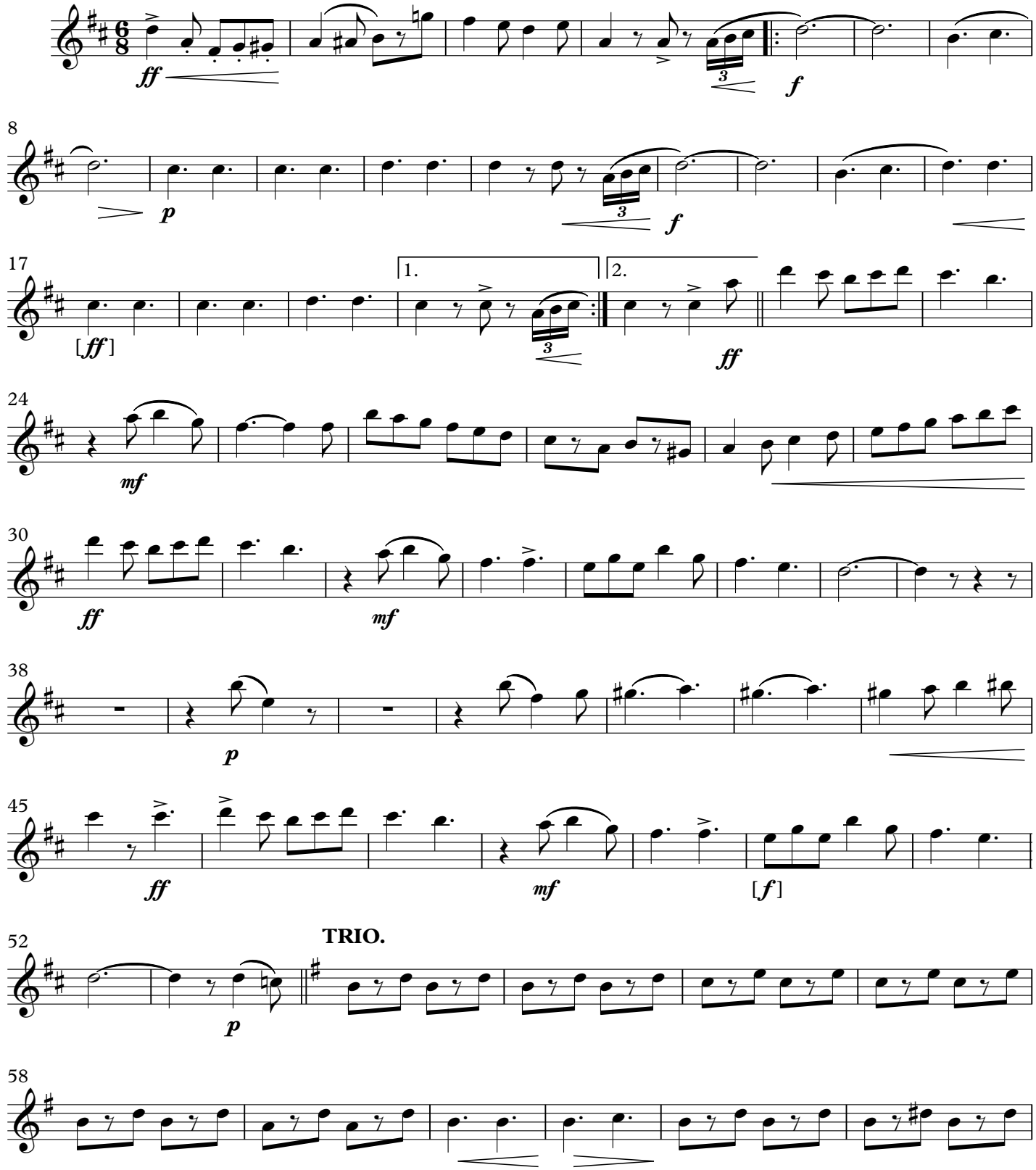
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

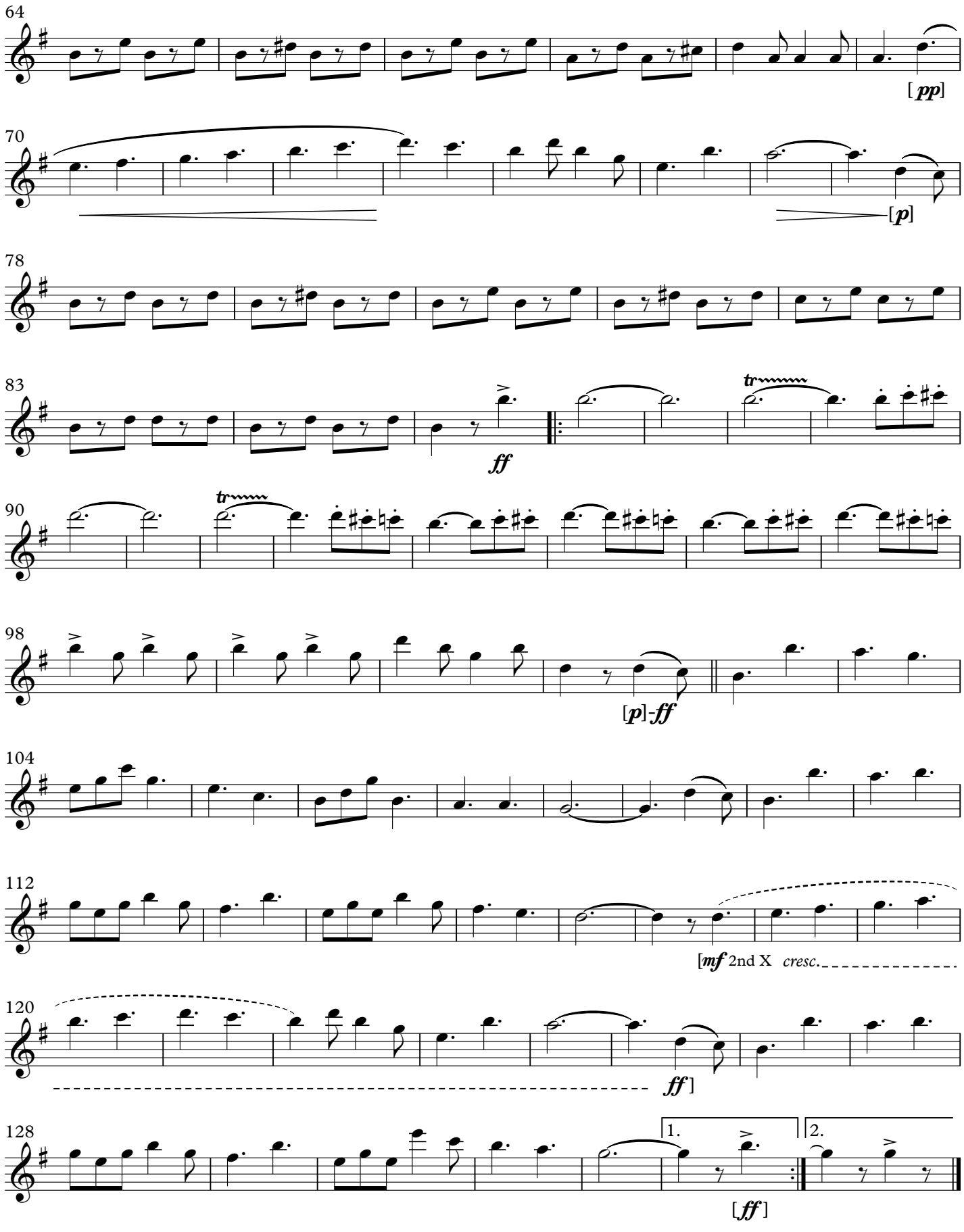
E♭ Alto Saxophone

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


64
[pp]
70
[p]
78
83
ff
tr
90
tr
98
[p]-ff
104
112
[mf 2nd X cresc.
120
ff]
128
1.
2.
[ff]

March

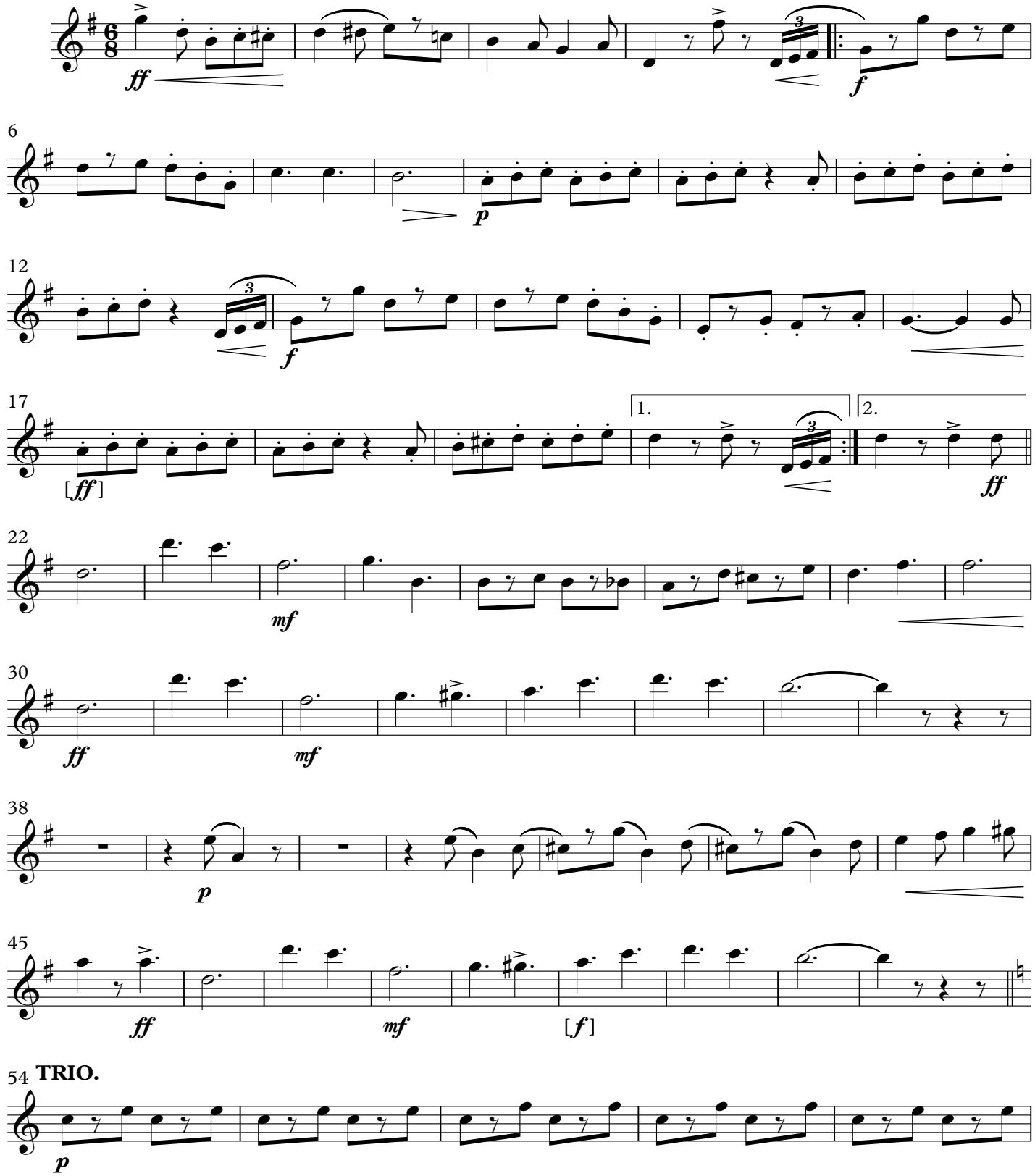
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

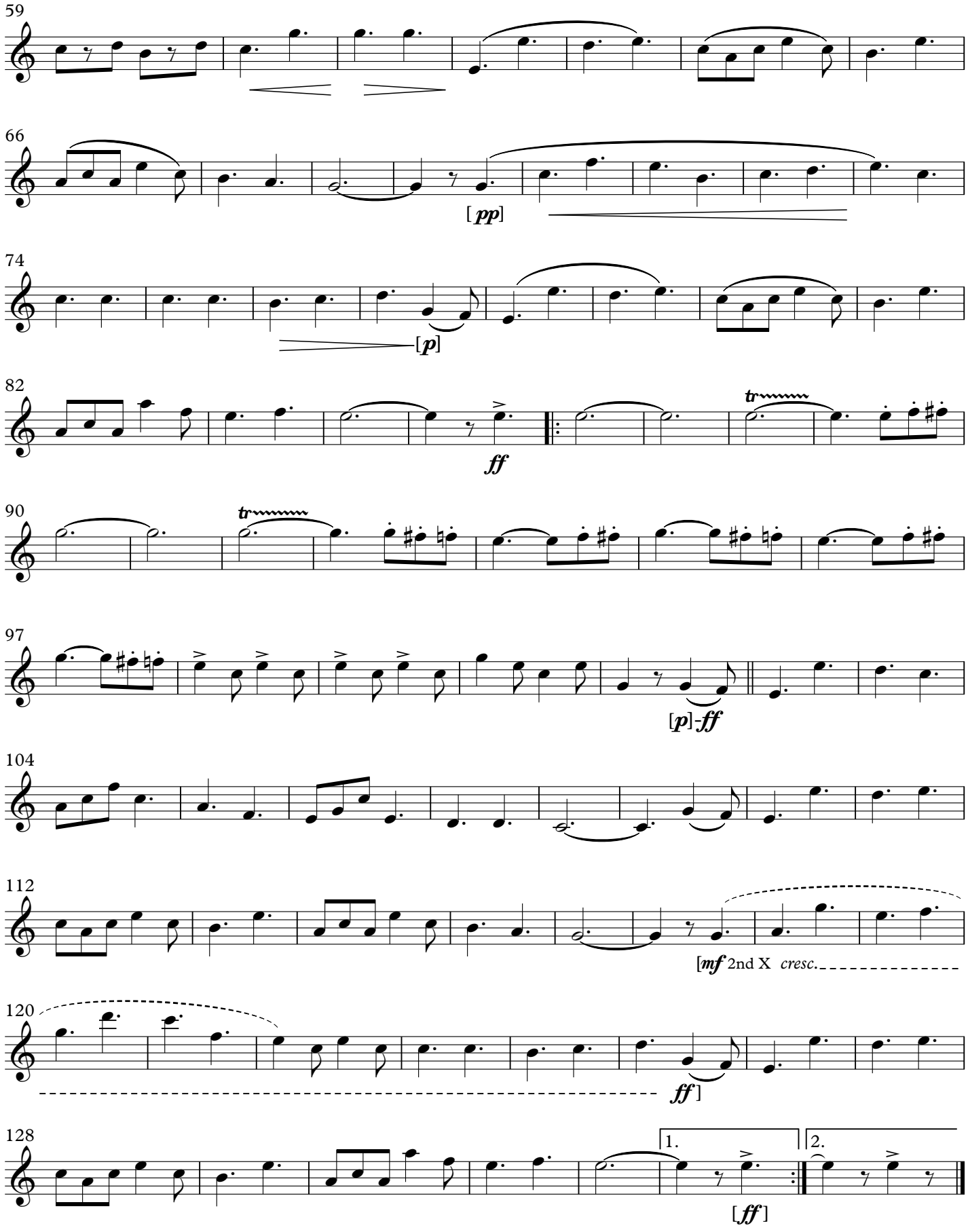
B♭ Tenor Saxophone

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


59
66
[pp]
74
[p]
82
ff
90
tr
97
[p]-ff
104
112
[mf 2nd X cresc.
120
ff]
128
1.
2.
[ff]

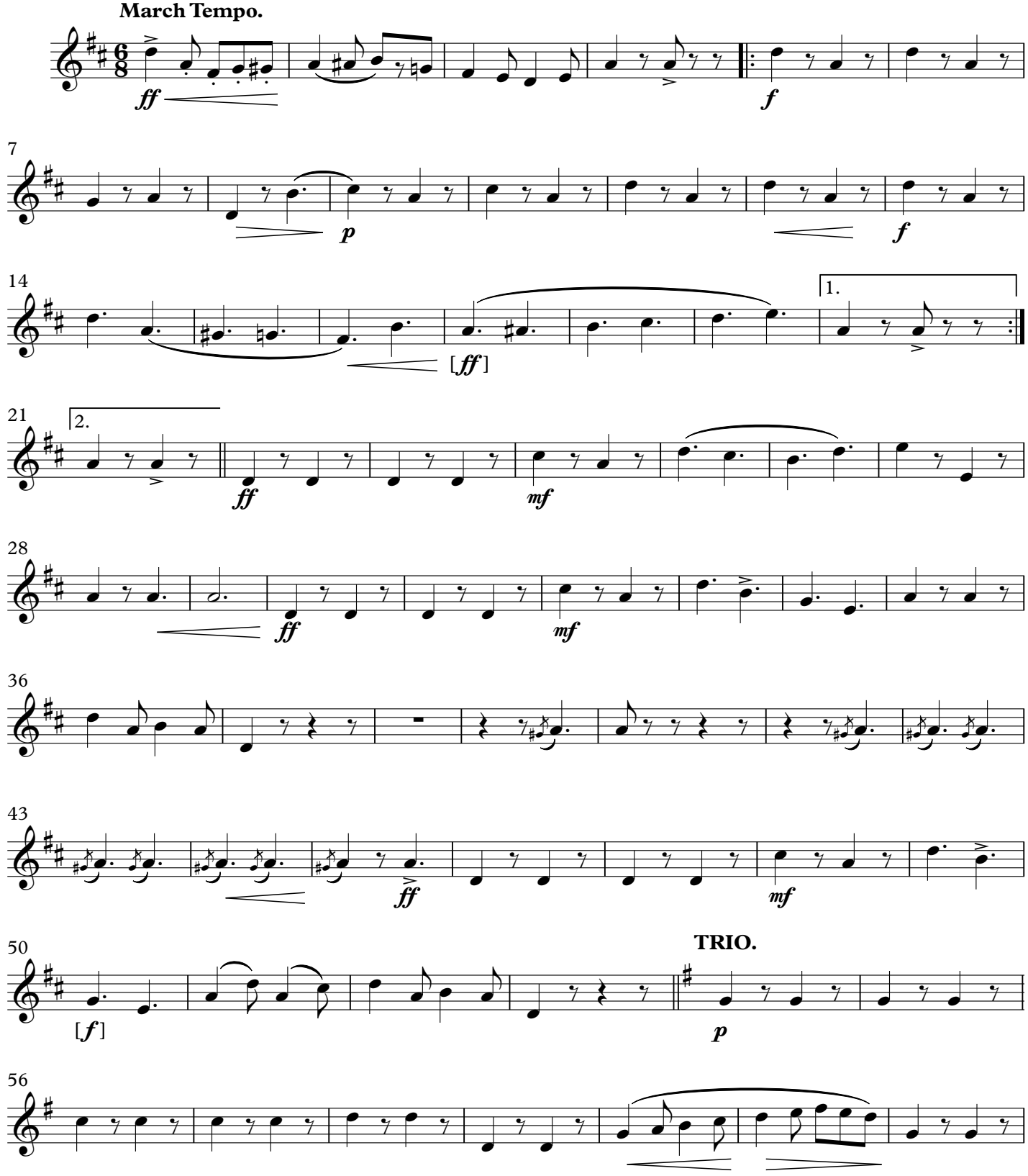
March

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

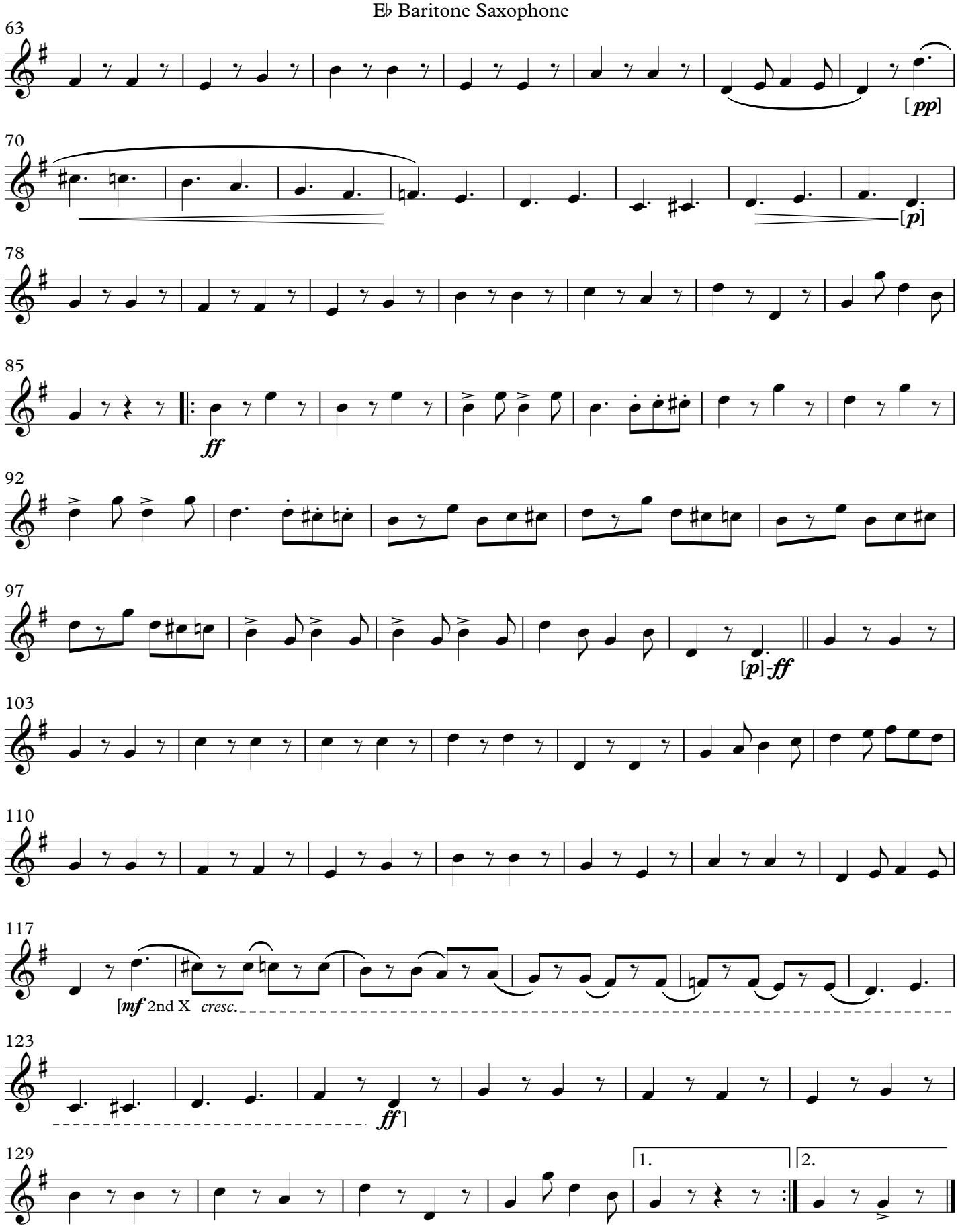
(1924)

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


63
[pp]
70
[p]
78
85
ff
92
97
[p] ff
103
110
117
[mf 2nd X cresc.
123
ff]
129
1.
2.

March

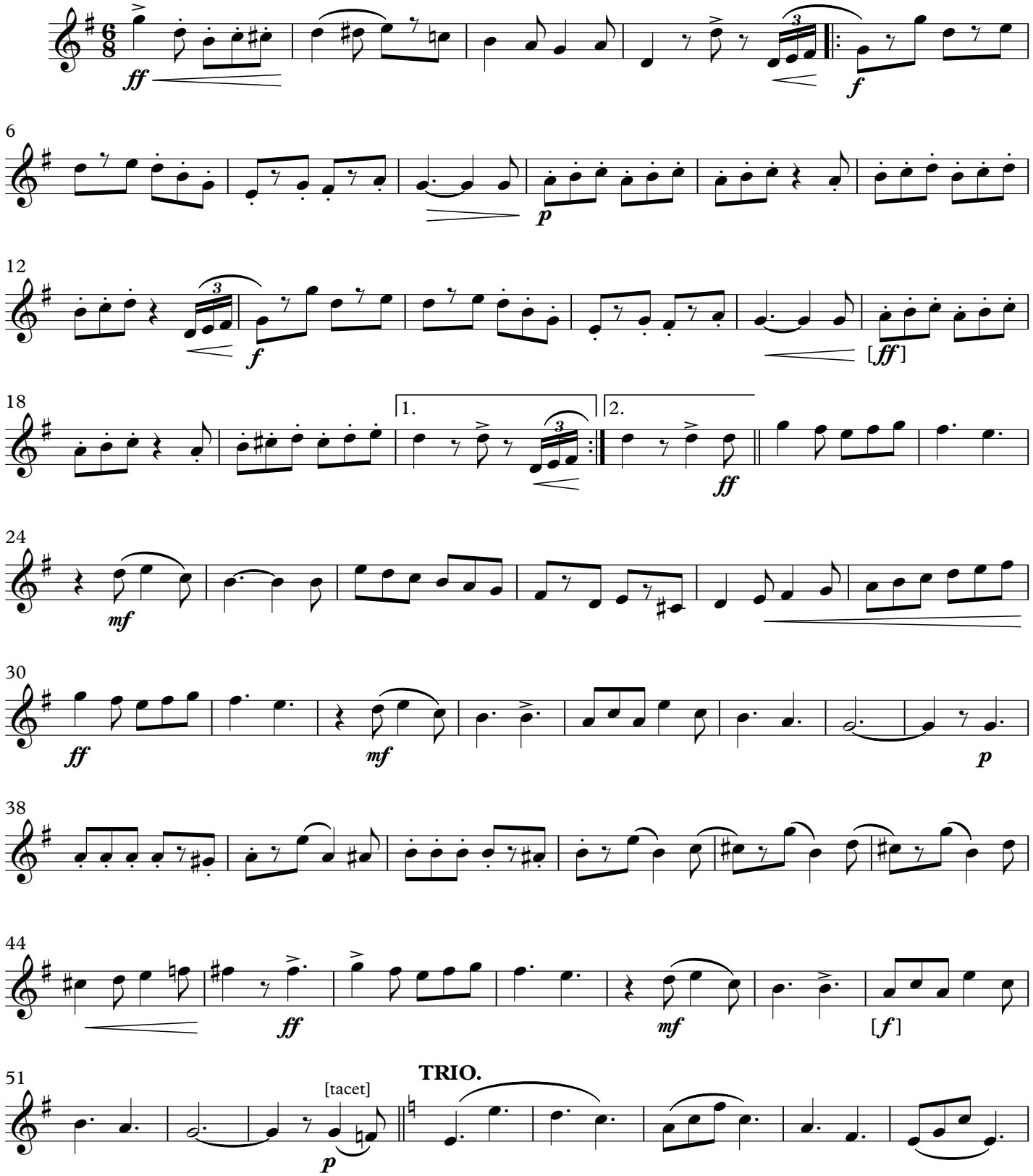
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

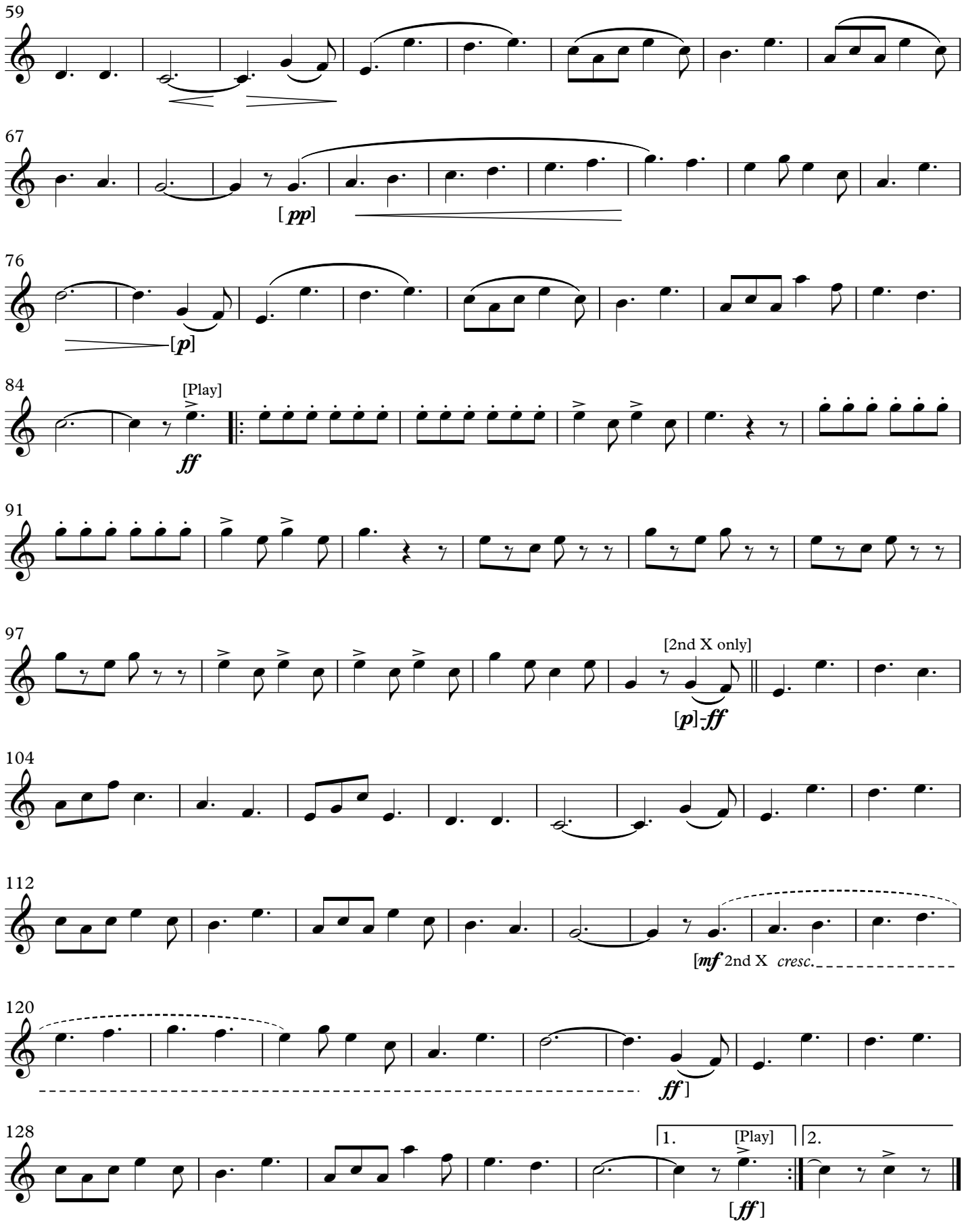
Solo or 1st B♭ Cornet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


59
67
[pp]
76
[p]
84
[Play]
ff
91
97
[2nd X only]
[p]-ff
104
112
[mf 2nd X cresc.
120
ff]
128
1.
[Play]
2.
[ff]

March

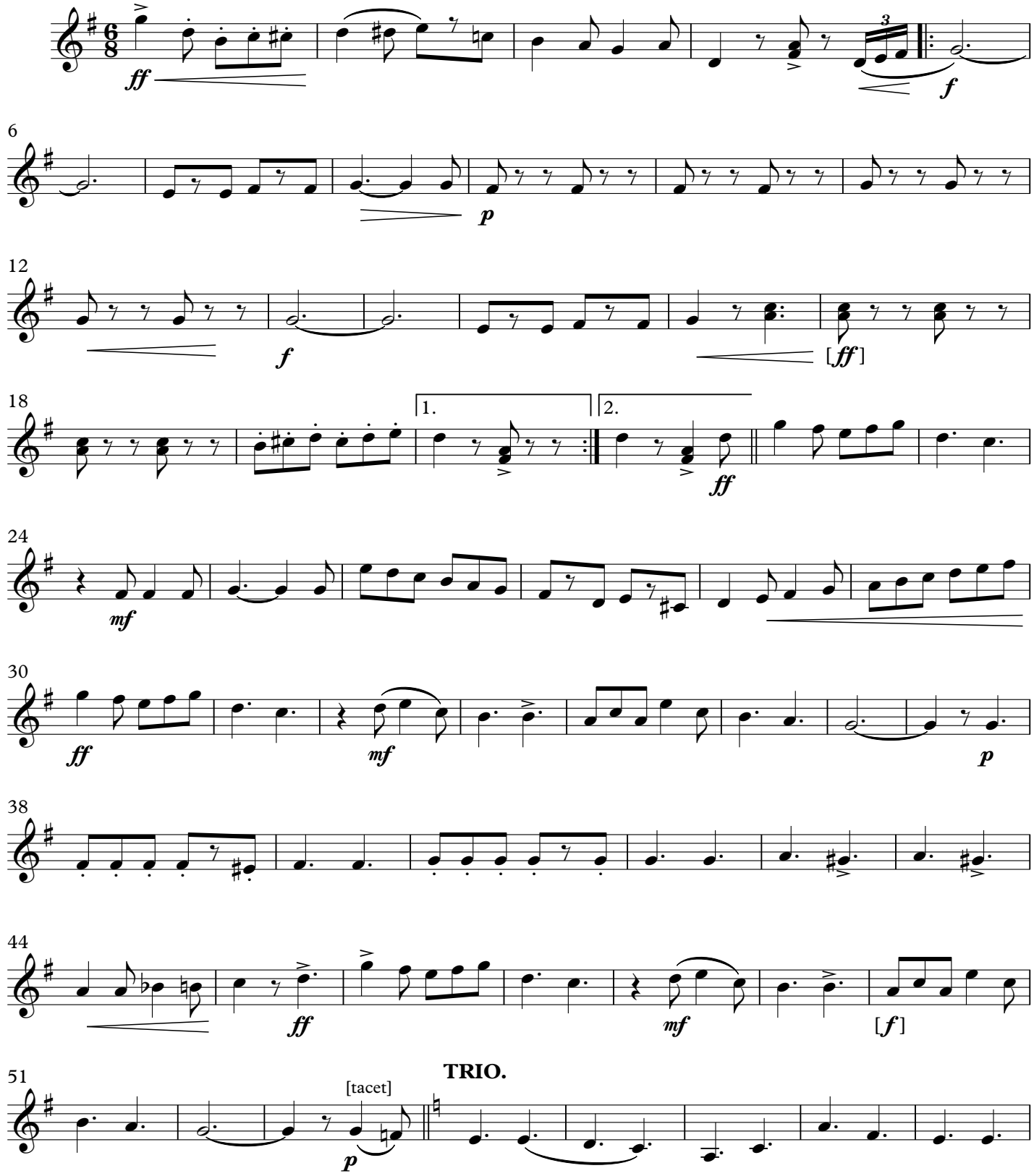
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

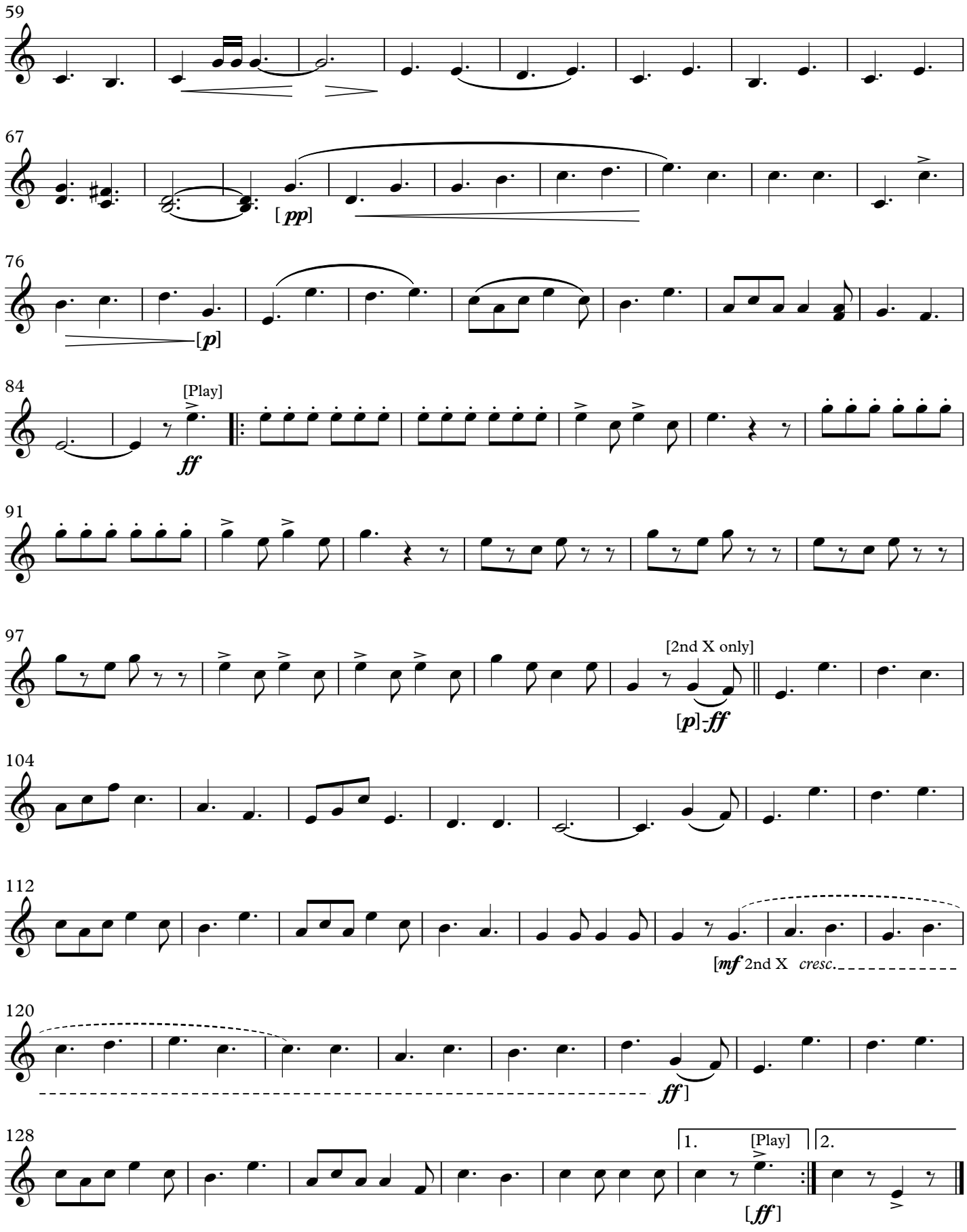
2nd B♭ Cornet

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


59
67
[pp]
76
[p]
84
[Play]
ff
91
97
[2nd X only]
[p]-ff
104
112
[mf 2nd X cresc.
120
ff]
128
1.
[Play]
2.
[ff]

March

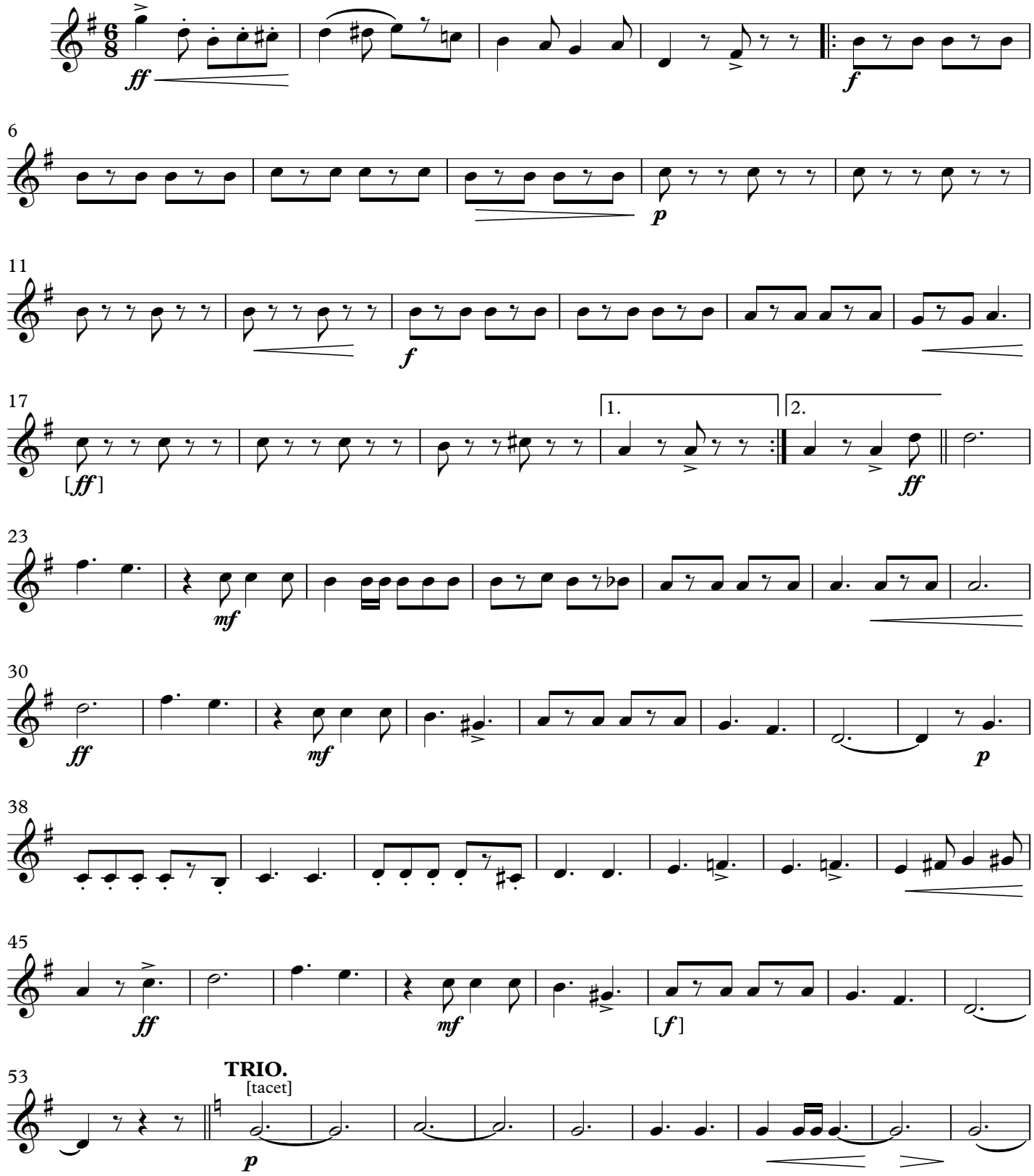
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

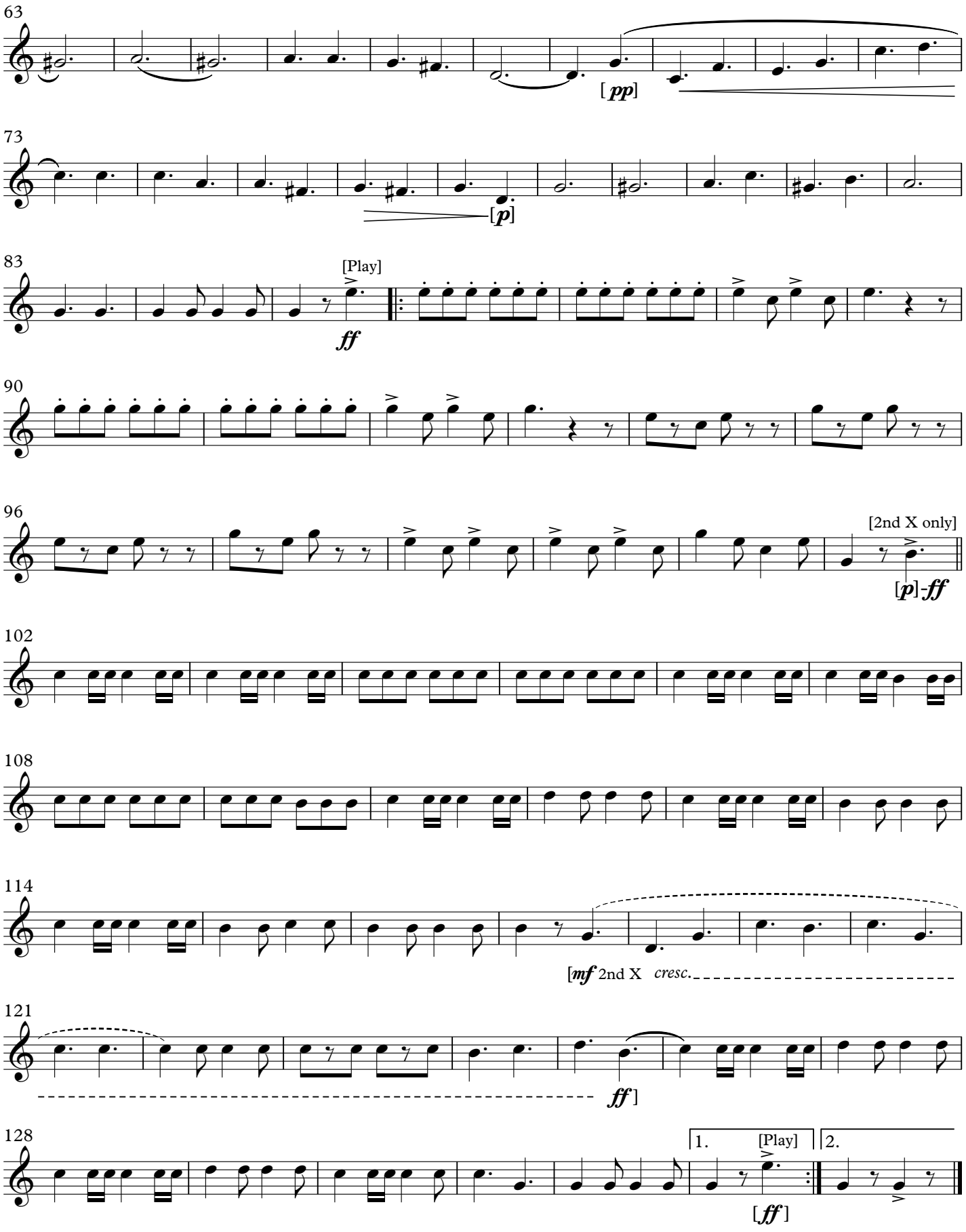
3rd B♭ Cornet
(1st B♭ Trumpet)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


63
[pp]
73
[p]
83
[Play]
ff
90
96
[2nd X only]
[p]-ff
102
108
114
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
[Play]
2.
[ff]

March

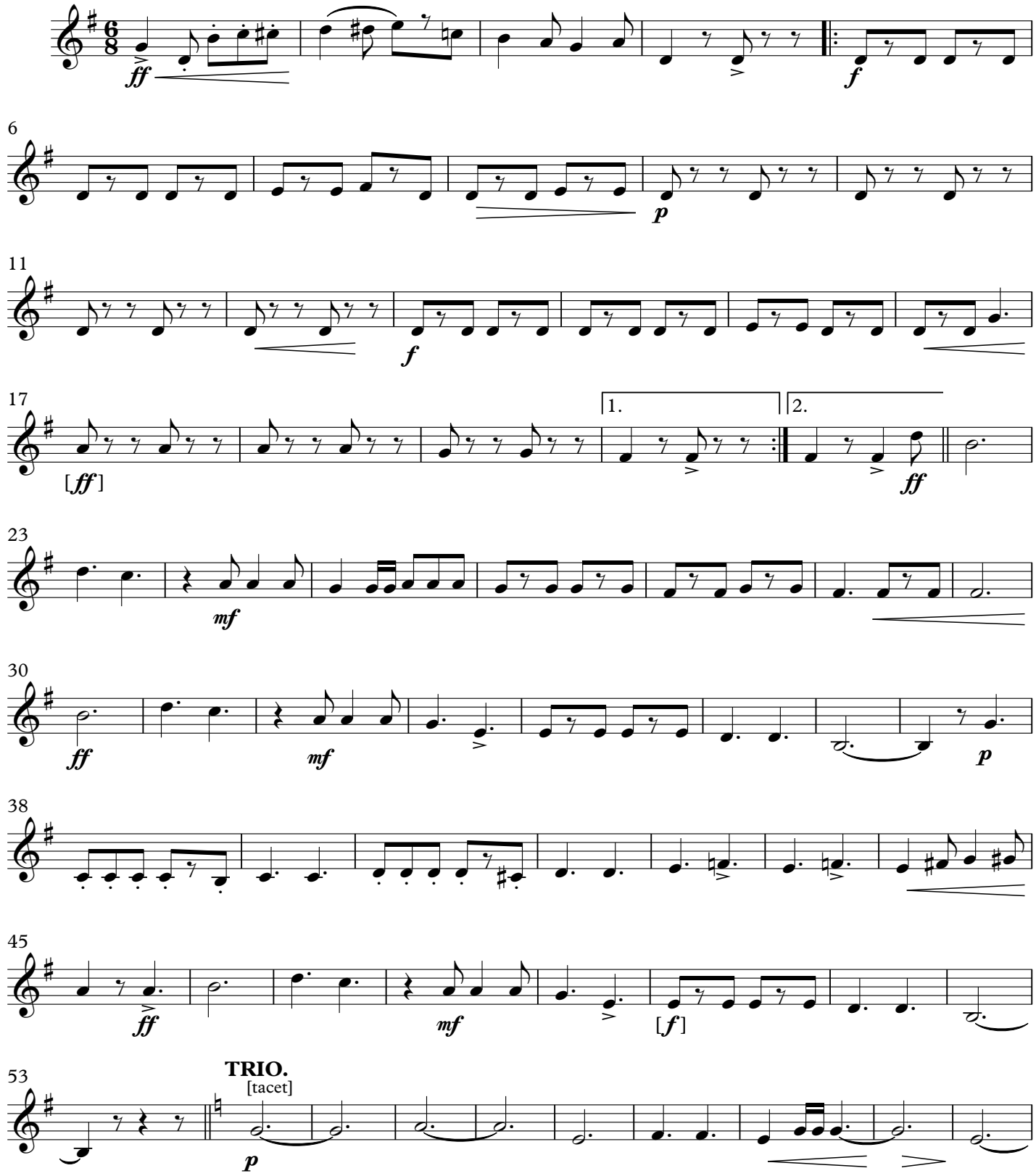
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

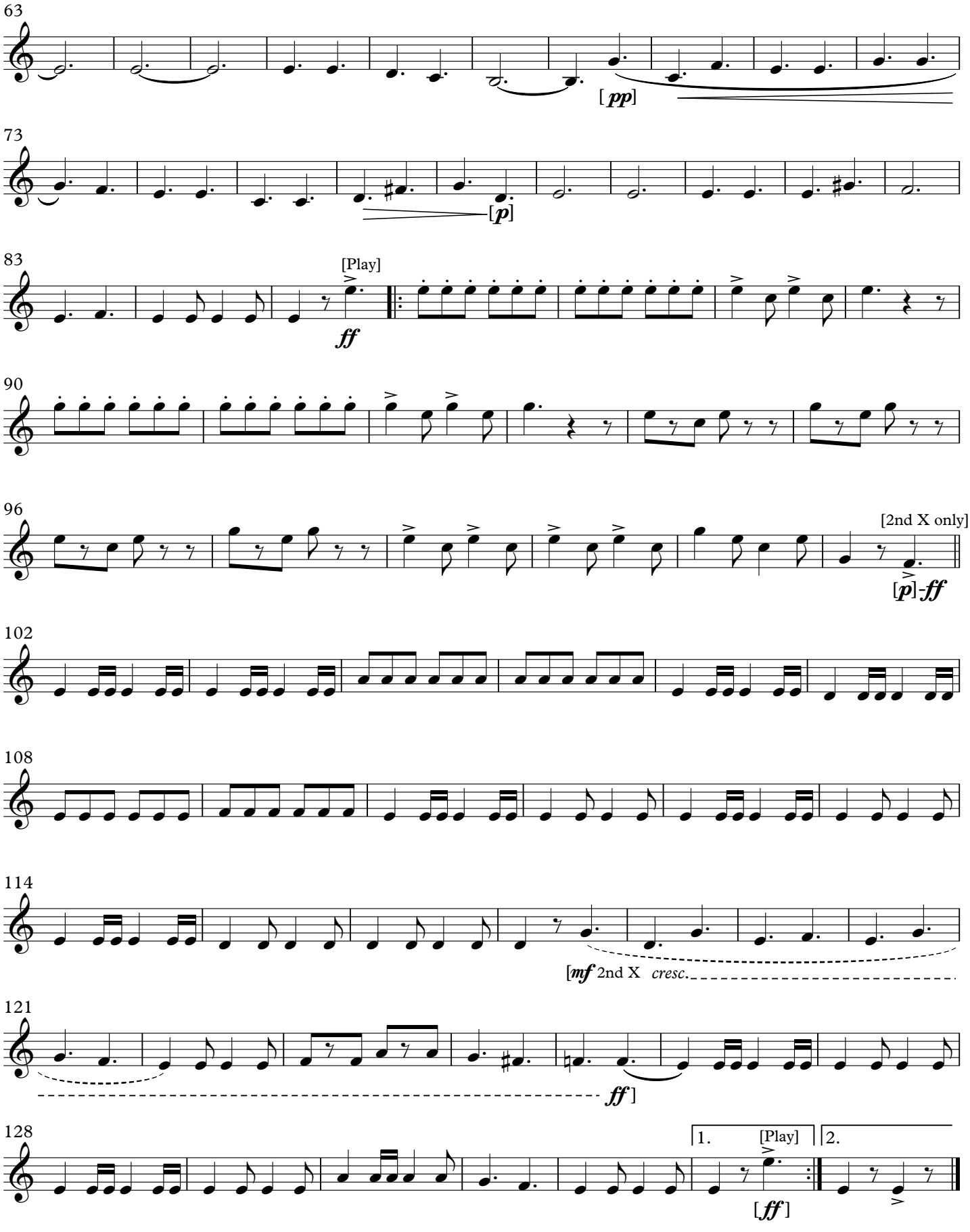
4th B♭ Cornet
(2nd B♭ Trumpet)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


63
[pp]
73
[p]
83
[Play]
ff
90
96
[2nd X only]
[p]-ff
102
108
114
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
[Play]
2.
[ff]

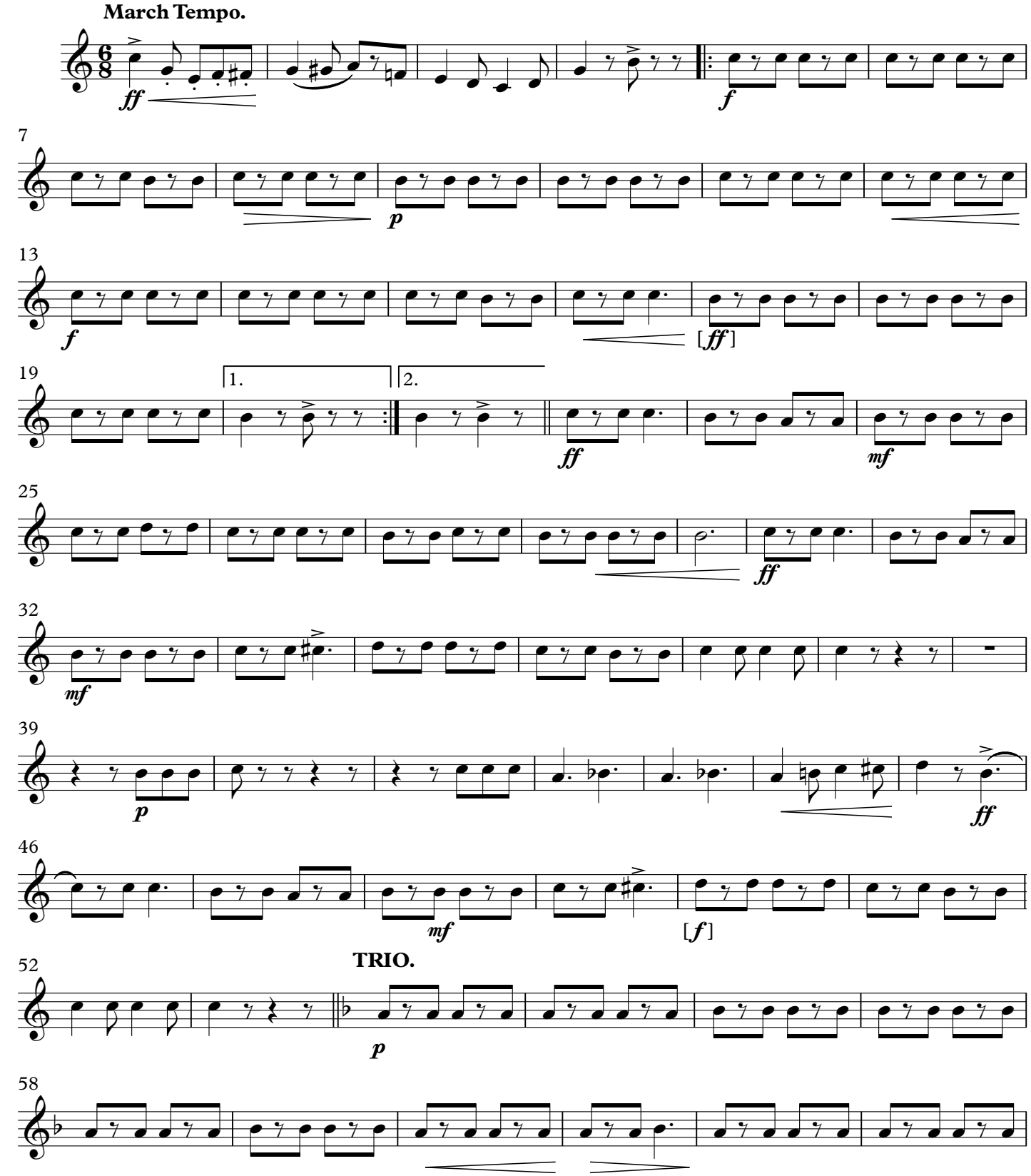
March

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

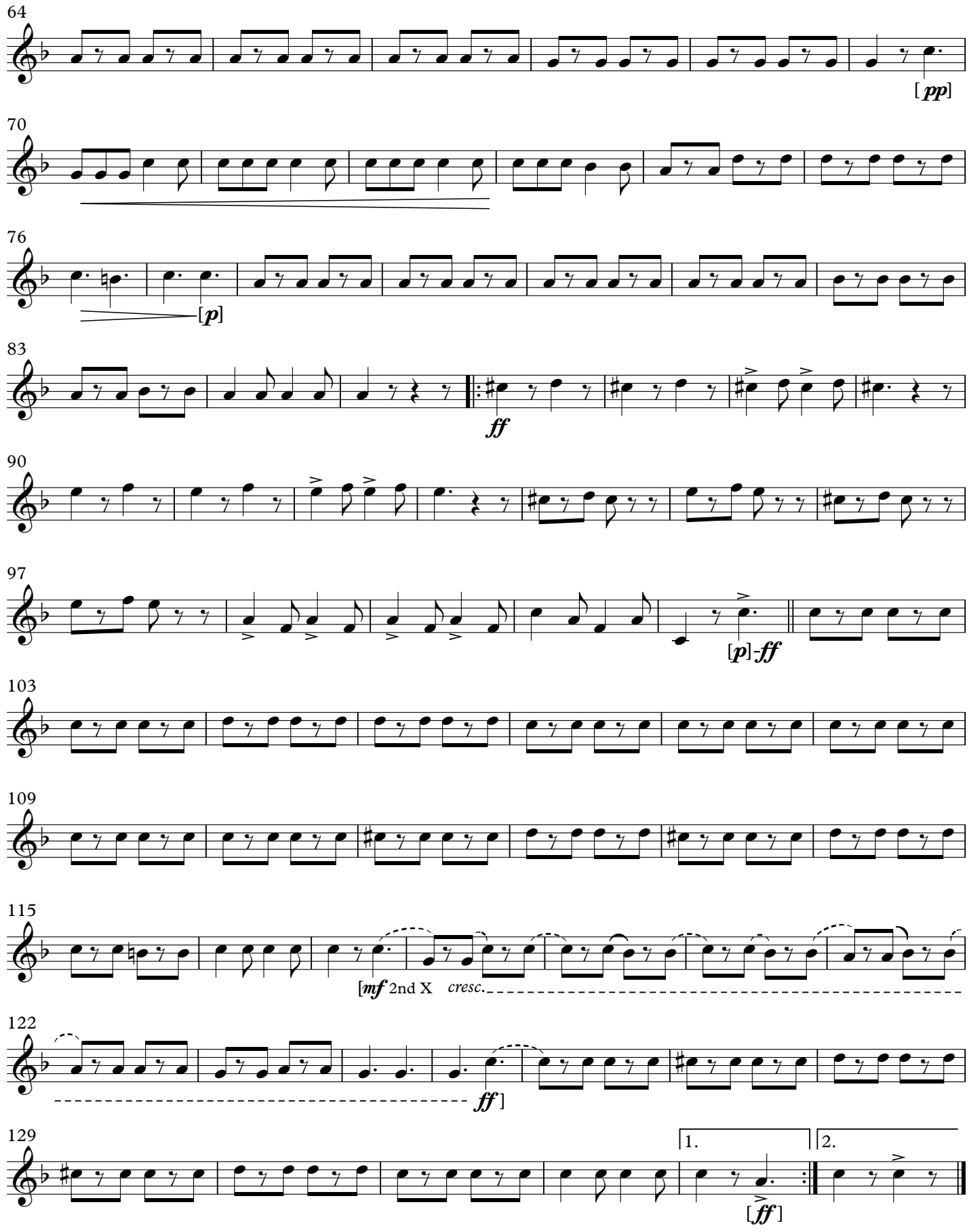
(1924)

1st F Horn

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


64
[pp]
70
76
[p]
83
ff
90
97
[p]-ff
103
109
115
[mf 2nd X
cresc.
122
ff]
129
1.
2.
[ff]

March

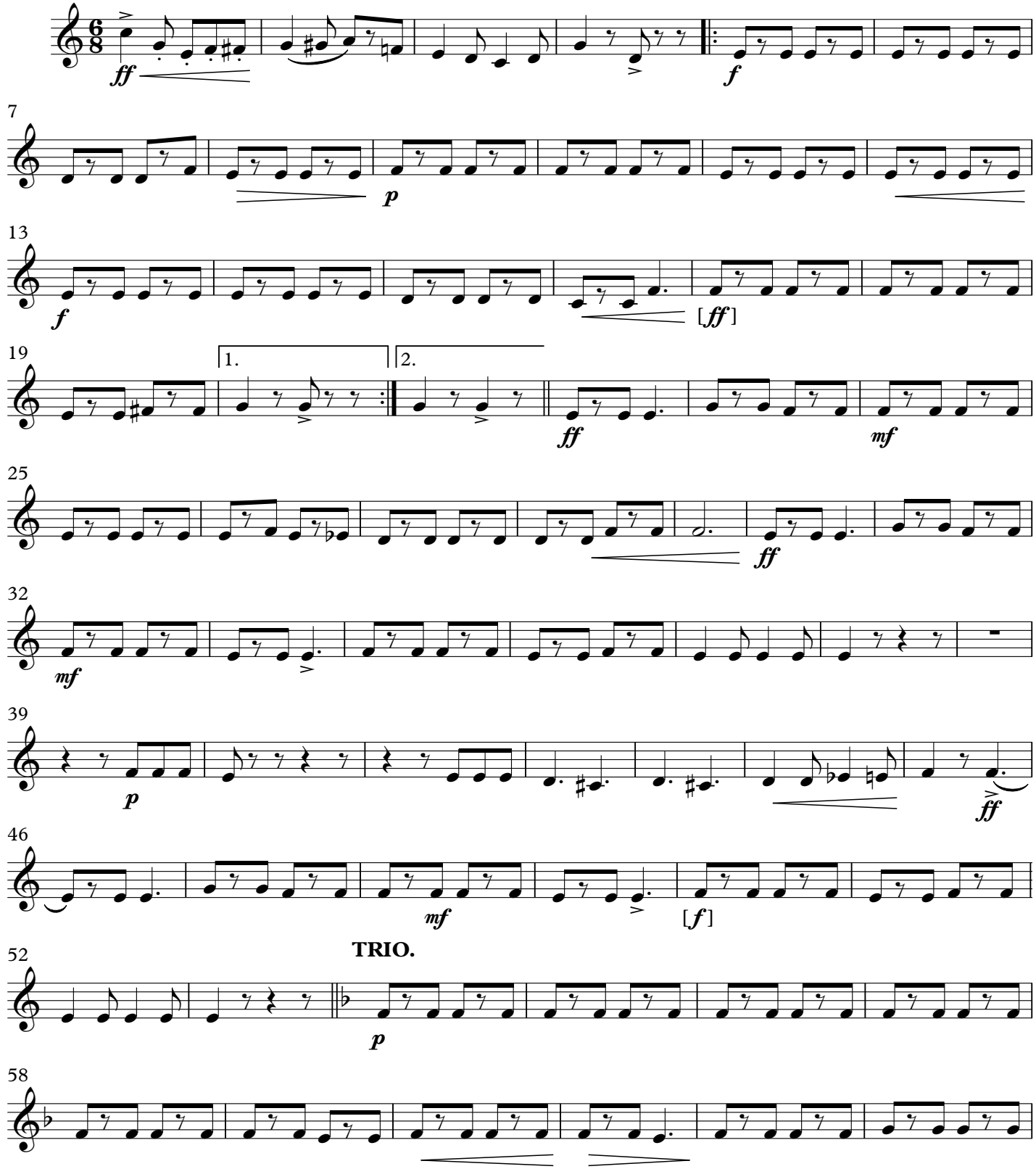
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

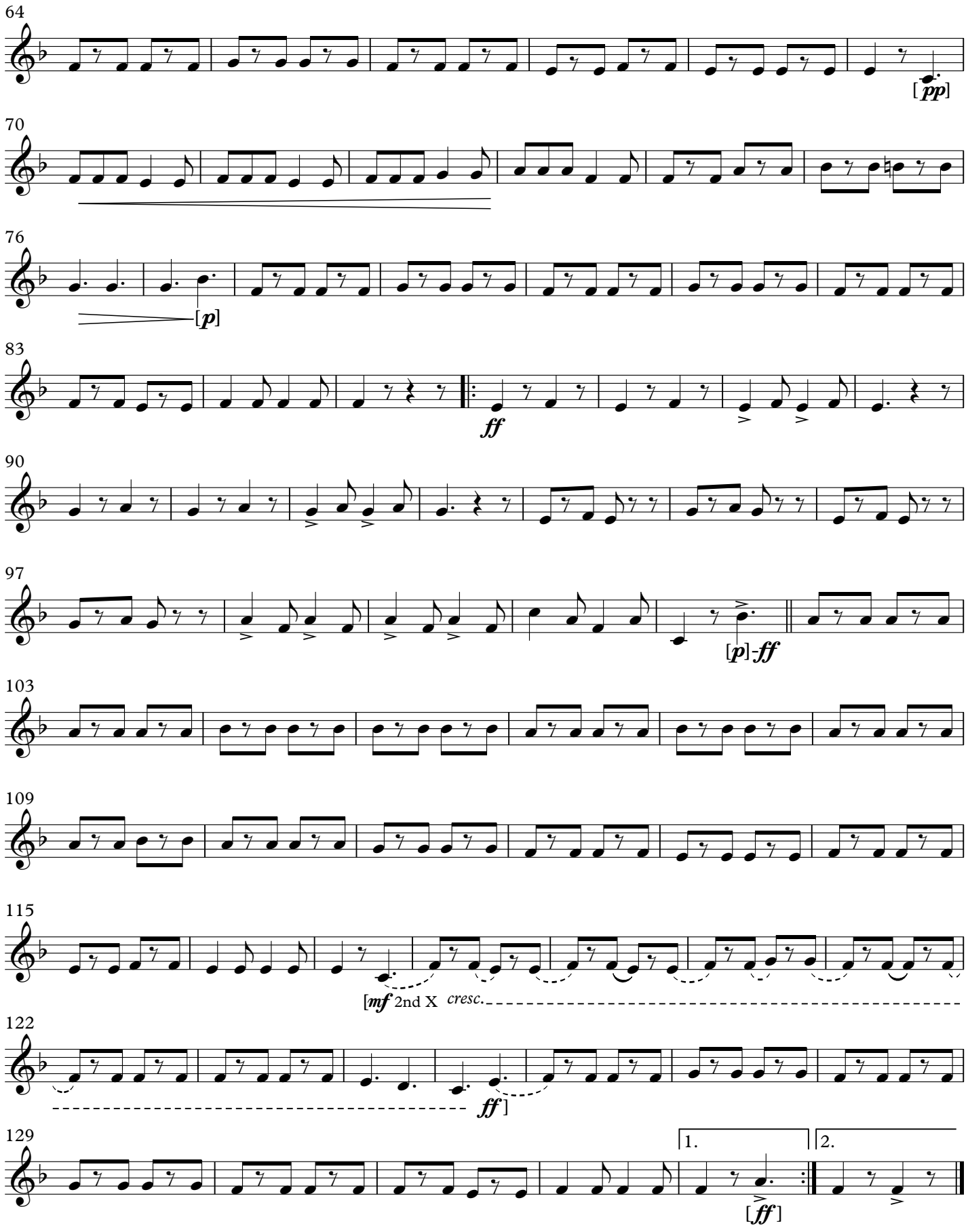
2nd F Horn

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


64
[pp]
70
76
[p]
83
ff
90
97
[p]-ff
103
109
115
[mf 2nd X
cresc.
122
ff]
129
1.
2.
[ff]

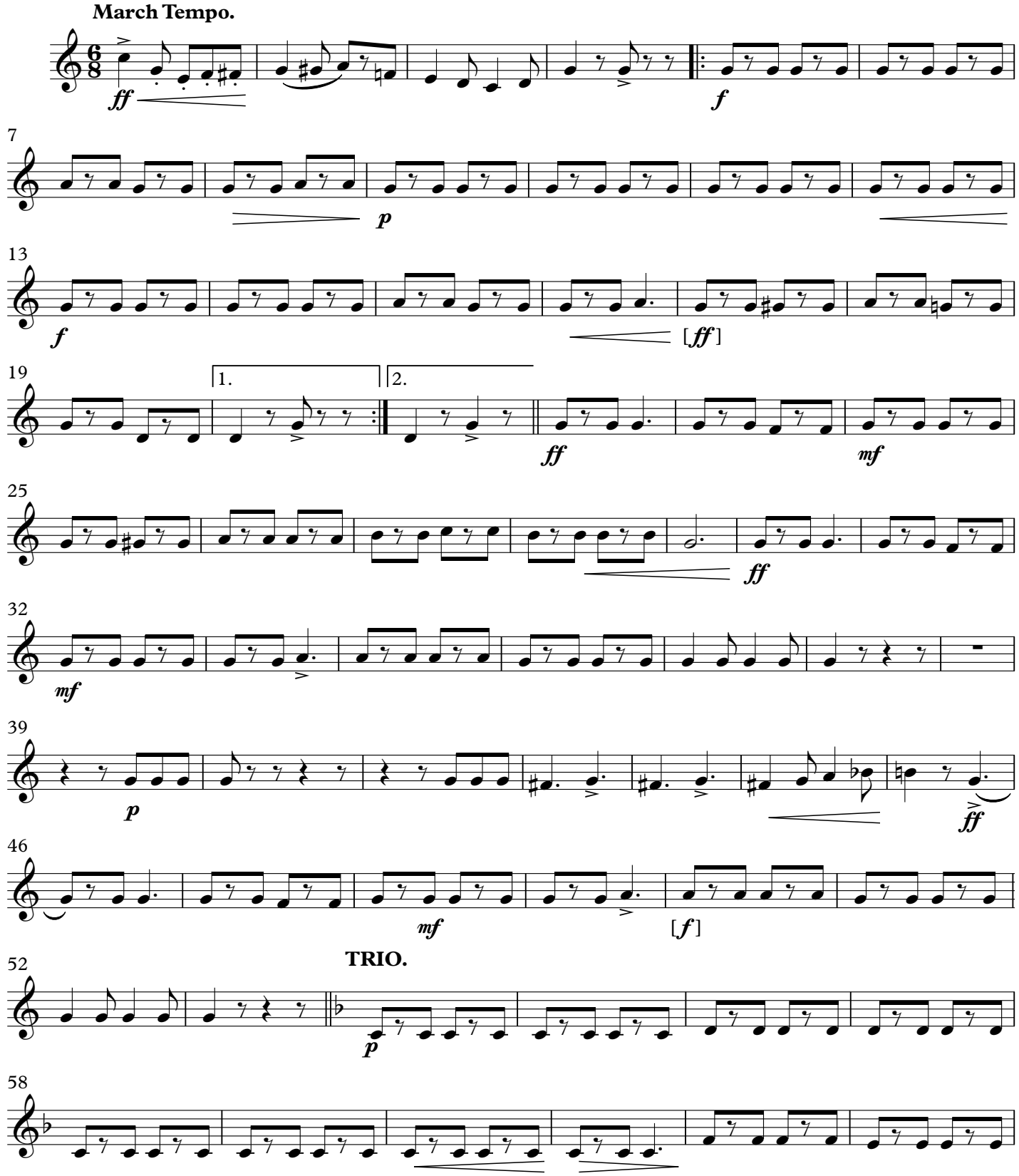
March

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

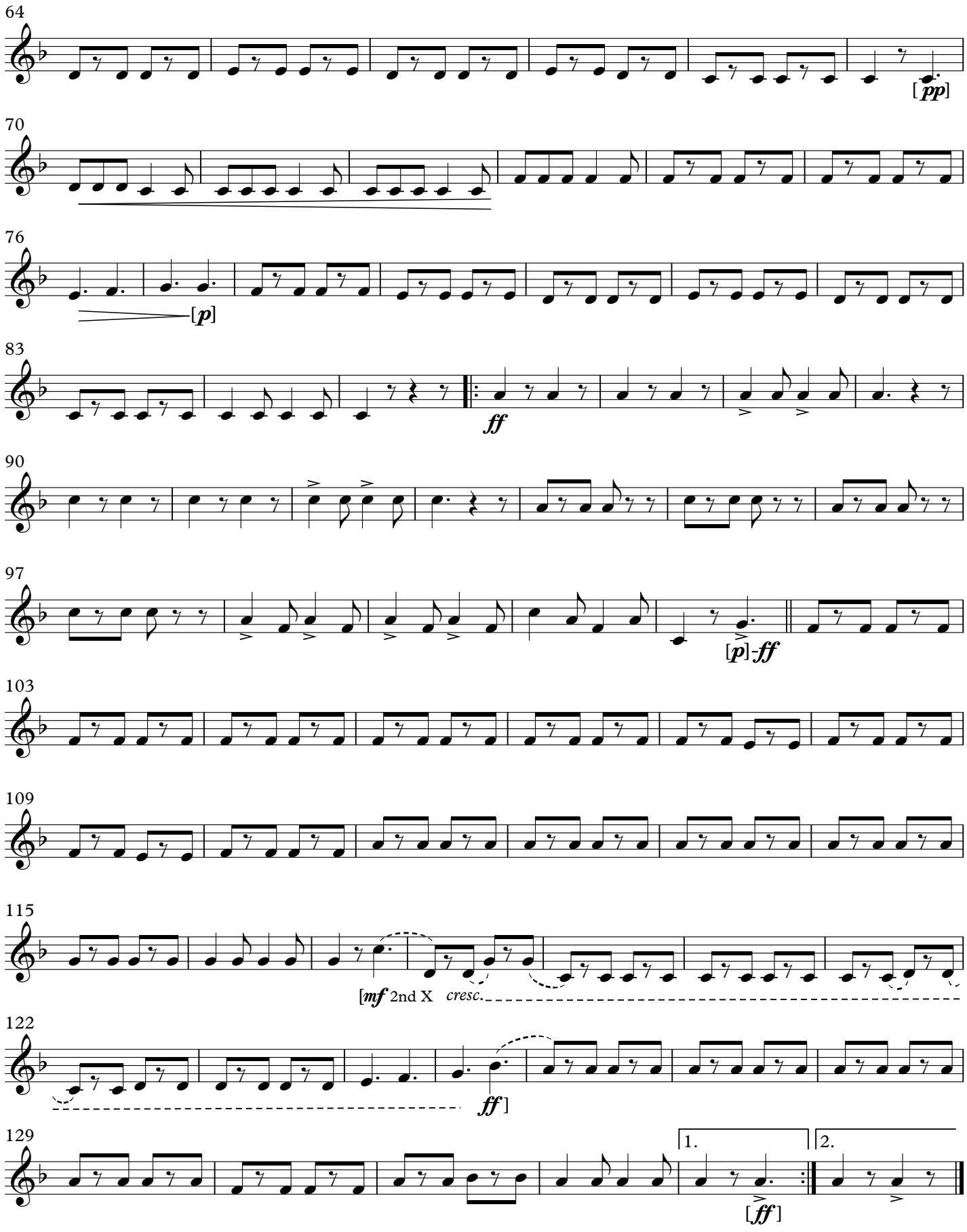
(1924)

3rd F Horn

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band


64
[pp]
70
76
[p]
83
ff
90
97
[p]-ff
103
109
115
[mf 2nd X
cresc.
122
ff]
129
1.
2.
[ff]

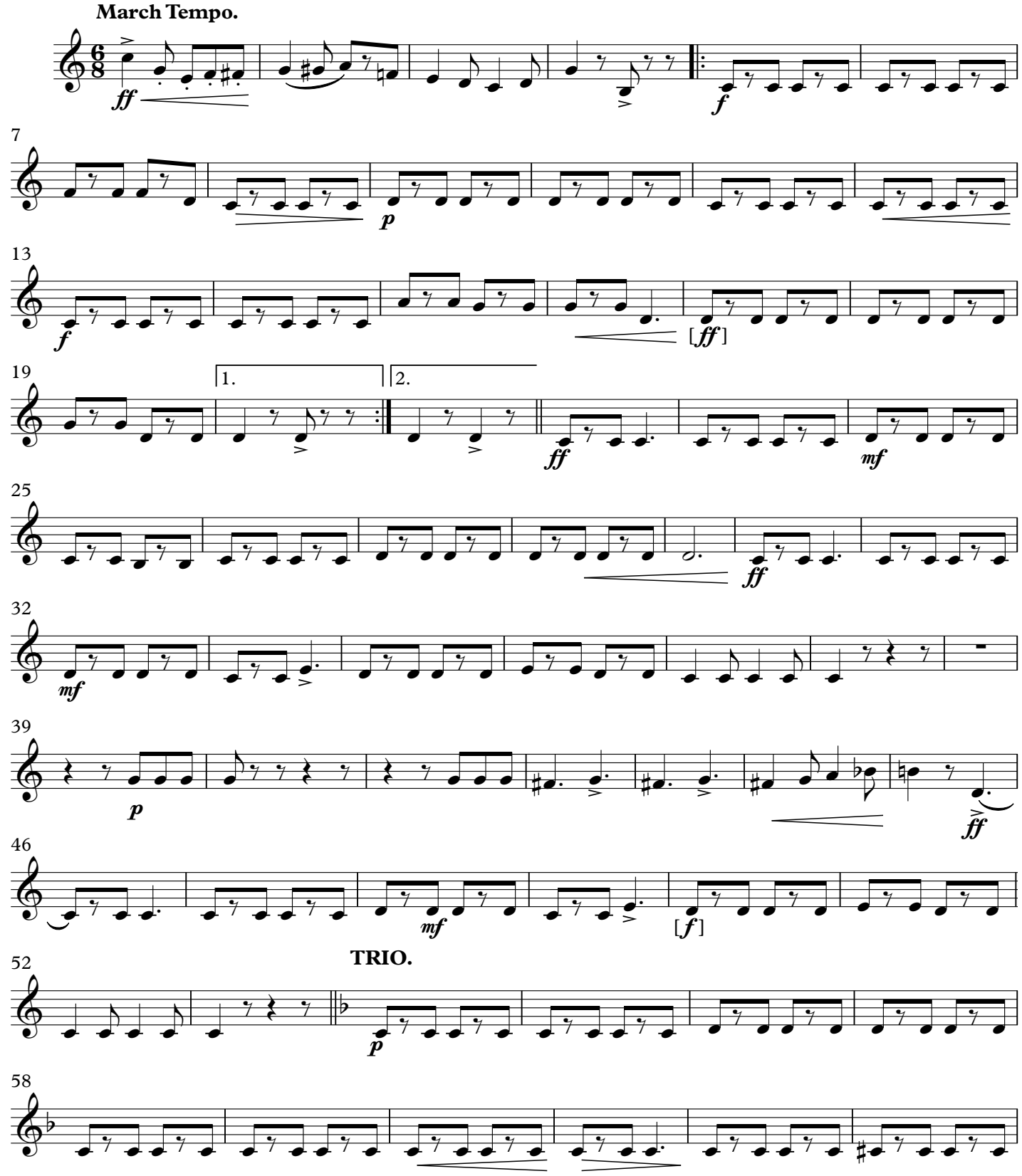
March

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

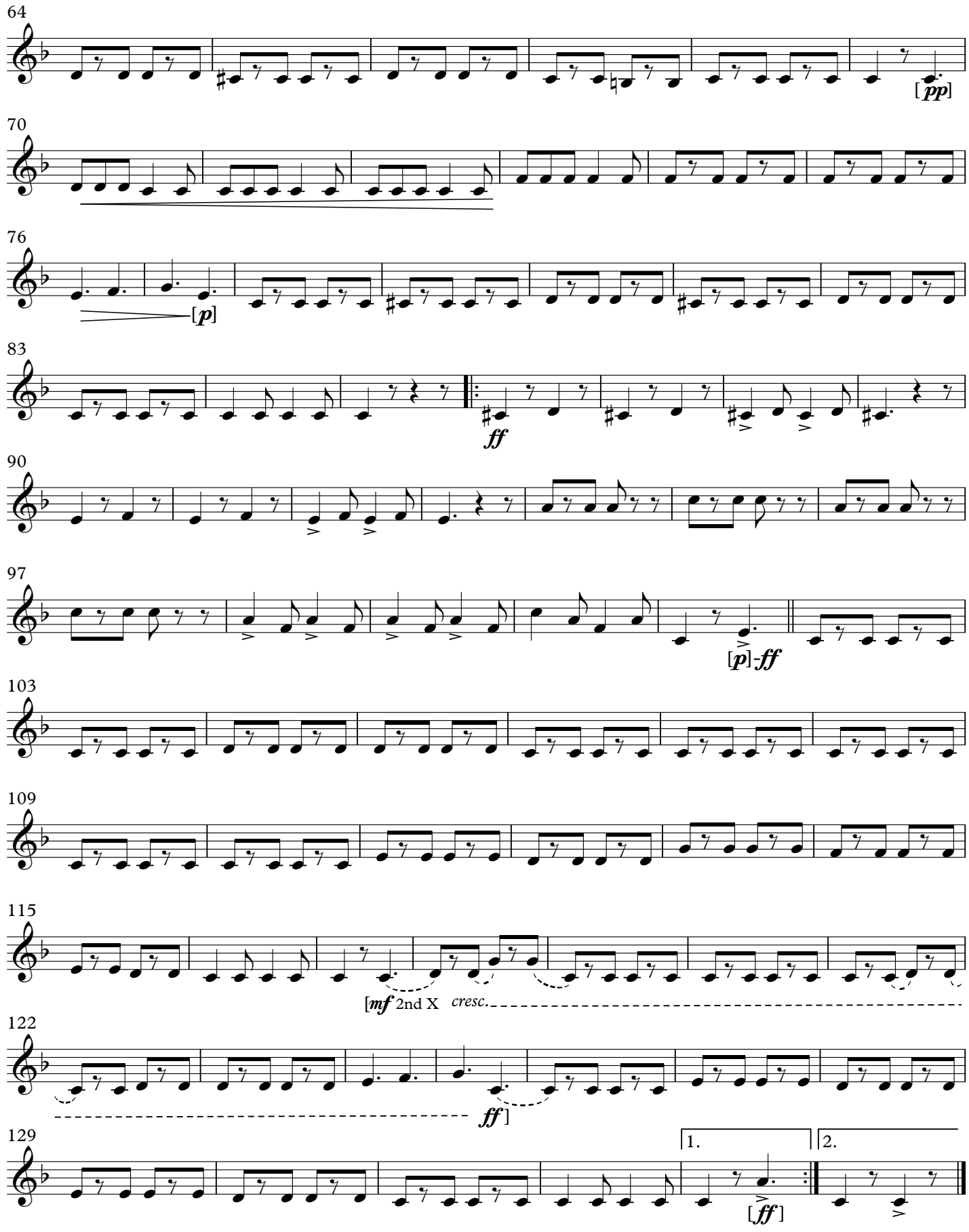
(1924)

4th F Horn

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band


64
[pp]
70
76
[p]
83
ff
90
97
[p]-ff
103
109
115
[mf 2nd X
cresc.
122
ff]
129
1.
2.
[ff]

March

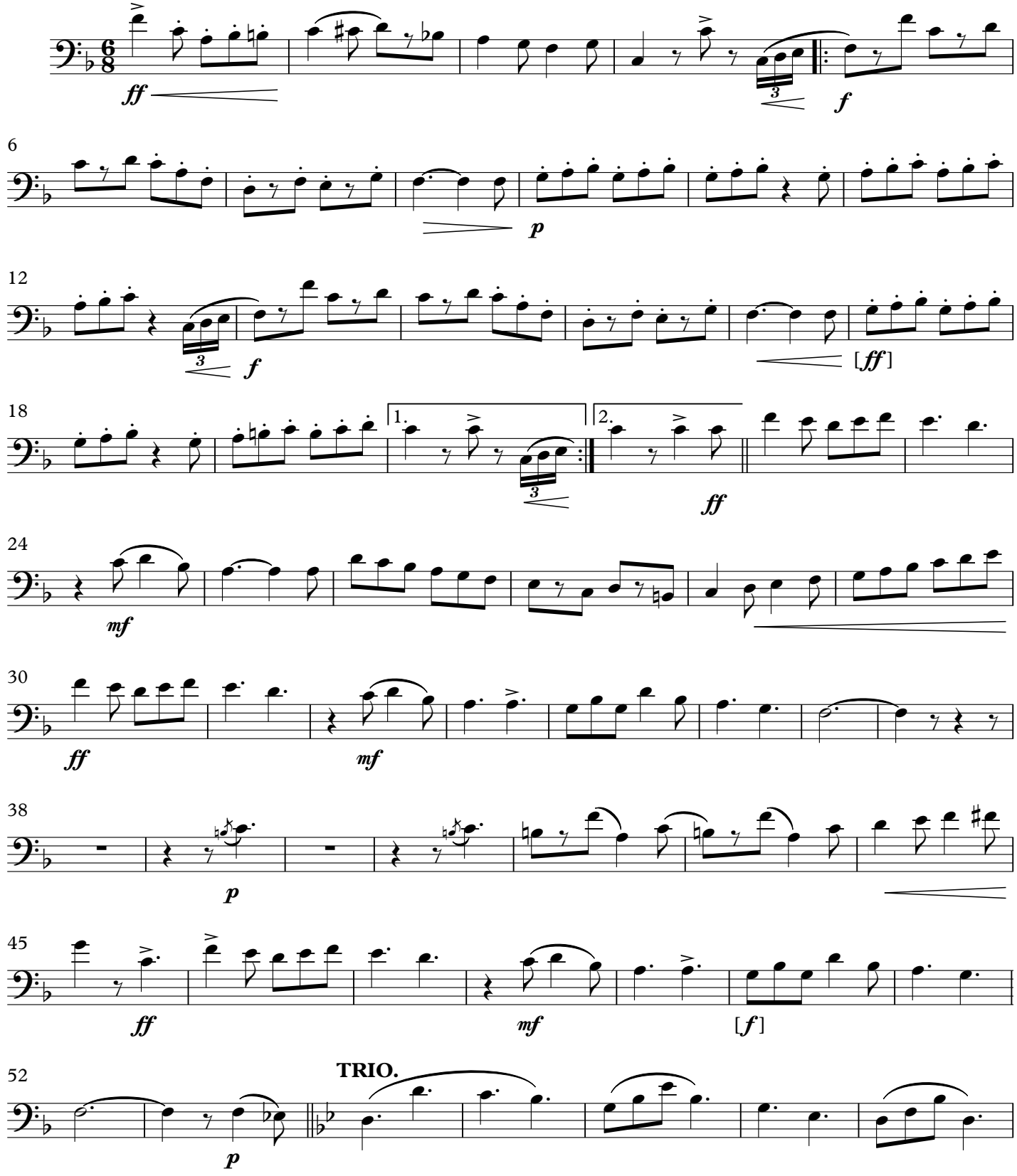
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

Euphonium

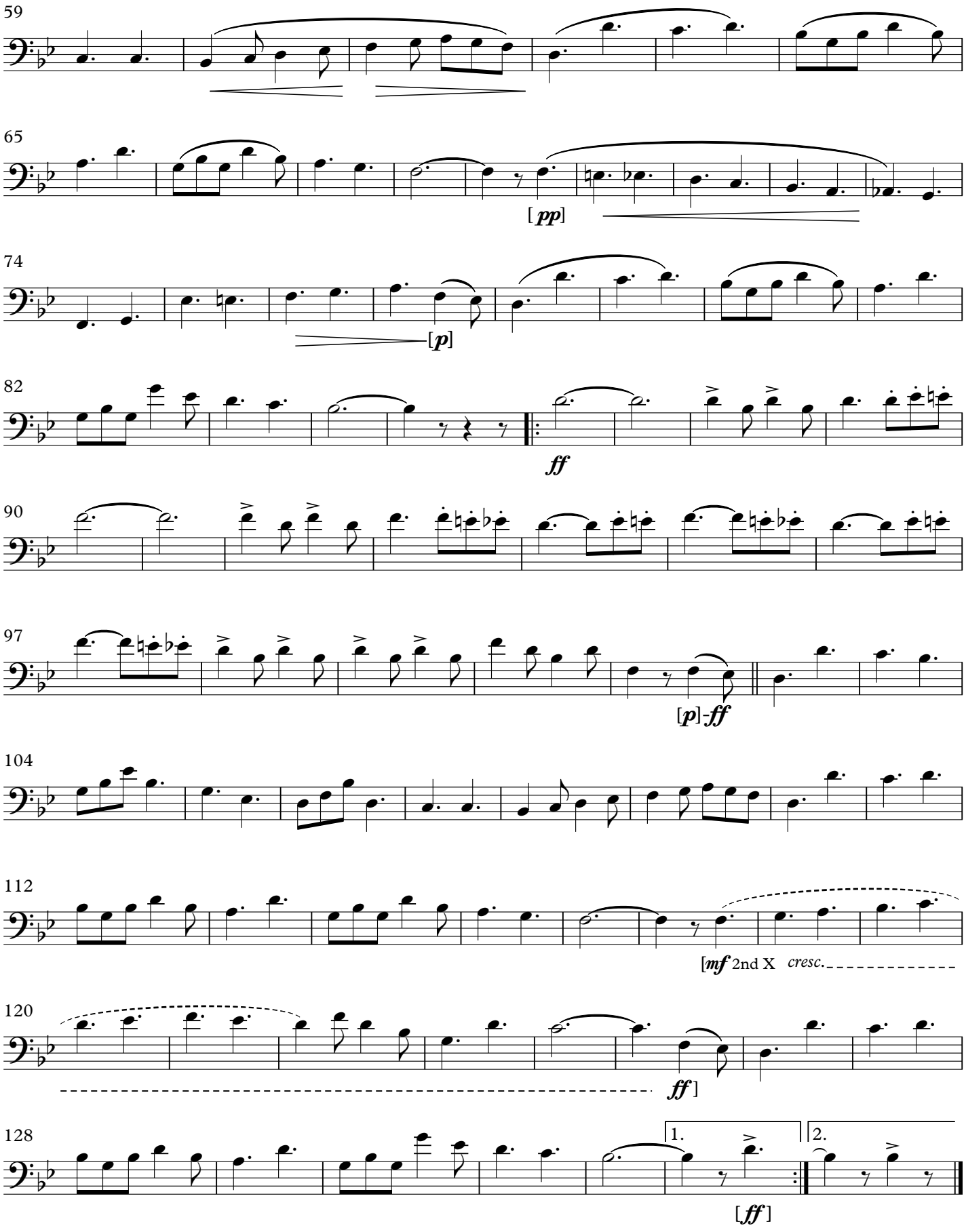
(1924)

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band


59
65
[pp]
74
[p]
82
ff
90
97
[p]-ff
104
112
[mf 2nd X cresc.
120
ff]
128
1.
2.
[ff]

March

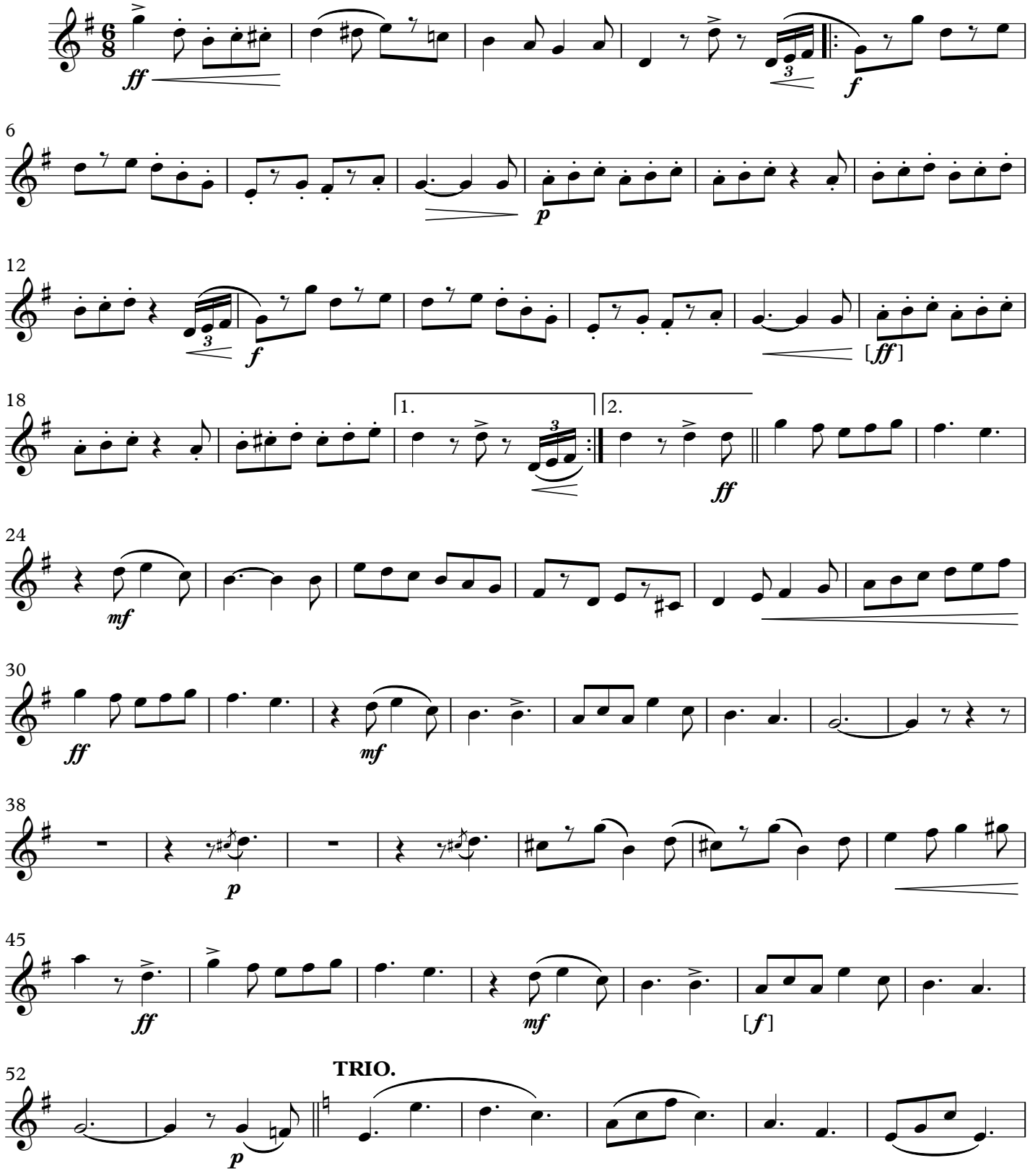
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

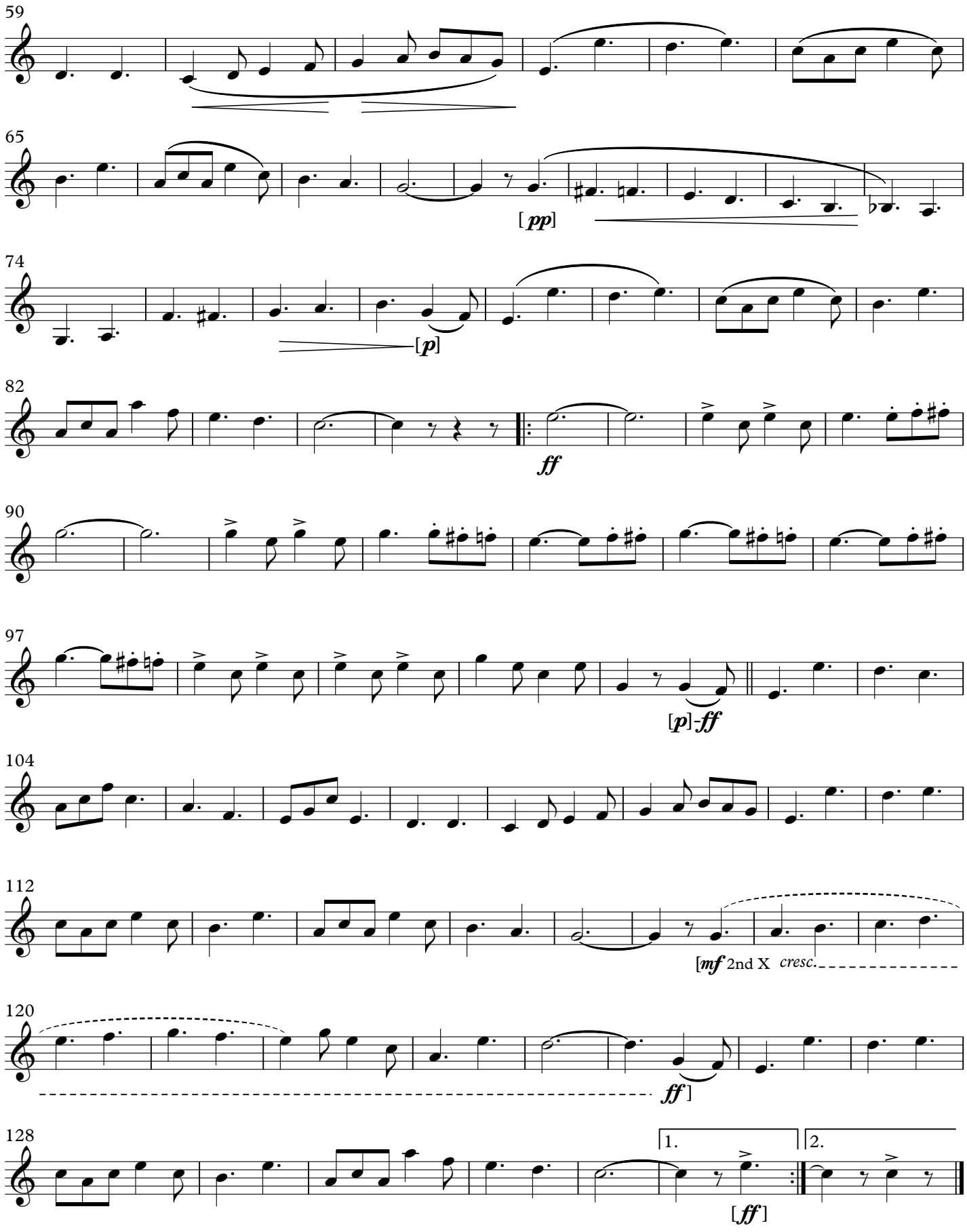
Euphonium, T.C.

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


59
65
[pp]
74
[p]
82
ff
90
97
[p]-ff
104
112
[mf 2nd X cresc.
120
ff]
128
1.
2.
[ff]

March

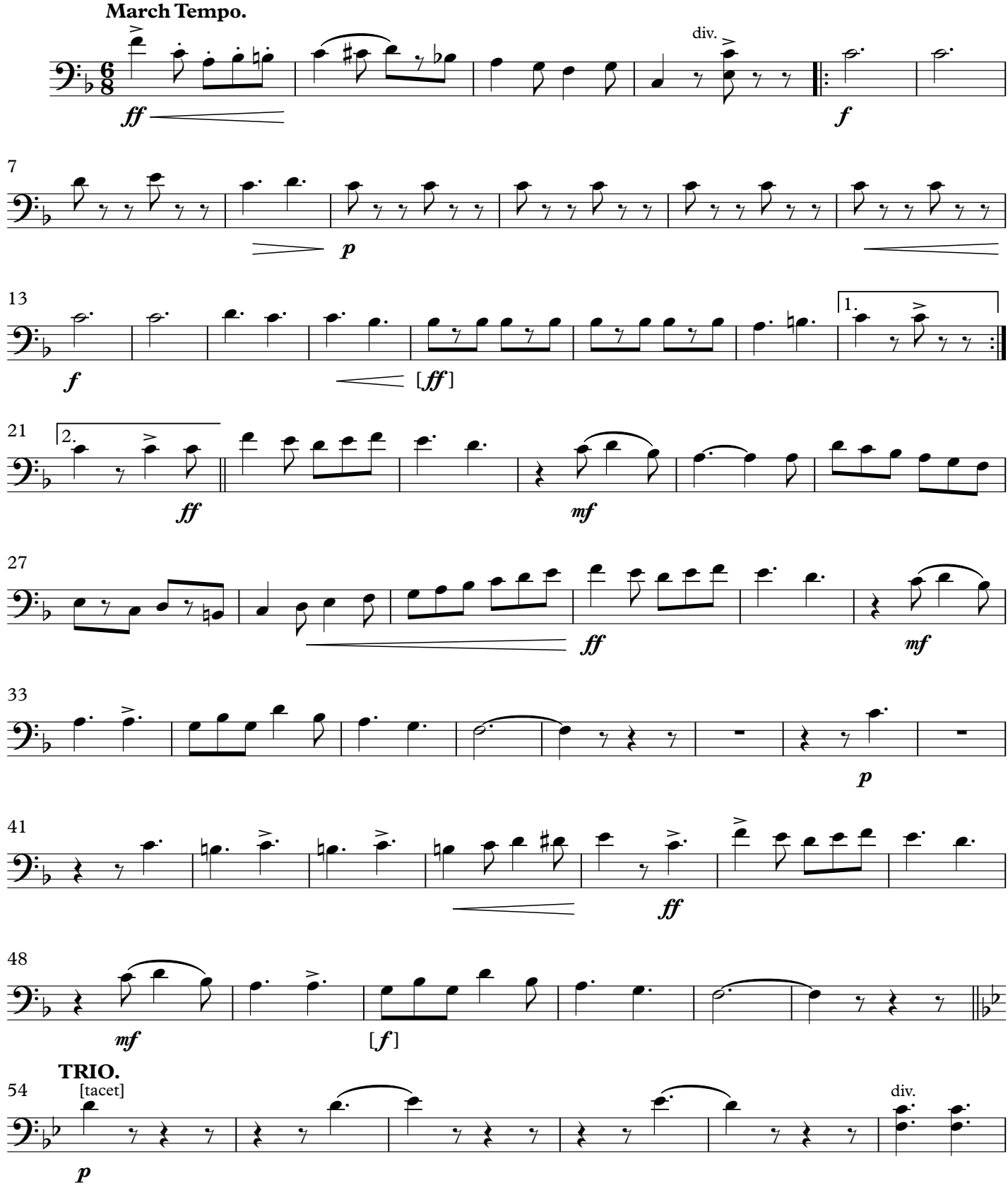
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

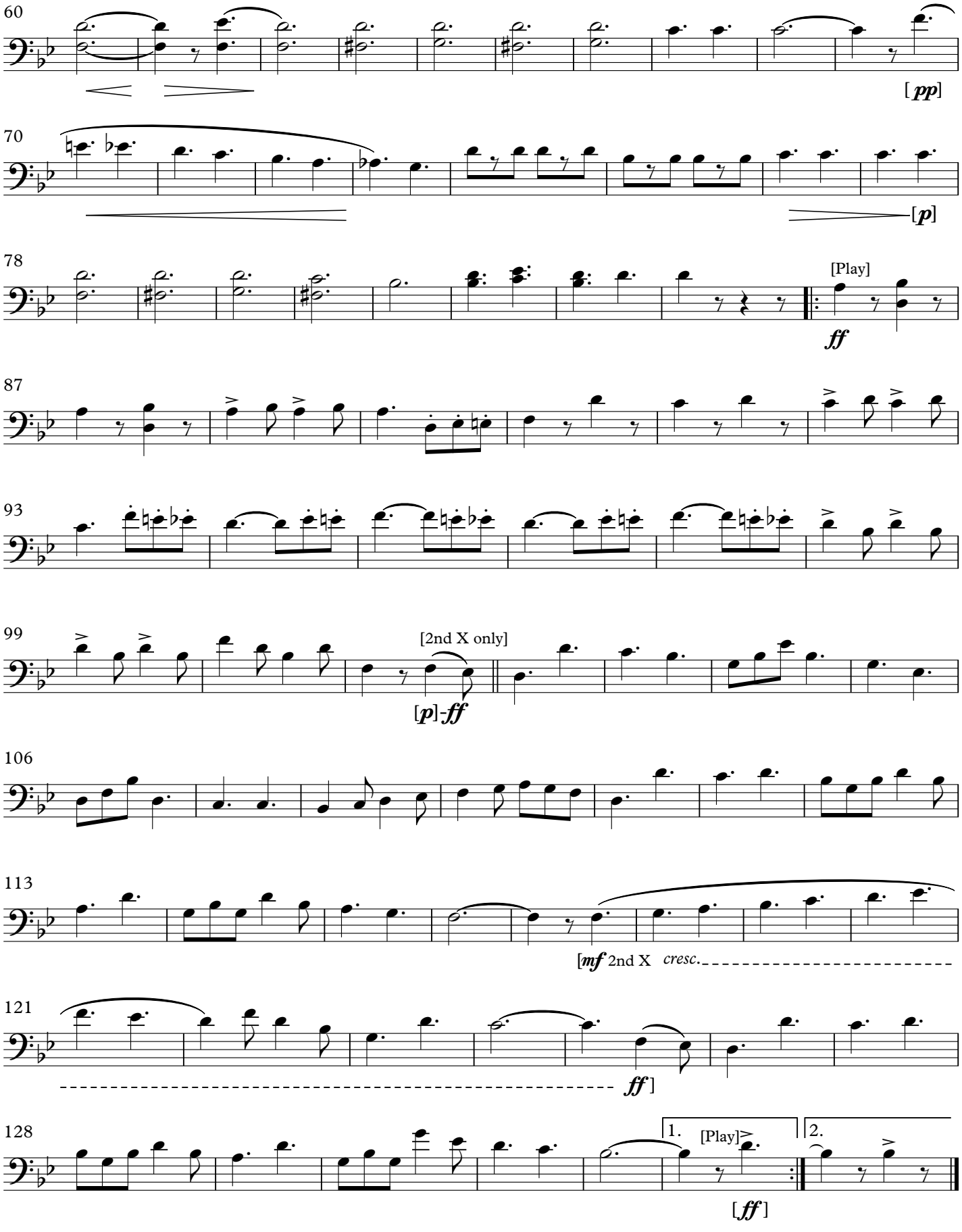
1st Trombone

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band


60
[pp]
70
[p]
78
[Play]
ff
87
93
99
[2nd X only]
[p]-ff
106
113
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
[Play]
2.
[ff]

March

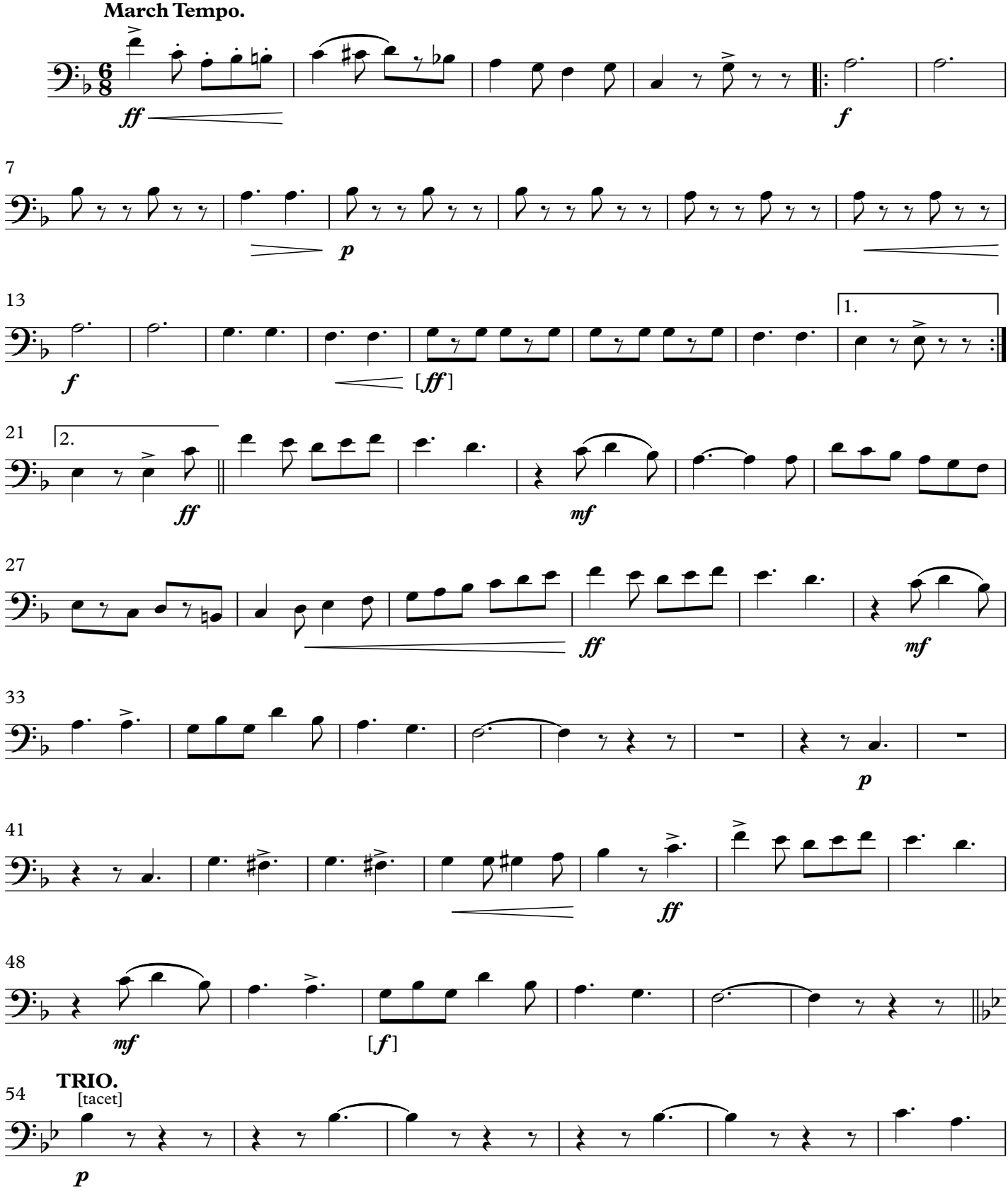
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

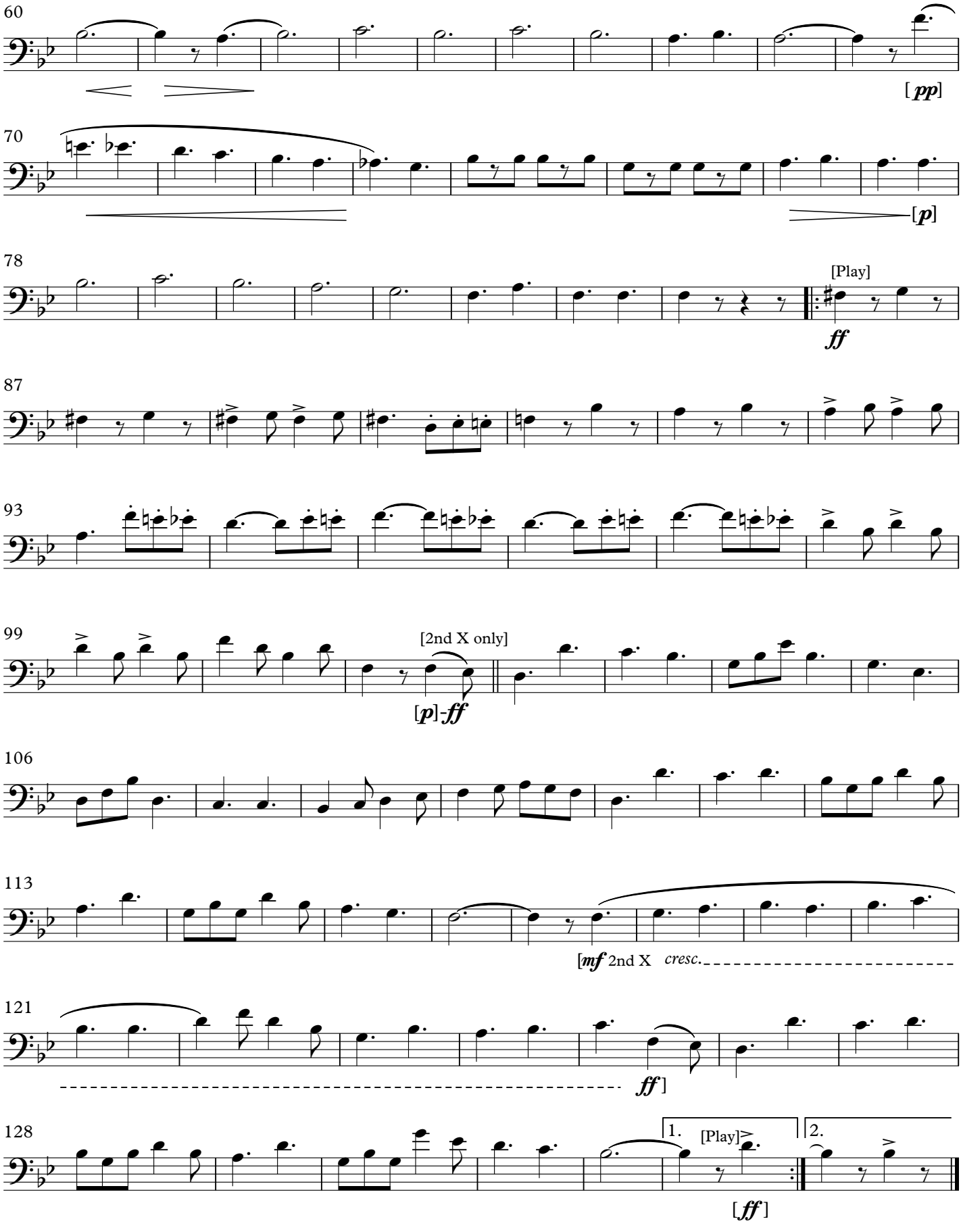
2nd Trombone

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band


60
[pp]
70
[p]
78
[Play]
ff
87
93
99
[2nd X only]
[p]-ff
106
113
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
[Play]
2.
[ff]

March

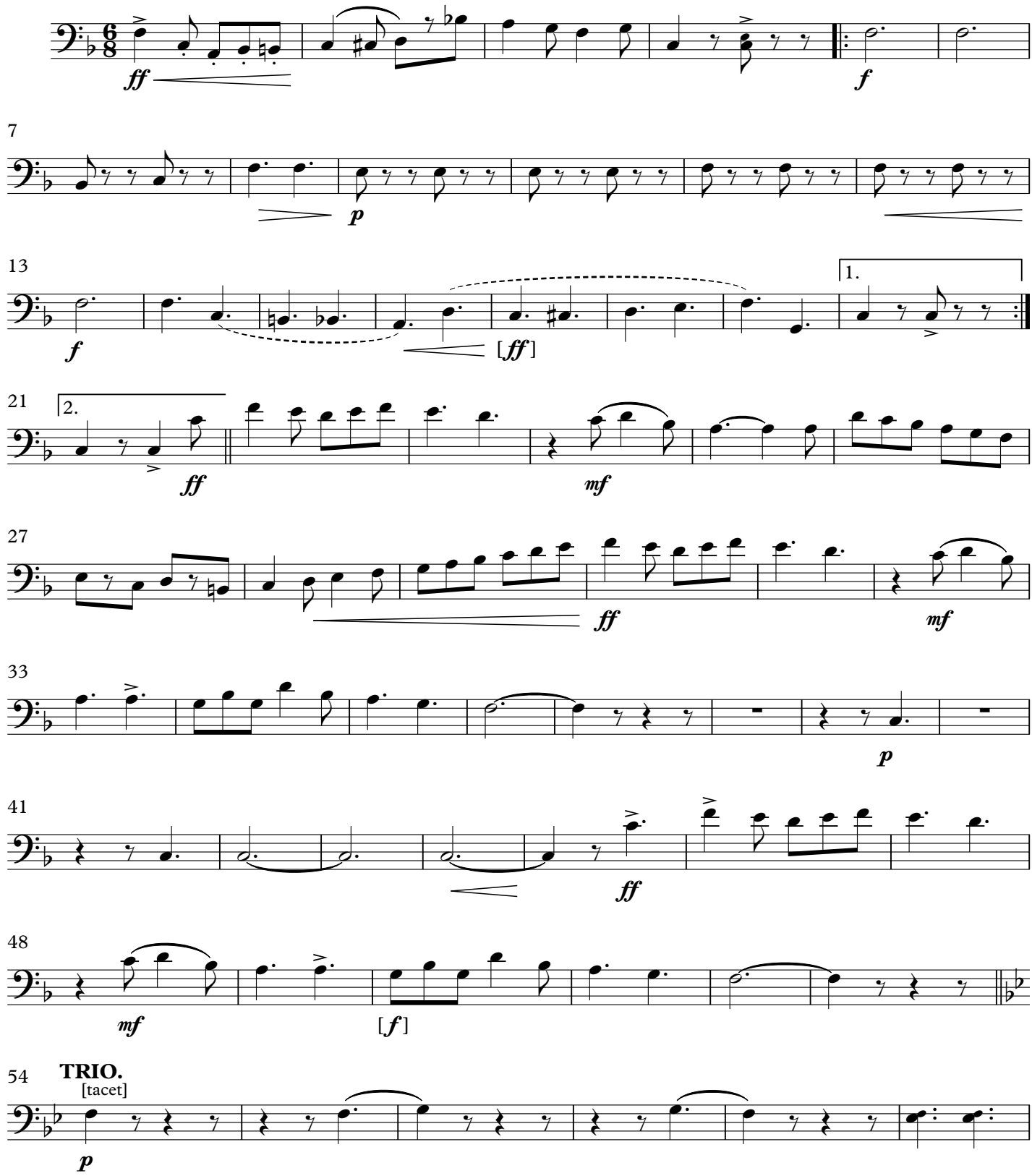
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

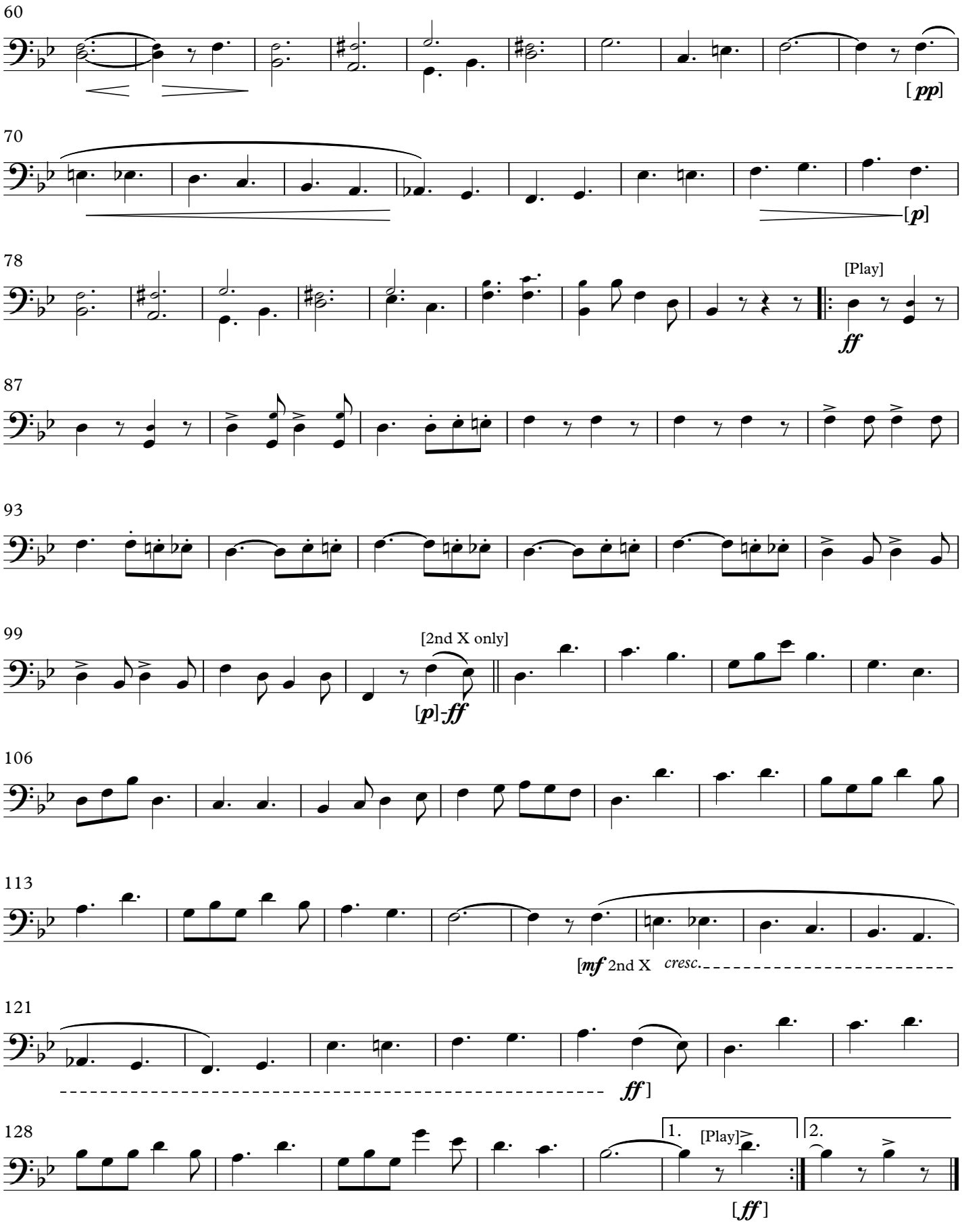
Bass Trombone

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by "The President's Own" United States Marine Band


60
[pp]
70
[p]
78
[Play]
ff
87
93
99
[2nd X only]
[p]-ff
106
113
[mf 2nd X cresc.
121
ff]
128
1.
[Play]
2.
[ff]

March

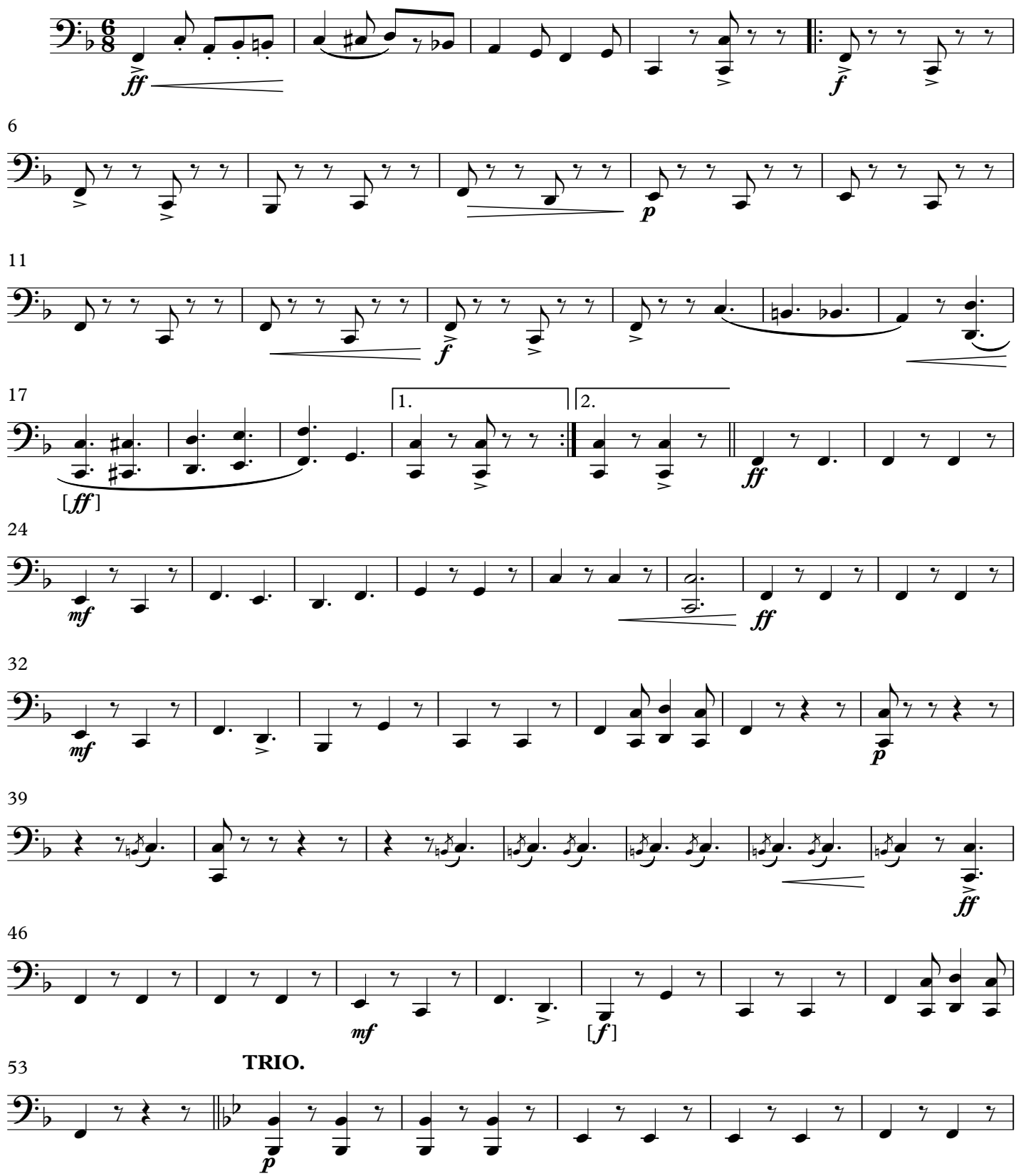
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

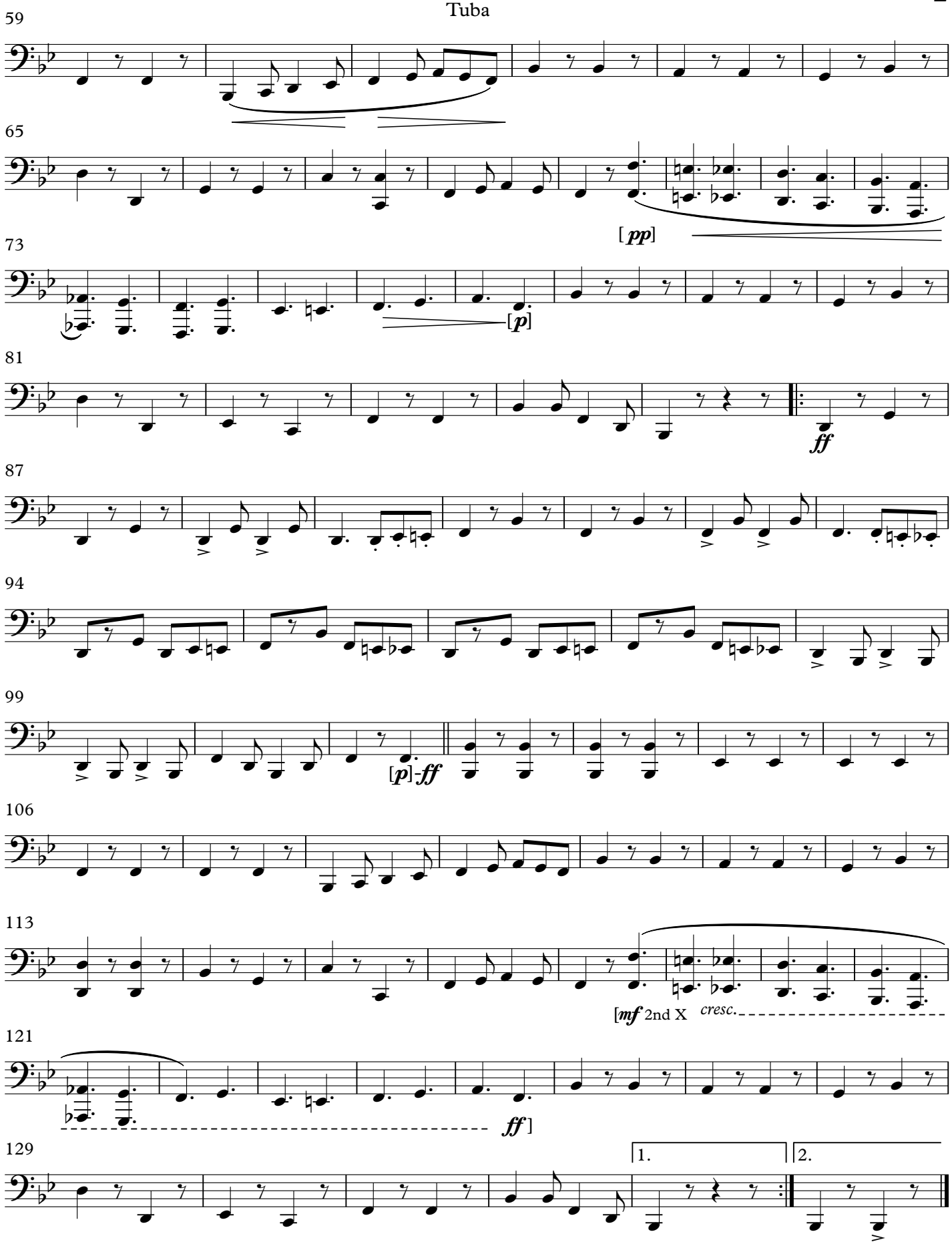
Tuba

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band


59
65
[pp]
73
[p]
81
ff
87
94
99
[p]-ff
106
113
[mf 2nd X
cresc.
121
ff]
129
1.
2.

March

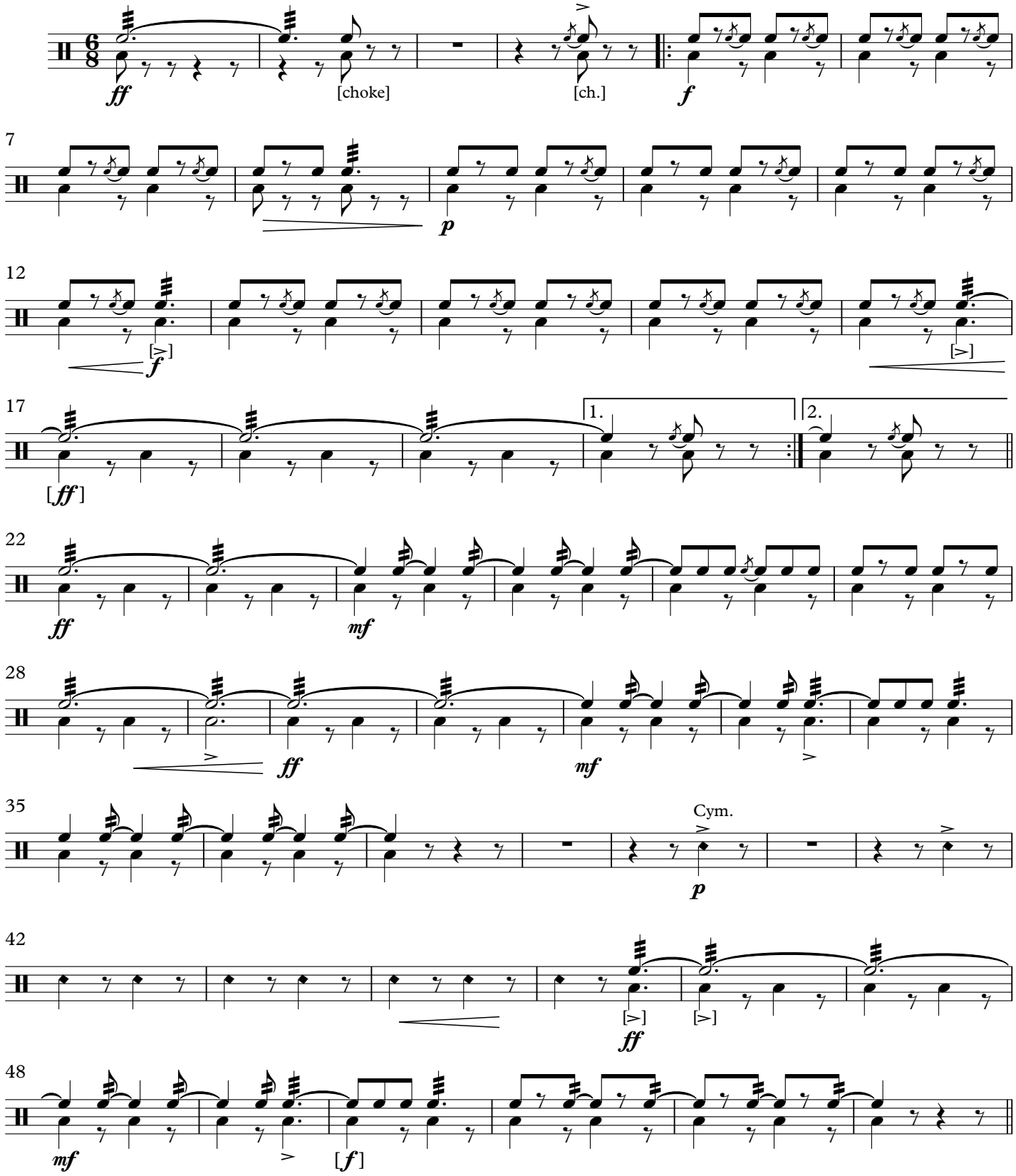
THE BLACK HORSE TROOP

(1924)

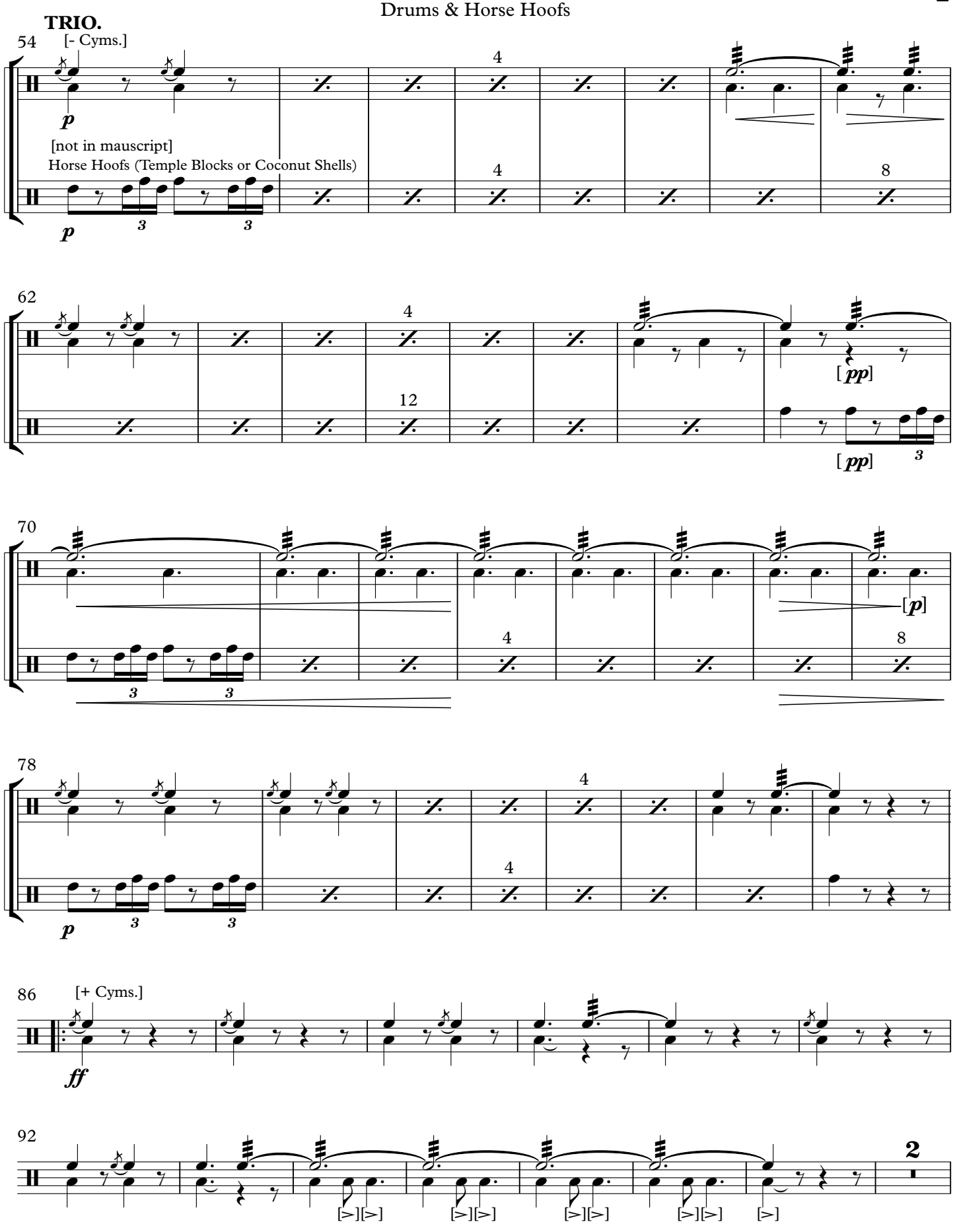
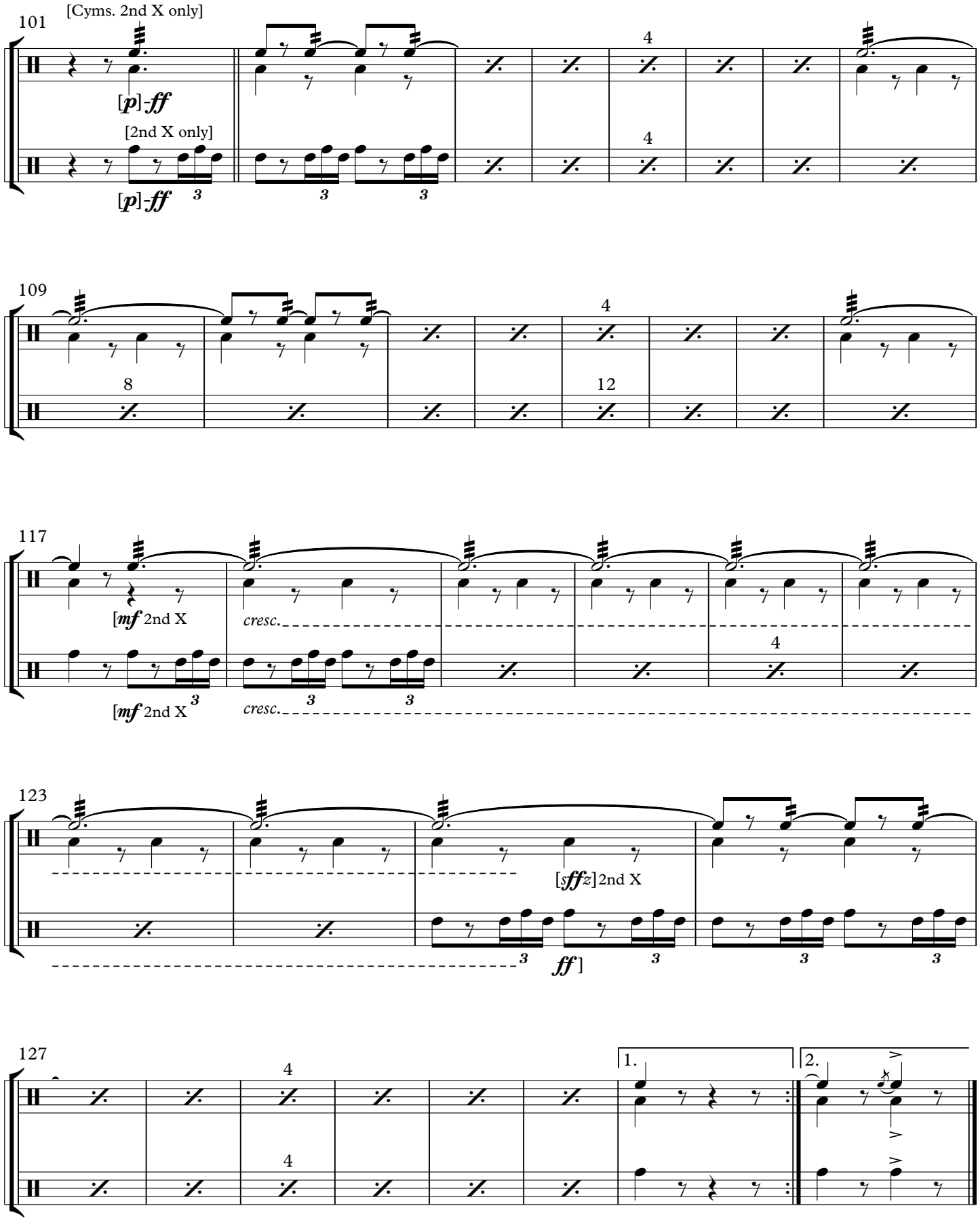
Drums & Horse Hoofs

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

March Tempo.



This Edition in the Public Domain - 2020
As played by “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band


TRIO.
54
[- Cyms.]
p
[not in mauscript]
Horse Hoofs (Temple Blocks or Coconut Shells)
p
62
[pp]
[pp]
70
[p]
78
p
86
[+ Cyms.]
ff
92
2

THE BLACK HORSE TROOP
Drums & Horse Hoofs