

The Thunderer March

John Philip Sousa

arranged by
Robert E. Foster, Jr.

1 Full Score	4 Bb Trumpet 1
8 Flute	4 Bb Trumpet 1
2 Oboe	3 F Horn
4 Bb Clarinet 1	10 Trombone/Baritone B.C./Bassoon
4 Bb Clarinet 2	2 Baritone T.C.
2 Bb Bass Clarinet	4 Tuba
2 Eb Alto Saxophone 1	4 Percussion: Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Crash Cymbals
2 Eb Alto Saxophone 2	1 Bells
2 Bb Tenor Saxophone	
1 Eb Baritone Saxophone	

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PROGRAM NOTES

The Thunderer was written by “The March King”, John Philip Sousa, in 1889 and it was said to be Mrs. Sousa’s favorite march. This well-known march is adapted here for young bands and still retains the charm and appeal of the original. With the woodwind parts lowered and the rhythms and snare drum part simplified it’s very playable by most middle school bands. What a great way for young musicians to experience the music of this famous composer while learning to play great march style with separation and dynamic contrast.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

John Philip Sousa was born in Washington, D.C. in 1854, and he died in 1932. His father was a musician in the United States Marine Band, and at an early age, Sousa became an apprentice member of the band. He became a very successful violinist, conductor and composer before he became the leader of the Marine Band. He and the Marine Band were a resounding success. He left the Marines to form his own professional band, and Sousa’s Band became the most famous band in the world, performing all over America and on several world tours. Today he is best known for his marches, and he is known as “The March King”. His march, *The Thunderer*, was written in 1889.

ABOUT THE ARRANGER

Robert E. Foster, Jr. was born in Gainesville, Florida in 1966. He received his Music Education degree from the University of Kansas while playing varsity football for the Jayhawk football team. He signed a free agent contract with the N.F.L.’s Atlanta Falcons in 1988. Following his football career, he went on to complete his MS degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois. He has also completed additional graduate work at the University of North Texas and the University of Kansas.

Mr. Foster has been a band director and has taught at the University of Maryland, Texas Christian University, Haskell Indian Nations University, and Tennessee Tech University. Additionally, he has taught for many years in the Eudora and DeSoto, Kansas middle schools and high schools. He is a highly successful composer and arranger of band music at all levels, including works for military bands and marching bands.

Achievement Series Lesson Guide

Every selection in the Wingert-Jones *Achievement Series* features concise learning objectives that support the **National Standards for Arts Education**.

The Thunderer March

John Philip Sousa, arranged by Robert E. Foster, Jr.

National Standards addressed through this publication:

- #2 Performing on instruments, alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.
- #5 Reading and notating music.
- #6 Listening to and analyzing and describing music.
- #9 Understanding the music in relation to history and culture.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This is an excellent opportunity for students to learn about “The March King”, John Philip Sousa. It is important to play marches with good style. March style is a separated style. Every note which is not slurred or connected should be separated. It is also important to play with good dynamic contrast. Make a clear distinction between the louder and softer passages.

MUSIC THEORY

KEY: Concert E $\flat$ Major, and A $\flat$ Major. Learn or review the scale which is printed at the top of each player’s part.

The image shows two musical staves. The top staff is labeled 'Concert E $\flat$ Major Scale and Arpeggio' and 'Key of E $\flat$ '. It shows the scale notes: E $\flat$, F, G, A $\flat$, B $\flat$, C, D, E $\flat$, followed by an arpeggio. The bottom staff is labeled 'Concert A $\flat$ Major Scale and Arpeggio' and 'Key of A $\flat$ '. It shows the scale notes: A $\flat$, B $\flat$, C, D, E $\flat$, F, G, A $\flat$, followed by an arpeggio. Both staves are in 4/4 time and use a treble clef.

TIME SIGNATURE

$\frac{2}{4}$ - The upper number indicates that there are 2 beats to a measure. The lower number indicates that a quarter note receives one beat.

DYNAMIC MARKINGS

- p* (piano) – soft
- mp* (mezzo piano) – moderately soft
- mf* (mezzo forte) – moderately loud
- f* (forte) – loud
- ff* (fortissimo) – very loud
- crescendo ($\text{—} \text{>}$) – gradually get louder

STYLE INDICATORS

- accent ($>$) – emphasis on a note or chord. Accented notes are separated
- sfz* (sforzando) – a sudden strong accent
- staccato ($\cdot$) – detached, separated, and light
- tenuto ($-$) – hold the note for its full value
- marcato ($\wedge$) – a heavy short accent

OTHER TERMS

- Fine – the end
- slur – a curved line indicating that all notes under the line should be connected
- tie – a curved line that joins two or more notes of the same pitch

The Thunderer March

John Philip Sousa
arranged by Robert E. Foster, Jr. (ASCAP)

March ♩ = 120

5

Flute
Oboe

f *mf*

B♭ Clarinet 1

f *mf*

B♭ Clarinet 2

f *mf*

B♭ Bass Clarinet

f *mf*

E♭ Alto Saxophone 1

f *mf*

E♭ Alto Saxophone 2

f *mf*

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

f *mf*

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

f *mf*

March ♩ = 120

5

B♭ Trumpet 1

f *mf*

B♭ Trumpet 2

f *mf*

F Horn

f *mf*

Trombone

Baritone

Bassoon

f *mf*

Tuba

f *mf*

Percussion
Snare Drum, Bass Drum,
Crash Cymbals

f *choke* *mf*

Bells

f *mf*

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

13

13

21

$p-f$

3

The Thunderer March

29

Fl. Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

29

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

F Hn.

Tbn. Bar. Bsn.

Tba.

Perc.

Bells

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

39 **Trio**

5

The Thunderer March

Fl. Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

F Hn.

Tbn. Bar. Bsn.

Tba.

Perc.

Bells

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

The Thunderer March

Fl. Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

F Hn.

Tbn.
Bar.
Bsn.

Tba.

Perc.

Bells

1.

2.

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

The Thunderer March

57

Fl. Ob.

f

Cl. 1

f

Cl. 2

f

B. Cl.

f

A. Sax. 1

f

A. Sax. 2

f

T. Sax.

f

B. Sax.

f

57

Tpt. 1

f

Tpt. 2

f

F Hn.

f

Tbn. Bar. Bsn.

f

Tba.

f

Perc.

f

f

choke dampen

choke dampen

Bells

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

f

8

The Thunderer March

72

Fl. Ob.

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

Cl. 1

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

Cl. 2

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

B. Cl.

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

A. Sx. 1

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

A. Sx. 2

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

T. Sx.

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

B. Sx.

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

Tpt. 1

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

Tpt. 2

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

F Hn.

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

Tbn. Bar. Bsn.

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

Tba.

sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

Perc.

choke sfz sfz sfz sfz ff

Bells

dampen sfz sfz dampen sfz sfz ff

65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

9

The Thunderer March

Fl. Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

F Hn.

Tbn.
Bar.
Bsn.

Tba.

Perc.

Bells

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for 'The Thunderer March'. The page contains staves for the following instruments: Flute/Oboe (Fl. Ob.), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1), Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophone 1 (A. Sx. 1), Alto Saxophone 2 (A. Sx. 2), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.), Bass Saxophone (B. Sx.), Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1), Trumpet 2 (Tpt. 2), French Horn (F Hn.), Tuba/Euphonium (Tbn. Bar. Bsn.), Trombone (Tba.), Percussion (Perc.), and Bells. The score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The page shows measures 73 through 80. The percussion part features a steady eighth-note pattern. The brass and woodwind parts have various melodic and harmonic lines, including some sustained notes and dynamic markings like crescendos and decrescendos.

The Thunderer March

Fine

Fl. Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

F Hn.

Tbn.
Bar.
Bsn.

Tba.

Perc.

Bells

choke dampen

81 82 83 84 85 86 87