

# STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER

(1897)

Words and Music by JOHN PHILLIP SOUSA  
 Additional Words by DAVID WRIGHT

Arrangement by DAVID WRIGHT

A

The musical score is arranged in three systems, each with a Tenor Lead part on a treble clef staff and a Bari Bass part on a bass clef staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Un - furl the ban-ner and raise it to the sky. Let ea - gle cry for moun - tain high, the nev - er end-ing watch - word of our na - tion, now be-hold this gem of old, the won-der of the west-ern sky, the em-blem of the brave and true, the".

**System 1:** Tenor Lead (measures 1-5), Bari Bass (measures 1-5). Lyrics: "Un - furl the ban-ner and raise it to the sky. Let ea - gle cry for".

**System 2:** Tenor Lead (measures 6-9), Bari Bass (measures 6-9). Lyrics: "moun - tain high, the nev - er end-ing watch - word of our na - tion, now be-hold this".

**System 3:** Tenor Lead (measures 10-14), Bari Bass (measures 10-14). Lyrics: "gem of old, the won-der of the west-ern sky, the em-blem of the brave and true, the".

*Stars and Stripes Forever*

15 16 17 18

flag flag red and white and star - ry blue stream  
of our lib - er - ty, flag of our des - ti - ny,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 15 through 18. The music is in 2/4 time with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. Measure 15 has a treble clef with a whole note G4 and a bass line with a whole note G2. Measure 16 has a treble clef with a whole note G4 and a bass line with a whole note G2. Measure 17 has a treble clef with a dotted quarter note G4 and an eighth rest, and a bass line with a dotted quarter note G2 and an eighth rest. Measure 18 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4 and a quarter note A4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2 and a quarter note A2.

19 20 21 22 23

out of the ban - ner so high. Ev - 'ry heart will sing a part as all a - cross the land we

Detailed description: This system contains measures 19 through 23. Measure 19 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 20 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 21 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 22 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 23 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2.

24 25 26 27

raise our voic - es far and near for all to hear the ech - o of a cho - rus

Detailed description: This system contains measures 24 through 27. Measure 24 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 25 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 26 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 27 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2.

28 29 30 31

grand. Ev - 'ry heart will swell with pride to sing  
of our lib - er - ty,

Detailed description: This system contains measures 28 through 31. Measure 28 has a treble clef with a whole note G4 and a bass line with a whole note G2. Measure 29 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 30 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2. Measure 31 has a treble clef with a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4, and a bass line with a quarter note G2, a quarter note A2, and a quarter note B2.

32 33 34 35

sing of ourdes-ti-ny, as with joy we now ex - tol the flag wav - ing o-ver the

**B**

36 37 38 39 40

land. Let us all hail the flag in one ac - cord. Let us

bum bum bum bum bum bahrr - rum ba ba bum bum

41 42 43 44 45

cheer it with fer - vid e - la - tion. It's the flag of the

bum bum bum bum bum ba ba bum bum bum bum

46 47 48

ra da dat dat dat dat dat ra da dat dat

mar - tyrs gone be fore. It's the

ra da dat dat

bum bum bahrr - rum bum

Stars and Stripes Forever

49 *dat* *dat* *dat* *dat* *ra da dat dat*

flag of flags, the ban - ner of our na -

*dat* *dat* *dat* *dat* *ra da dat dat*

bum bum bum bum bum bum

52 *dah* *ra da dat dat* *ra da dat dat*

tion. *dah* bum bum bum *ra da dat dat* *ra da dat dat*

*ra da dat dat* *ra da dat dat*

It's a bea - con for all who

*ra da dat dat dah* *ra da dat dat*

bum bahrr - rum ba ba bum bum bum *ra da dat dat* *ra da dat dat*

share our dream of a new day with -

*dat* *dat* *ra da dat dat dah*

bum bum bum bum *ra da dat dat* *ra da dat dat*

share our dream of a new day with -

out dom - i - na - tion. It's the



land and the sea, \_\_\_\_\_ ev - er hoist it

bum bum ba ba dum bum bum bum bum bum bum ba ba dum bum

proud and high. \_\_\_\_\_ All na - tions re - mem - ber the

bum bum bum Lift the ban - ner high.

day \_\_\_\_\_ when our fa - thers with might - ty en - deav -

day, re-vere the day

or pro - claimed as they marched to the fray \_\_\_\_\_ that by their

fray \_\_\_\_\_

97 98 99 100

might and by their right it waves for - ev - er.

Ev - 'ry time the

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation, measures 97 through 100. It features a treble and bass clef staff in the key of D major. The melody in the treble clef starts with a half note G4 on measure 97, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. Measure 98 continues with quarter notes D5, E5, and F5. Measure 99 has a half note G5, and measure 100 has a half note A5. The bass line consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

**D** 101 102 103 104

call-ing one and all,

peo-ple hear the bell of free-dom call-ing, call-ing, one and all, ev-'ry liv-ing

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation, measures 101 through 104. A box labeled 'D' is placed above measure 101. The treble clef staff shows a melody starting with a half note G4 in measure 101, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5 in measure 102. Measure 103 has quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, and measure 104 has a half note G5. The bass line continues with eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

105 106 107 108

an-swer free-dom's call.

pa-tri-ot-ic cit-i-zen will an-swer, an - sver, free-dom's call. Ev-'ry-where the

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of musical notation, measures 105 through 108. The treble clef staff shows a melody starting with a half note G4 in measure 105, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5 in measure 106. Measure 107 has quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, and measure 108 has a half note G5. The bass line continues with eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

109 110 111 112

bold and gal - lant souls come forth to bear the cross of du - ty. Ris-ing up as

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of musical notation, measures 109 through 112. The treble clef staff shows a melody starting with a half note G4 in measure 109, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5 in measure 110. Measure 111 has quarter notes D5, E5, and F5, and measure 112 has a half note G5. The bass line continues with eighth notes. The lyrics are printed below the treble staff.

113 114 115 116 pa-tri-ot-ic

one to fight and die be-hind the flag of free-dom's beau-ty, pa-tri-ot-ic

117 118 119 120

hearts will fal-ter nev-er, fol-low-ing the Stars and Stripes fo-ev-er, march-ing to the

march-ing to the

121 122 123 124

quest, to east or west they quell dis-tress. The freed op-pressed cry out: Hoo-

quest, to east or west they quell dis-tress. The freed op-pressed cry out: Hoo-

quest cry:

**E** dat dat ya ba da ba dum dat bum

ray for the flag of the free. \_\_\_\_\_

dat dat dat bum ya ba da ba dum

bum bahrr - rum bahrr - rum bum



128 dah yat dat dat ya ba da ba dum  
 8 May it wave as our stan - dard for -  
 dat dat dah dat dah dat bum  
 bum bahrr - rum bum bum bum

131 dat bum dah dat dat  
 8 ev - er. The gem of the  
 ya ba da ba dum dat dah yat dat  
 bum bahrr - rum ba ba bup bup bum bum

134 bum dat bum dah  
 8 land and the sea, ev - er  
 ya ba da ba dum bum ya ba da ba dum dat dat  
 bum bum bum bum bum bum bum bum

137 bum ya ba da ba die um let the ban - ner  
 8 hoist it proud and high.  
 ya ba da ba die um dat bum let the ban - ner  
 bum bum bum bum

fly. **F**

140 141 142 143 144

All na - tions re - mem - ber the day when our

fly.

day, re - vere the day

145 146 147 148 149

fa - thers with might - ty en - deav - or pro - claimed

150 151 152 153 154 155

as they marched to the fray, as they marched to the fray, de -

fray:

156 157 158 159

fray, de - fend - ed by our might, ev - er stand - ing for the right, it

might,

Musical notation for measures 160-164. The treble clef staff contains notes for measures 160, 161, 162, 163, and 164. The bass clef staff contains accompaniment. Lyrics: waves for - ev - er.

Musical notation for measures 165-168. A box containing the letter 'G' is positioned above measure 165. The treble clef staff contains notes for measures 165, 166, 167, and 168. The bass clef staff contains accompaniment. Lyrics: Hail to the ban - ner that waves the

Musical notation for measures 169-173. The treble clef staff contains notes for measures 169, 170, 171, 172, and 173. The bass clef staff contains accompaniment. Lyrics: Stars and Stripes. We give our lives for and Stripes, for

Musical notation for measures 174-178. The treble clef staff contains notes for measures 174, 175, 176, 177, and 178. The bass clef staff contains accompaniment. Lyrics: Stars and Stripes.

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## ***Performance Notes***

John Philip Sousa was an American composer and conductor best known for his military and patriotic marches. Sousa has over 100 marches to his credit, including *Semper Fidelis*, the official march of the United States Marine Corps. *The Stars and Stripes Forever*, of course, is his most successful and influential piece. In 1987, by an act of Congress, the piece was declared the National March of the United States of America. The sousaphone, an instrument still in use today, was developed in the 1890s by J.W. Pepper based on Sousa's designs.

David Wright, from St. Louis, Mo., is a noted arranger, composer, director, coach, judge, barbershop historian and three-time district quartet champion. David is associate director of the St. Charles Ambassadors of Harmony, the Barbershop Harmony Society's 2004, 2009, 2012, and 2016 international chorus champion. As a judge he was the primary designer of the Music category and served as its first category specialist. In 2008 David was inducted into the Barbershop Hall of Fame.

Sing this song with martial crispness, paying close attention to the dotted rhythms. You might also experiment with march-style dynamics; for example, when you see a repeat, try using piano the first time through and forte on the repeat. Since the melody changes voices frequently in this arrangement, take care to highlight it wherever it goes. Starting in measure 149 the melody is stylized, so all voice parts may feel free to sing with extra gusto. You are sure to energize and impress your audiences with this most marvelous of marches!

Editor's Note: The SATB/Mixed version of this arrangement (BHS #208706) was released in open score format and utilizes repeated sections to optimize the page count and make it easier to read. Since this version is in grand staff and does not use repeats, the measure numbers do not match up with the SATB/Mixed version, although it is the same arrangement.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing!