

Fairest of the Fair, The

Sousa, John Philip

The Fairest of the Fair

by: John Philip Sousa

Original Copyright: 1908

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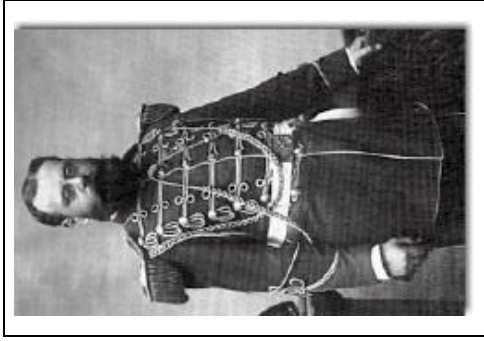
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John Philip Sousa

DOB: November 6th, 1854

(Washington, DC)

DOD: March 6th, 1932 (Reading, PA)

John Philip Sousa wrote the most famous American military marches of all time, including "Stars and Stripes Forever," earning him the nickname "the March King"; he was also known as a great bandleader, and organized the famed concert and military group, Sousa's Band. Born in Washington, D.C., on November 6, 1854, Sousa followed in the footsteps of his father, a musician in the U.S. Marine Corps, and enlisted by the age of 14. Before this, Sousa had studied violin with John Esputa. While active in the Marines, he composed his first march, "Salutation."

Around the age of 16, Sousa began studying harmony with G.F. Benkert, then worked as a pit orchestra conductor at a local theater, followed by jobs as first chair violinist at the Ford Opera House, the Philadelphia Chestnut Street Theater, and later led the U.S. Marine Corps Band (1880-1992). Although most famous for his marches, Sousa composed in other styles as well, including a waltz, "Moonlight on the Potomac"; a gallop, "The Cuckoo" (both in 1869); the oratorio "Messiah of the Nations" (1914); and scores for Broadway musicals *The Smugglers* (1879), *Desiree* (1884), *The Glass Blowers* (1893), *El Capitan* (1896; which was his first real scoring success), *American Maid* (1913), and more.

Sousa formed his sternly organized marching band in 1892, leading them through numerous U.S. and European tours, a world tour, and an appearance in the 1915 Broadway show *Hip-Hip-Hooray*. Sousa's Band also recorded many sides for the Victor label up through the early '30s. His most famous marches include "The Stars and Stripes Forever" (1897), "U.S. Field Artillery March," "Semper Fidelis" (written in 1888; it became the Marine Corps anthem), "Washington Post March" (1889), "King Cotton" (1895), "El Capitan" (1896), and many more. In addition to writing music, Sousa also wrote books, including the best-seller *Fifth String* and his autobiography, *Marching Along*. Actor Clifton Webb portrayed Sousa in the movie about his life entitled *Stars and Stripes Forever*. The instrument the sousaphone was named after this famous composer and bandleader. ~ Joslyn Layne, All Music Guide

Fairest of the Fair (march). *The Fairest of the Fair* is generally regarded as one of Mr. Sousa's finest and most melodic marches. Its inspiration came from the sight of a pretty girl with whom he was not even acquainted. It was an immediate success and has remained one of his most popular compositions. It stands out as one of the finest examples of the application of pleasing melodies to the restrictive framework of a military march.

The Boston Food Fair was an annual exposition and music jubilee held by the Boston Retail Grocers' Association. The Sousa Band was the main attraction for several seasons, so the creation of a new march honoring the sponsors of the 1908 Boston Food Fair was the natural outgrowth of a pleasant business relationship.

In fairs before 1908, Mr. Sousa had been impressed by the beauty and charm of one particular young lady who was the center of attention of the displays in which she was employed. He made a mental

note that he would some day transfer his impressions of her onto music. When the invitation came for the Sousa Band to play a 20-day engagement in 1908, he wrote this march. Remembering the comely girl, he entitled the new march ***The Fairest of the Fair***.

Because of an oversight, the march almost missed its premiere. Nearly three months before the fair, Mr. Sousa had completed a sketch of the march for the publisher. He also wrote out a full conductor's score from which the individual band parts were to have been extracted. The band had just finished an engagement the night before the fair's opening and had boarded a sleeper train for Boston. Louis Morris, the band's copyist, was helping the librarian sort music for the first concert, and he discovered that the impost important piece on the program — ***The Fairest of the Fair*** — had not been prepared.

According to Morris's own story, the librarian, whose job it had been to prepare the parts, went into a panic. There was good reason; considerable advance publicity had been given to the new march, and the fair patrons would be expecting to hear it. In addition, the piano sheet music had already been published, and copies were to be distributed free to the first five hundred ladies entering the gates of the fair.

Morris rose to the occasion. He asked the porter of the train to bring a portable desk, which he placed on a pillow across his lap. He worked the entire night, and the parts were nearly finished when dawn broke. Both were greatly surprised by the appearance of Mr. Sousa, who had arisen to take his usual early morning walk. When asked about the frenzied activity, they had no choice but to tell exactly what had happened.

There were many times in the life of Mr. Sousa when he demonstrated his benevolence and magnanimity, and this was surely one of them. After recognizing Morris' extraordinary effort and remarking that it was saving the band from considerable embarrassment, he instructed him to complete his work, and to take a well deserved rest, even if it meant sleeping through the first concert.

With no one the wiser, Louis Morris — hero of the day — was asleep in his hotel as the Sousa Band played ***The Fairest of the Fair*** for the first time on September 28, 1908. Mr. Sousa did not mention the subject again, but Morris found an extra fifty dollars in his next pay envelope — the equivalent of two weeks' salary.¹

Program note researched by Marcus L. Neiman
Medina, Ohio

Additional information on either the composer or composition would be welcomed. Please send information to

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¹ Bierley, Paul. ***John Philip Sousa A Descriptive Catalog of His Works***. (Chicago: University of Illinois, 1973), pp. 42-43.

Piccolo in D \flat

The Fairest of the Fair

Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

489

ff

pp

1 2

1 2

Fairest of the Fair

Oboe The Fairest of the Fair March JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489 *Marziale*

ff *mf* *giocoso* *p* *dolce* *ff*

Fairest of the Fair

E♭ Clarinet

The Fairest of the Fair

Marziale

March

JHON PHILIP SOUSA

489

glocoso

mf

f

rubice

ff

p

1 2

1 2

Fairest of the Fair

Solo & 1st B \flat Clarinet
Marziale

The Fairest of the Fair

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff

f

3

8

8

f

1

2

p

dolce

ff

3

ff

1

2

Fairest of the Fair

The Fairest of the Fair

2d & 3d Bb Clarinets
Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff

p

ff

ff

Fairest of the Fair

Bassoon **The Fairest of the Fair** **March** JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

Marziale

489

ff *mf* *giocoso* *p dolce* *ff*

Fairest of the Fair

The Fairest of the Fair

E♭ Alto Saxophone
Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff *f* *mf* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *1* *2*

Fairest of the Fair

E♭ Baritone Saxophone **The Fairest of the Fair**
Marziale March JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff

mf

p

ff

1

ff

1 2

Fairest of the Fair

The Fairest of the Fair

E♭ Cornet

Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff *f* *p* *ff* *Clar.* *ff*

1 2 1 2

Fairest of the Fair

The Fairest of the Fair March

Solo B \flat Cornet

Written expressly for "The Boston Food Fair"
Marziale and dedicated to The Boston Retail Grocers' Association JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

f *giocoso* *p* *dolce* *ff* *Clar.* *f* *ff*

Fairest of the Fair

1st B♭ Cornet
(or Flügelhorn)

The Fairest of the Fair

Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff *giocoso* *f* *giocoso* *ff* *ff* *giocoso* *p* *Dolce* *ff* *Clar.* *ff*

The Fairest of the Fair

2d & 3d B♭ Cornets
Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff
f
mf
p
glocoso
f
ff
f
f

Fairest of the Fair

The Fairest of the Fair

1st & 2d Eb Horns
Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff *f* *mf* *p* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

Fairest of the Fair

The Fairest of the Fair

3d & 4th Eb Horns

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

Marziale

489

The musical score is written for 3rd and 4th Eb Horns. It begins with a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and a tempo marking of *Marziale*. The music is in 2/4 time. The score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several slurs and accents throughout the piece. The score includes first and second endings at the end. The piece concludes with a final cadence.

15935-7

The John Church Company

Printed in the United States

Fairest of the Fair

1st & 2d Bb Tenors
Marziale

The Fairest of the Fair

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff *f* *mf* *p* *f* *ff*

Bb Bass $\text{\textcircled{b}}$ or
3d Trombone

The Fairest of the Fair

Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff *f* *mf* *p*

Fairest of the Fair

The John Church Company

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1st & 2^d. B♭ Trombones **The Fairest of the Fair**
Marziale March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff *f* *mf* *p* *f* *ff*

Fairest of the Fair

3rd Trombone

The Fairest of the Fair


Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

The musical score for the 3rd Trombone part of 'The Fairest of the Fair' consists of nine staves. The first staff begins with a measure number of 489. The music is written in bass clef with a 2/4 time signature and a key signature of one flat (B-flat major). The score includes various dynamics such as *ff* (fortissimo), *f* (forte), and *p* (piano). It features numerous accents, slurs, and first and second endings. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

Baritone 

The Fairest of the Fair

Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489 

Fairest of the Fair

Euphonium

The Fairest of the Fair

Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff

mf

giboso

p

ff

Fairest of the Fair

The Fairest of the Fair

Basses

Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff

mf

rit.

1 2

Fairest of the Fair

Bb Bass $\text{\textcircled{b}}$ or
3d Trombone

The Fairest of the Fair

Marziale

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

489

ff *f* *mf* *p*

1 1 1 1

1 2

Fairest of the Fair

The John Church Company

Printed in the United States

The Fairest of the Fair

Drums

March

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

Marziale

489

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

On Shell

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

Fairest of the Fair