

Follow the Flag

Words by
W. Dexter Smith, Jr

Companion to "Follow the Drum"

Music by
John Rogers Thomas

Tempo di marcia

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time, key of A major (two sharps). It begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The right hand features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The piece concludes with a final chord in the right hand.

5 *mf* A A B m/D

1. Com - rades, be true to our coun - try, for - ev - er,
2. Stand by the flag that are true hearts have de - fend - ed,
3. Oh! not in vain are our brave com - rades sleep - ing,

5 *mf*

The first system of the vocal melody (treble clef) and piano accompaniment (bass clef) begins at measure 5. The vocal line is marked *mf* and includes three verses of lyrics. The piano accompaniment consists of block chords in the left hand and a simple bass line in the right hand.

7 E7 E7 A

Let no in - vad - er its bright glo - ry stain;
When the fierce tem - pests of bat - tle shall come,
On fields where Mars his dark wings has out - spread,

7

The second system of the vocal melody and piano accompaniment begins at measure 7. The vocal line continues with the lyrics. The piano accompaniment features block chords in the left hand and a bass line in the right hand. The system ends with a final chord in the piano.

9

A A B m/D

Fixed be our hearts on one last - ing en - deav - or,
 Ev - er are cour - age them, and loy - al - ty blend - ed,
 We will a - venge yes! brave hearts are leap - ing,

9

11

E7 A A/E E7 A E7 A

All our great birth - rights to brave - ly main - tain. Foes shall not taunt - ing - ly
 Gath - er our le - gions and beat eve - ry drum, Ev - er be true to the
 Scorn - ing to live, un - less trea - son be dead; Up with our ban - ner, then,

11

14

E7/B A/C# D A

point with shame's fin - ger To our old ban - ner on ram - part and crag,
 trust we in - her - it, On with the strug - gle, and let no one lag,
 let it wave o'er us, Let it float proud - ly from ram - part and crag,

14

17

E7 A Bm/D Bm

Thou - sands have died for it, we should not lin - ger
True to the past and the pre - sent, our spir - it,
Let our brave le - gions shout loy - al - ty's cho - rus

17

19

E/G# A A/C# E A/C# E/G# A

When we are called on to fol - low the flag, When we are called on to
Lau - rels shall crown those who fol - low the flag, Lau - rels shall crown those who
Thrill - ing and grand as we fol - low the flag, Thrill - ing and grand as we

19

22

A/E E7 A

fol - low the flag!
fol - low the flag!
fol - low the flag!

22

ff