



The Complete
Marches
of
JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

VOL. 1 No. 9

OUR
FLIRTATION
MARCH
(1880)

FULL ♫ SCORE

AS PERFORMED BY
“THE PRESIDENT’S OWN” UNITED STATES MARINE BAND

“Our Flirtation” (1880) (“Our Flirtations”)

Our Flirtations was a musical comedy first produced in Philadelphia in 1880. Sousa was responsible for the incidental music, which included this original march. It was dedicated to Henry L. West, a newspaperman of the *Washington Post* staff.

Paul E. Bierley, *The Works of John Philip Sousa* (Westerville, Ohio: Integrity Press, 1984), 76. Used by permission.

Editorial Notes

Throughout Sousa’s career as a conductor, he often altered the performance of his marches 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. Sousa continued to conduct many of his earlier marches later in his career with these unique alterations, but he rarely returned to several of the marches composed between 1873 and 1880. Although no written confirmation exists for how Sousa might have performed these earliest compositions, select elements of his typical performance practices can also be applied to these marches. “Our Flirtation” is the earliest march for which Simon documented Sousa’s common adjustments in performance.

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 remaining markings and the original scoring are preserved. 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.”

Performance practices that deviate from the original printed indications are described below and appear in [brackets] in the score. In many instances these indications appear side-by-side with the original markings. 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.

Second strain (m. 21-38): The dynamic should drop to *piano* first time through with piccolo, E-flat clarinet, cornets/trumpets, and trombones *tacet* first time. Additionally, all clarinets should play down one octave as indicated by the cued notes. All instruments *rejoin fortissimo* and at the original octave in the first ending. A percussion accent may be added in m. 29 the second time. The printed percussion figure in the first ending continues the previous pattern, yet muddies the pick-ups to the second strain and may be omitted for just that one bar as indicated after the downbeat.

Trio (m. 39-54): Piccolo and cornets/trumpets are *tacet* once more as well as cymbals, but trombones have an interesting part in the texture and may continue to play softly here. All instruments *rejoin* for the *fortissimo* pick up notes in m. 54.

Interlude/Break-up strain (m. 55-70): A percussion accent may be added on beat two in m. 62 and 70, both times, to match the accented chords in the rest of the band.

Final strain (m. 71-end): The first time through this strain is *piano* once more and piccolo, cornets/trumpets, trombones, and cymbals are *tacet* again. First and second B-flat clarinets should also play one octave lower as indicated by the cued notes. All instruments *rejoin* in the first ending for the repeat of the break-up strain and play *fortissimo* to the end.

March

Full Score

OUR FLIRTATION

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

(1880)

Musical Score for Full Score

March Tempo.

1st & 2nd Flutes
Piccolo

1st & 2nd Oboes

E♭ Clarinet

Solo or 1st B♭ Clarinet

2nd B♭ Clarinet

3rd B♭ Clarinet

E♭ Alto Clarinet (optional)

B♭ Bass Clarinet (optional)

Bassoon

1st E♭ Alto Saxophone

2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

Musical Score for Brass Instruments

Solo or 1st B♭ Cornet

2nd B♭ Cornet

3rd B♭ Corner

1st & 2nd B♭ Trumpets

1st & 2nd F Horns

3rd & 4th F Horns

Euphonium

1st & 2nd Trombones

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Double Bass (optional)

Percussion

The musical score consists of two main sections. The first section, "March Tempo.", includes parts for woodwind instruments such as flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoon, and various saxophones. The second section, "Musical Score for Brass Instruments", includes parts for brass instruments like cornets, trumpets, and tubas. The score is organized into seven measures, with dynamics like ff (fortissimo), p (pianissimo), and s (soft) indicated throughout. The instrumentation is listed on the left side of each staff.

OUR FLIRTATION
Full Score

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

Flts./Picc.

Oboes (2)

Eb Clar.

Solo/1st Clar.

2nd Clar.

3rd Clar.

Alto Clar.

Bass Clar.

Bssn.

1st Alto Sax.

2nd Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Solo/1st B \flat Cors.

2nd B \flat Cor.

3rd B \flat Cor.

Trpts. (2)

1st & 2nd Hrns.

3rd & 4th Hrns.

Euph.

1st & 2nd Trbns.

B. Trbn.

Tuba

Db.

Perc.

OUR FLIRTATION
Full Score

3

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

Flts./Picc.

Oboes (2)

Eb Clar.

Solo/1st Clar.

2nd Clar.

3rd Clar.

Alto Clar.

Bass Clar.

Bssn.

1st Alto Sax.

2nd Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Solo/1st B \flat Cors.

2nd B \flat Cor.

3rd B \flat Cor.

Trpts. (2)

1st & 2nd Hrns.

3rd & 4th Hrns.

Euph.

1st & 2nd Trbns.

B. Trbn.

Tuba

Db.

Perc.

[p] ff [tacet 1st time]
[p] ff [tacet 1st time]
[p] ff [tacet 1st time]
[p] ff [lower notes, 1st time]
[p] ff [lower notes, 1st time]
[p] ff [lower notes, 1st time]

OUR FLIRTATION
Full Score

22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29

Flts./Picc.

Oboes (2)

Eb Clar.

Solo/1st Clar.

2nd Clar.

3rd Clar.

Alto Clar.

Bass Clar.

Bsns.

1st Alto Sax.

2nd Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Solo/1st B_b Cors.

2nd B_b Cor.

3rd B_b Cor.

Trpts. (2)

1st & 2nd Hrns.

3rd & 4th Hrns.

Euph.

1st & 2nd Trbns.

B. Trbn.

Tuba

Db.

Perc.

OUR FLIRTATION
Full Score

5

30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38

<img alt="Musical score for 'Our Flirtation' Full Score, page 5. The score is a system of staves for various instruments, numbered 30 to 38. The instruments include Flts./Picc., Oboes (2), Eb Clar., Solo/1st Clar., 2nd Clar., 3rd Clar., Alto Clar., Bass Clar., Bsns., 1st Alto Sax., 2nd Alto Sax., Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Solo/1st Bb Cors., 2nd Bb Cor., 3rd Bb Cor., Trpts. (2), 1st & 2nd Hrns., 3rd & 4th Hrns., Euph., 1st & 2nd Trbns., B. Trbn., Tuba, Db., and Perc. Measure 30: Flts./Picc., Oboes (2), Eb Clar., Solo/1st Clar., 2nd Clar., 3rd Clar., Alto Clar., Bass Clar., Bsns., 1st Alto Sax., 2nd Alto Sax., Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Solo/1st Bb Cors., 2nd Bb Cor., 3rd Bb Cor., Trpts. (2), 1st & 2nd Hrns., 3rd & 4th Hrns., Euph., 1st & 2nd Trbns., B. Trbn., Tuba, Db., Perc. Measure 31: Flts./Picc., Oboes (2), Eb Clar., Solo/1st Clar., 2nd Clar., 3rd Clar., Alto Clar., Bass Clar., Bsns., 1st Alto Sax., 2nd Alto Sax., Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Solo/1st Bb Cors., 2nd Bb Cor., 3rd Bb Cor., Trpts. (2), 1st & 2nd Hrns., 3rd & 4th Hrns., Euph., 1st & 2nd Trbns., B. Trbn., Tuba, Db., Perc. Measure 32: Flts./Picc., Oboes (2), Eb Clar., Solo/1st Clar., 2nd Clar., 3rd Clar., Alto Clar., Bass Clar., Bsns., 1st Alto Sax., 2nd Alto Sax., Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Solo/1st Bb Cors., 2nd Bb Cor., 3rd Bb Cor., Trpts. (2), 1st & 2nd Hrns., 3rd & 4th Hrns., Euph., 1st & 2nd Trbns., B. Trbn., Tuba, Db., Perc. Measure 33: Flts./Picc., Oboes (2), Eb Clar., Solo/1st Clar., 2nd Clar., 3rd Clar., Alto Clar., Bass Clar., Bsns., 1st Alto Sax., 2nd Alto Sax., Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Solo/1st Bb Cors., 2nd Bb Cor., 3rd Bb Cor., Trpts. (2), 1st & 2nd Hrns., 3rd & 4th Hrns., Euph., 1st & 2nd Trbns., B. Trbn., Tuba, Db., Perc. Measure 34: Flts./Picc., Oboes (2), Eb Clar., Solo/1st Clar., 2nd Clar., 3rd Clar., Alto Clar., Bass Clar., Bsns., 1st Alto Sax., 2nd Alto Sax., Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Solo/1st Bb Cors., 2nd Bb Cor., 3rd Bb Cor., Trpts. (2), 1st & 2nd Hrns., 3rd & 4th Hrns., Euph., 1st & 2nd Trbns., B. Trbn., Tuba, Db., Perc. Measure 35: Flts./Picc., Oboes (2), Eb Clar., Solo/1st Clar., 2nd Clar., 3rd Clar., Alto Clar., Bass Clar., Bsns., 1st Alto Sax., 2nd Alto Sax., Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Solo/1st Bb Cors., 2nd Bb Cor., 3rd Bb Cor., Trpts. (2), 1st & 2nd Hrns., 3rd & 4th Hrns., Euph., 1st & 2nd Trbns., B. Trbn., Tuba, Db., Perc. Measure 36: Flts./Picc., Oboes (2), Eb Clar., Solo/1st Clar., 2nd Clar., 3rd Clar., Alto Clar., Bass Clar., Bsns., 1st Alto Sax., 2nd Alto Sax., Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Solo/1st Bb Cors., 2nd Bb Cor., 3rd Bb Cor., Trpts. (2), 1st & 2nd Hrns., 3rd & 4th Hrns., Euph., 1st & 2nd Trbns., B. Trbn., Tuba, Db., Perc. Measure 37: Flts./Picc., Oboes (2), Eb Clar., Solo/1st Clar., 2nd Clar., 3rd Clar., Alto Clar., Bass Clar., Bsns., 1st Alto Sax., 2nd Alto Sax., Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Solo/1st Bb Cors., 2nd Bb Cor., 3rd Bb Cor., Trpts. (2), 1st & 2nd Hrns., 3rd & 4th Hrns., Euph., 1st & 2nd Trbns., B. Trbn., Tuba, Db., Perc. Measure 38: Flts./Picc., Oboes (2), Eb Clar., Solo/1st Clar., 2nd Clar., 3rd Clar., Alto Clar., Bass Clar., Bsns., 1st Alto Sax., 2nd Alto Sax., Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Solo/1st Bb Cors., 2nd Bb Cor., 3rd Bb Cor., Trpts. (2), 1st & 2nd Hrns., 3rd & 4th Hrns., Euph., 1st & 2nd Trbns., B. Trbn., Tuba, Db., Perc. Measures 39-40: Perc.</p>

OUR FLIRTATION
Full Score

39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46

TRIO

Flts./Picc. *p*

Oboes (2) *p*

E♭ Clar. *p*

Solo/1st Clar. *p*

2nd Clar. *p*

3rd Clar. *p*

Alto Clar. *p*

Bass Clar. *p*

Bsns.

1st Alto Sax. *p*

2nd Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Solo/1st B♭ Cors. *[tacet]* *p*

2nd B♭ Cor. *[tacet]* *p*

3rd B♭ Cor. *[tacet]* *p*

Trpts. (2) *p*

1st & 2nd Hrns.

3rd & 4th Hrns.

Euph.

1st & 2nd Trbns.

B. Trbn.

Tuba

D. *[Cyms.]*

Perc. *p*

OUR FLIRTATION
Full Score

47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

Flts./Picc.

Oboes (2)

E♭ Clar.

Solo/1st Clar.

2nd Clar.

3rd Clar.

Alto Clar.

Bass Clar.

Bssn.

1st Alto Sax.

2nd Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Solo/1st B♭ Cors.

2nd B♭ Cor.

3rd B♭ Cor.

Trpts. (2)

1st & 2nd Hrns.

3rd & 4th Hrns.

Euph.

1st & 2nd Trbs.

B. Trbn.

Tuba

Db.

Perc.

OUR FLIRTATION
Full Score

55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62

+ Picc.

Flts./Picc. 

Oboes (2) 

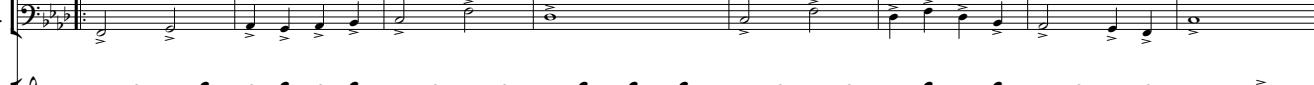
E♭ Clar. 

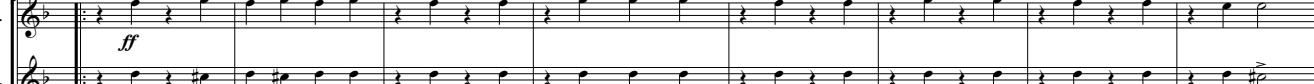
Solo/1st Clar. 

2nd Clar. 

3rd Clar. 

Alto Clar. 

Bass Clar. 

Bsns. 

1st Alto Sax. 

2nd Alto Sax. 

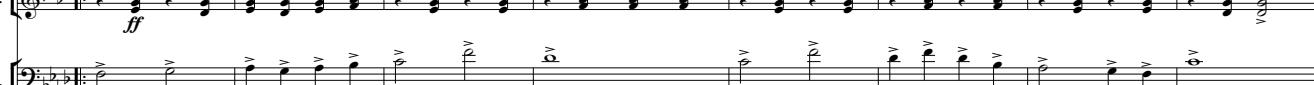
Ten. Sax. 

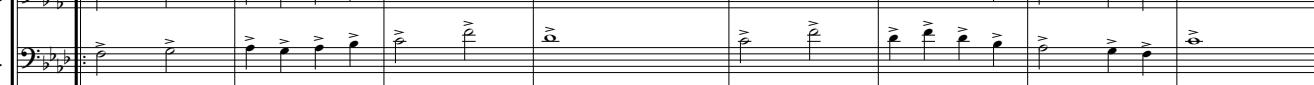
Bari. Sax. 

Solo/1st B♭ Cors. 

2nd B♭ Cor. 

3rd B♭ Cor. 

Trpts. (2) 

1st & 2nd Hrns. 

3rd & 4th Hrns. 

Euph. 

1st & 2nd Trbns. 

B. Trbn. 

Tuba 

Db.

Perc.

[+ Cyms.]

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

(6)

(7)

(8)

OUR FLIRTATION
Full Score

9

63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

Flts./Picc.

Oboes (2)

Eb Clar.

Solo/1st Clar.

2nd Clar.

3rd Clar.

Alto Clar.

Bass Clar.

Bssn.

1st Alto Sax.

2nd Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Solo/1st B_b Cors.

2nd B_b Cor.

3rd B_b Cor.

Trpts. (2)

1st & 2nd Hrns.

3rd & 4th Hrns.

Euph.

1st & 2nd Trbs.

B. Trbn.

Tuba

Db.

Perc. (9) (10) (11) (12) (13) (14) (15)

OUR FLIRTATION

Full Score

71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79

Flts./Picc. [sub. p]-ff

Oboes (2) [sub. p]-ff

E \flat Clar. [sub. p]-ff
[lower notes, 1st time]

Solo/1st Clar. [sub. p]-ff
[lower notes, 1st time]

2nd Clar. [sub. p]-ff

3rd Clar. [sub. p]-ff

Alto Clar. [sub. p]-ff

Bass Clar. [sub. p]-ff

Bsns. [sub. p]-ff

1st Alto Sax. [sub. p]-ff

2nd Alto Sax. [sub. p]-ff

Ten. Sax. [sub. p]-ff

Bari. Sax. [sub. p]-ff

Solo/1st B \flat Cors. [tacet 1st time]
[sub. p]-ff

2nd B \flat Cor. [tacet 1st time]
[sub. p]-ff

3rd B \flat Cor. [tacet 1st time]
[sub. p]-ff

Trpts. (2) [tacet 1st time]
[sub. p]-ff

1st & 2nd Hrns. [sub. p]-ff

3rd & 4th Hrns. [sub. p]-ff

Euph. [tacet 1st time]
[sub. p]-ff

1st & 2nd Trbns. [tacet 1st time]
[sub. p]-ff

B. Trbn. [tacet 1st time]
[sub. p]-ff

Tuba [sub. p]-ff

Db. [sub. p]-ff

Perc. [Cyms. 2nd time only]
[sub. p]-ff

4 8

OUR FLIRTATION
Full Score

11

80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87

Flts./Picc.

Oboes (2)

E♭ Clar.

Solo/1st Clar.

2nd Clar.

3rd Clar.

Alto Clar.

Bass Clar.

Bssn.

1st Alto Sax.

2nd Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Solo/1st B♭ Cors.

2nd B♭ Cor.

3rd B♭ Cor.

Trpts. (2)

1st & 2nd Hrns.

3rd & 4th Hrns.

Euph.

1st & 2nd Trbns.

B. Trbn.

Tuba

Db.

Perc.

12