

**POPULAR  
AMERICAN  
COMPOSERS**

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Popular American Composers by Frank L. Boyden

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**FRANK L. BOYDEN**

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## POPULAR AMERICAN COMPOSERS

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Edited and Compiled by Frank L. Boyden



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JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

### JOHN PHILIP SOUSA.

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John Philip Sousa was born November 6th, 1856, Washington, D. C.

He studied music at Washington, D. C. under John Esputa, and harmony and composition under George Felix Benkert of the same city.

He was orchestral conductor of traveling theatrical companies from the age of 17 years, and violinist in the orchestra of Jacques Offenbach. He was musical director of the famous Philadelphia Church Choir "Pinafore" company.

In 1880 Mr. Sousa was appointed leader of the band of the United States Marine Corps, attached to the President's household, serving until August 1st, 1892, under Presidents Hayes, Garfield, Arthur, Cleveland and Harrison. He resigned in 1892 and organized his present famous concert band which has given concerts in every city and town in the United States and Canada.

His published compositions number several hundred, including the comic operas "The Smugglers," "Desiree," "The Queen of Hearts," "El Capitan," "The Bride Elect," "The Charlatan" and "Chris and the Wonderful Lamp." Among the military marches of world-wide

celebrity composed by John Philip Sousa are "The Washington Post," "High School Cadets," "The Gladiator," "Thunderer," "Somper Eidelis," "Beau Ideal," "Liberty Bell," "Manhattan Beach," "Directorate," "King Cotton," "El Capitan," "The Bride Elect," "The Stars and Stripes Forever," "The Charlatan," "Hands Across the Sea," "Hail to the spirit of Liberty" and many others. He has written three suites, "The Last Days of Pompeii," "Three Quotations" and "Sheridan's Ride," and a symphonic poem on "The Chariot Race" from "Ben Hur." Innumerable waltzes, songs, etc. continue the list of Sousa's compositions. He has written a book of instruction for trumpet and drum, one for the violin, and is the author of considerable naganine verse as well as of the libretto of his opera "The Bride Elect." An important work is Sousa's compilation of the "National Patriotic and Typical Airs of all Countries," the most complete work of the kind extant.

In April, 1900 Mr. Sousa took his famous band to Europe for an extended tour, playing 175 concerts in 35 different continental cities, including Paris at the exposition, Berlin, Brussels, Munich, Leipsic, Dresden, Amsterdam, etc. It was the most successful tour of the kind ever taken in Europe and redounded greatly to the credit and prestige of the American conductor and composer.