The Thunderer

by: John Philip Sousa

Original Copyright: 1889
By: Carl Fischer

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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

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Thunderer (march). There remains uncertainty of who the “thunderer” in Sousa’s march ***The Thunderer*** (1889) really was. The march was dedicated to Columbia Commandery No. 2, Knights Templar, of Washington, D.C., and composed on the occasion of the 24th Triennial Conclave of the Grand Encampment, so there is speculation that the name might have Masonic implications. The conclave was held in October of 1889, and was sponsored by Columbia Commandery No 2. Sousa had been knighted three years before.

We also know that there was no connection with the *London Times* newspaper, which was also known as “the thunderer.” There is speculation that the true identity of “the thunderer” might have been one of the men in charge of making arrangements for the 1889 conclave – in particular, Myron M. Parker.

A summary of his complete works by category can be found at the following link:

http://www.dws.org/sousa/content/view/22/

Sources

Picture:

http://www.empire.k12.ca.us/capistrano/Mike/capmusic/modern/american%20composers/sousa/Marine1.jpg

Biography:

http://www.answers.com/topic/john-philip-sousa
http://www.dws.org/sousa/

Output:

http://www.dws.org/sousa/content/view/22/
Bierley, Paul E. *The works of John Philip Sousa* (1984), Integrity Press, Westerville, OH., p. 89.

Program note researched by Marcus L. Neiman
Medina, Ohio

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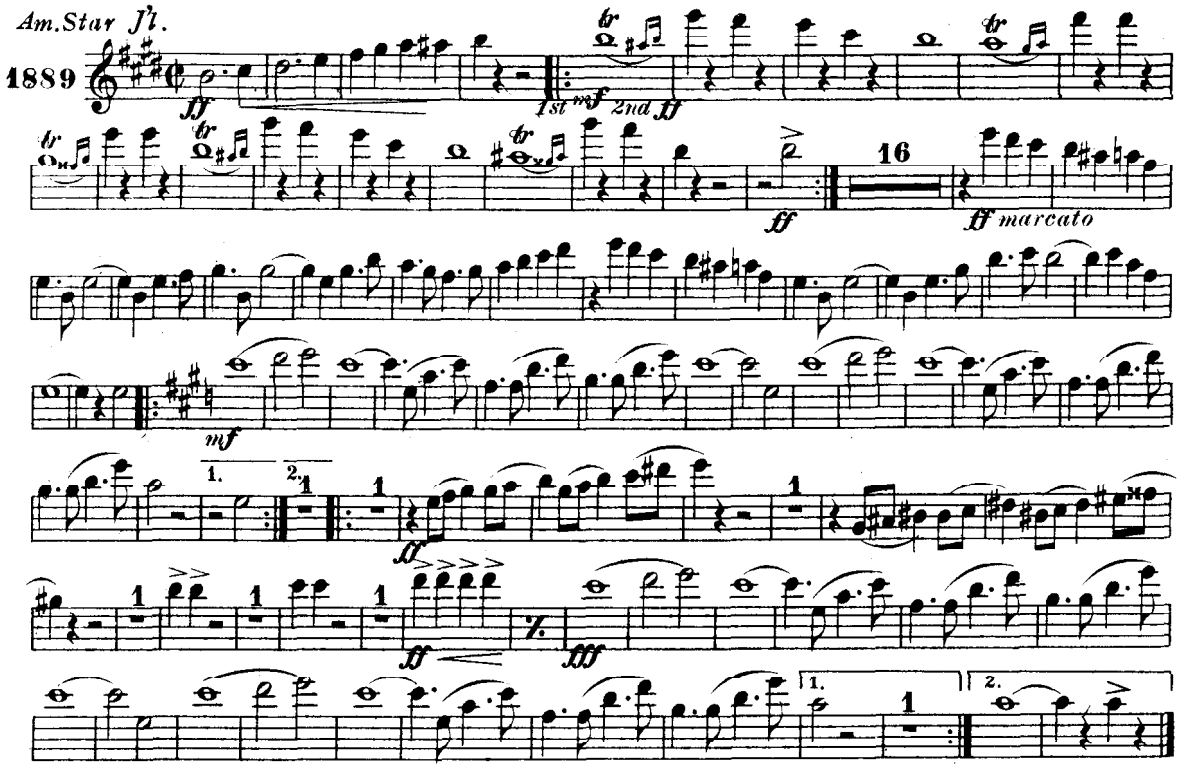
THE THUNDERER.

PICCOLO. MARCH. SOUSA.



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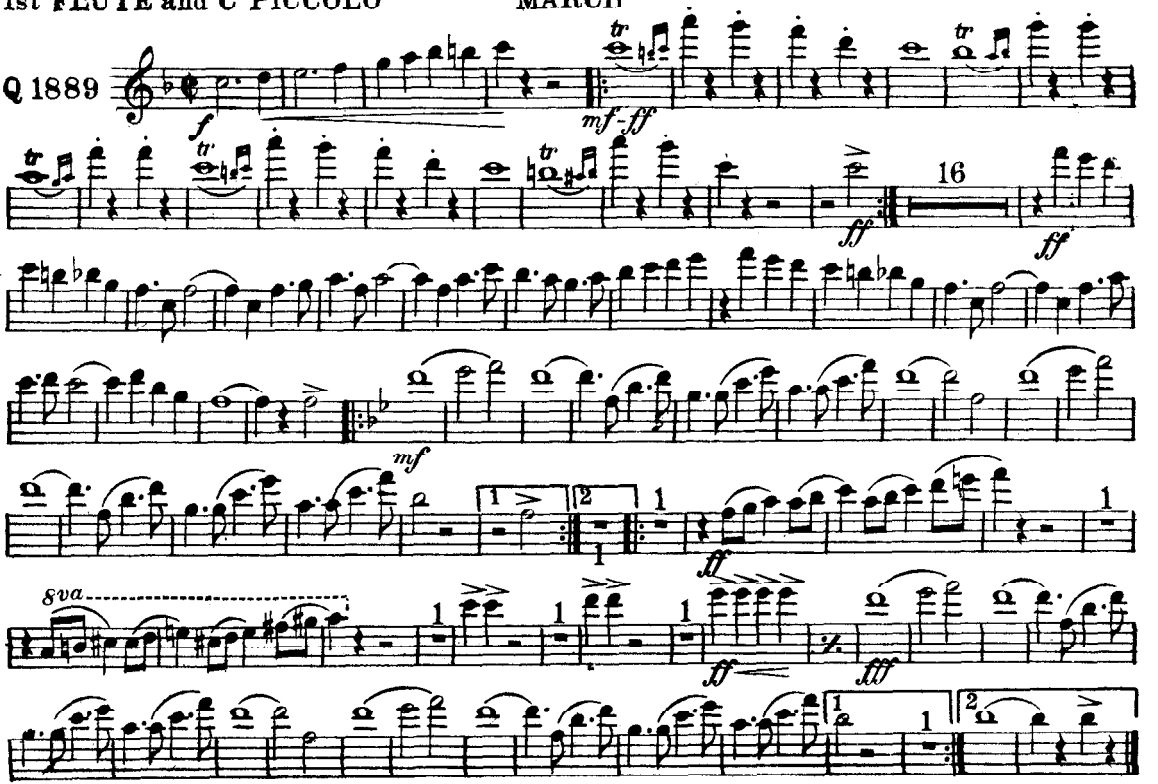
THE THUNDERER

1st FLUTE and C PICCOLO — MARCH — SOUSA

Q 1889



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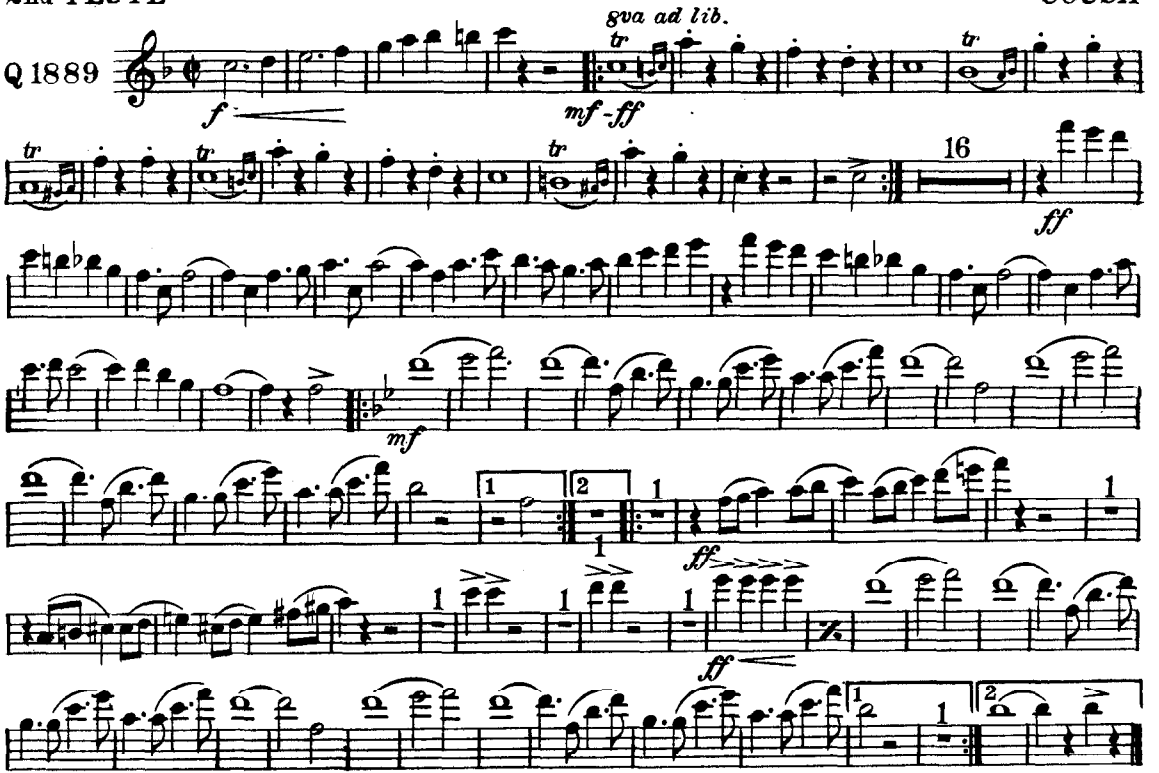
THE THUNDERER

MARCH

2nd FLUTE

SOUSA



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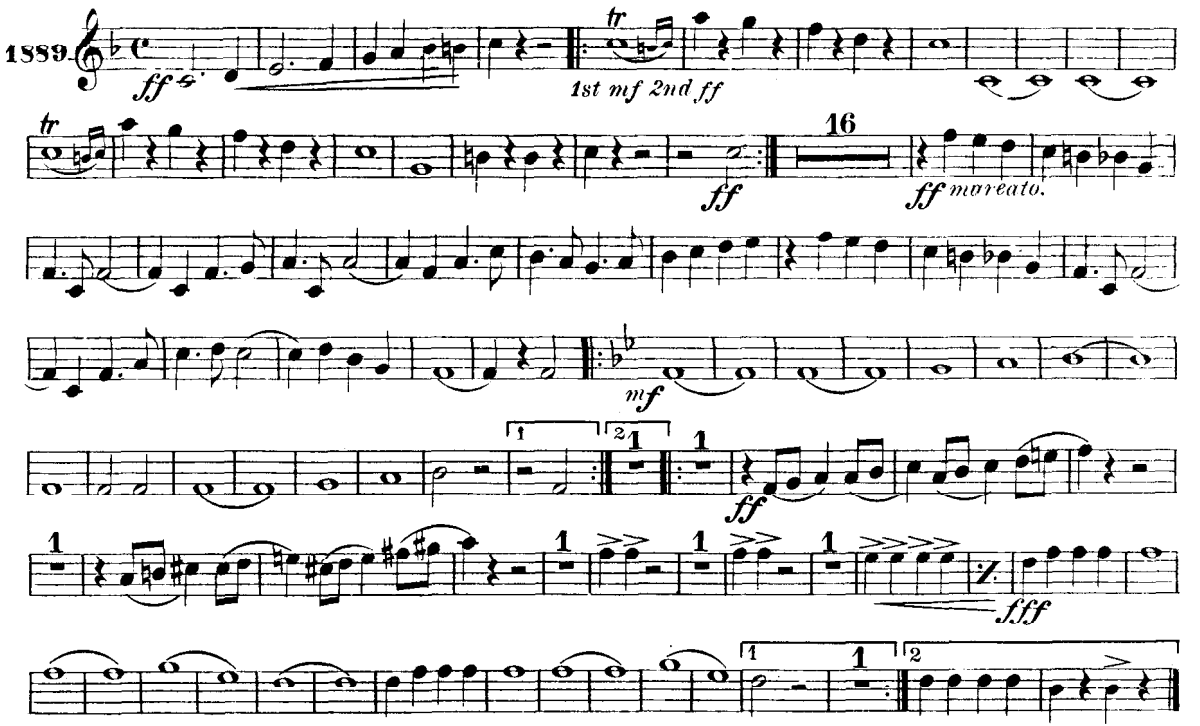
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

OBOE.

SOUSA.



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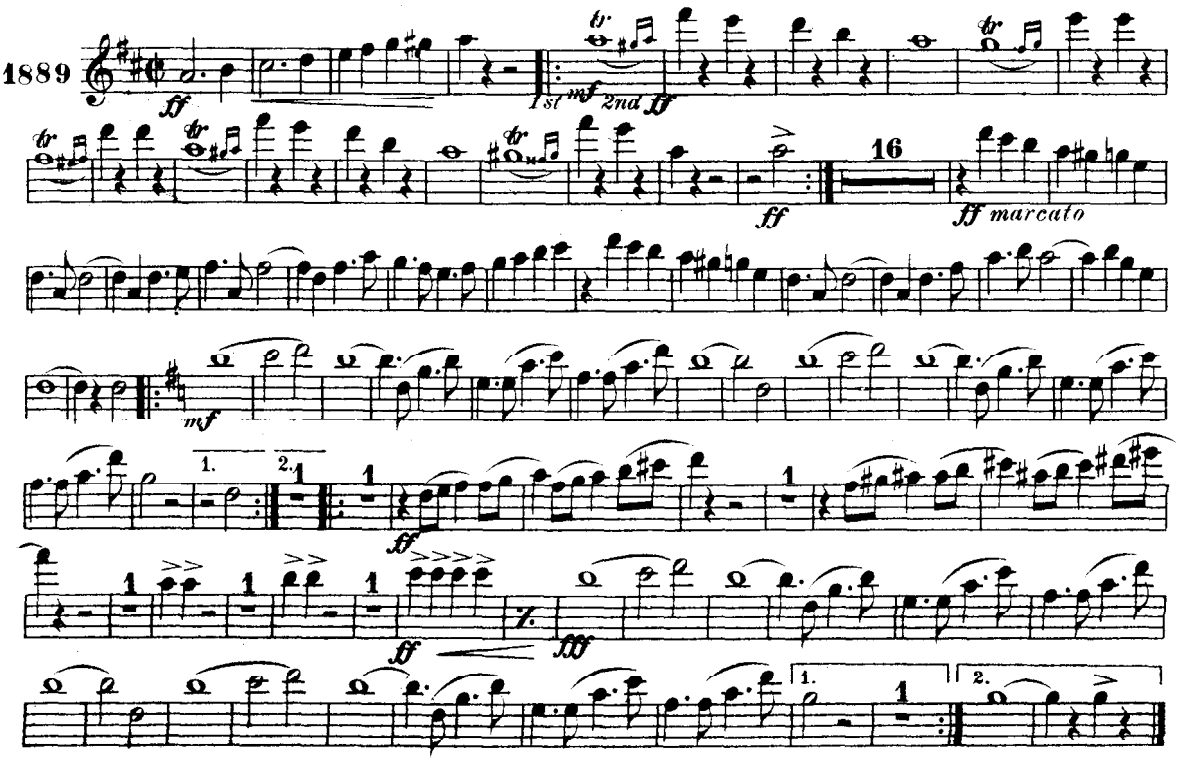
THE THUNDERER.

E♭ CLARINET.

MARCH.

SOUSA.



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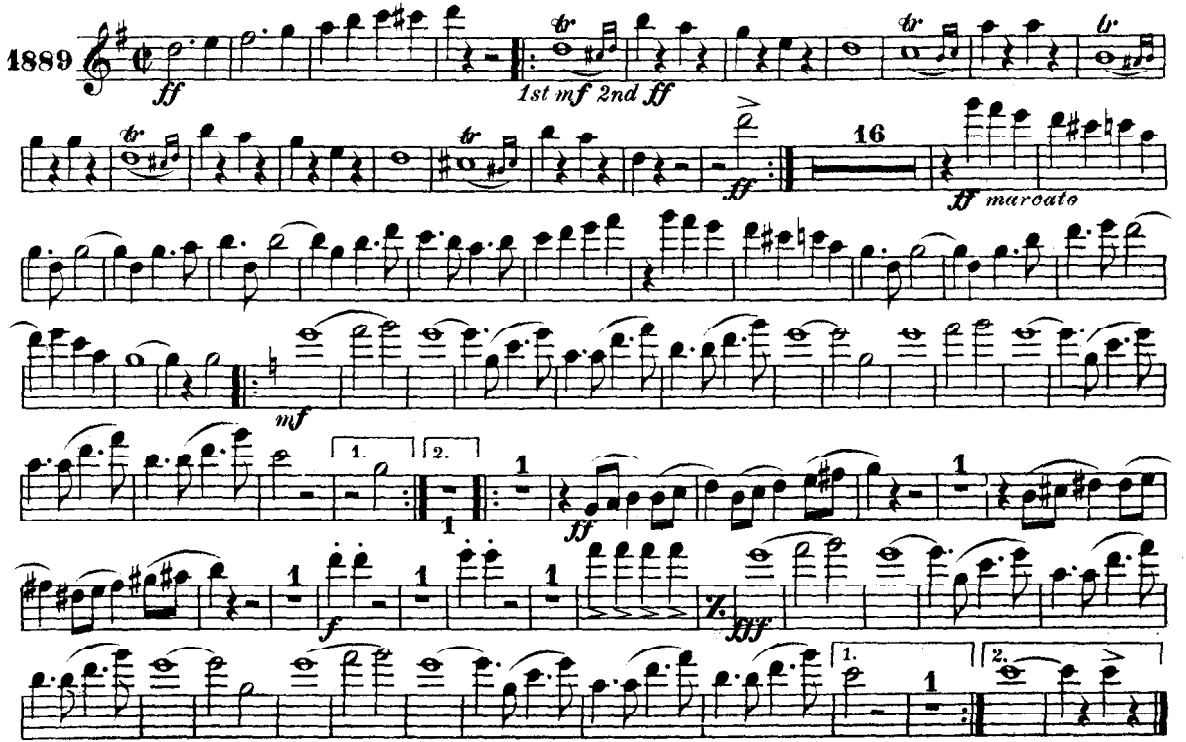
SOLO *or*
1st B♭ CLARINET.

THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

SOUSA.



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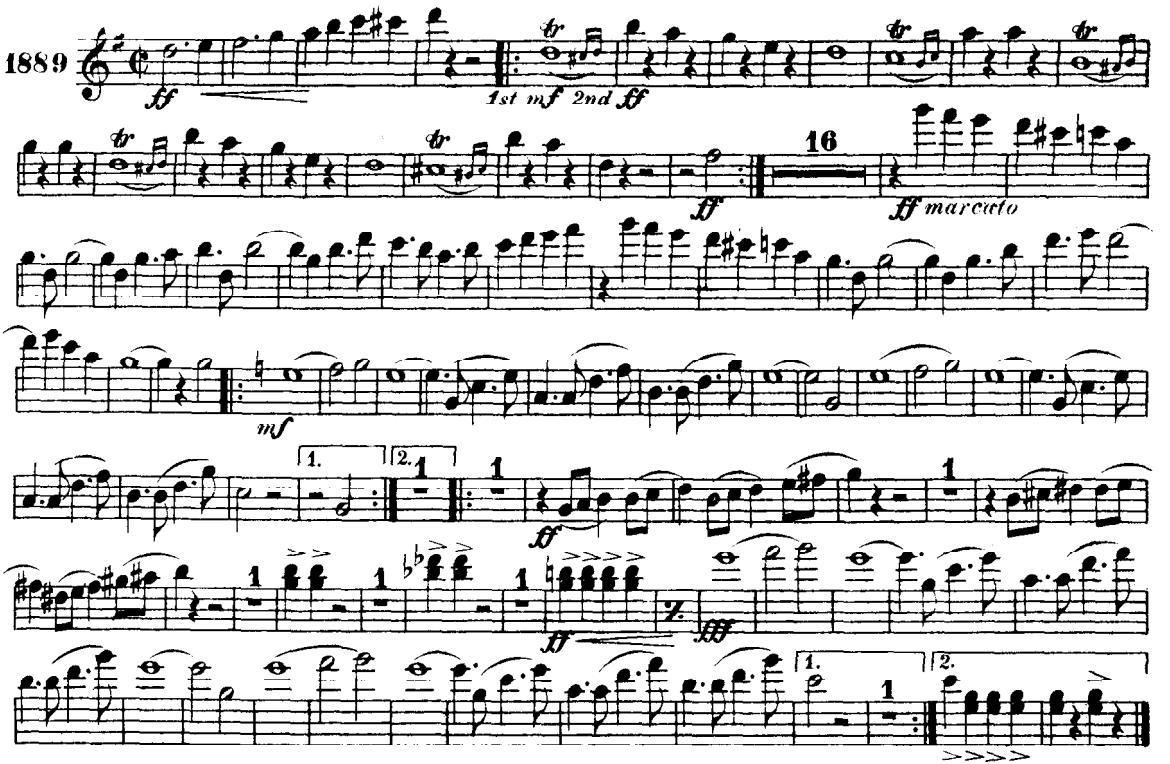
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

2nd & 3rd B♭ CLARINETS

SOUSA.



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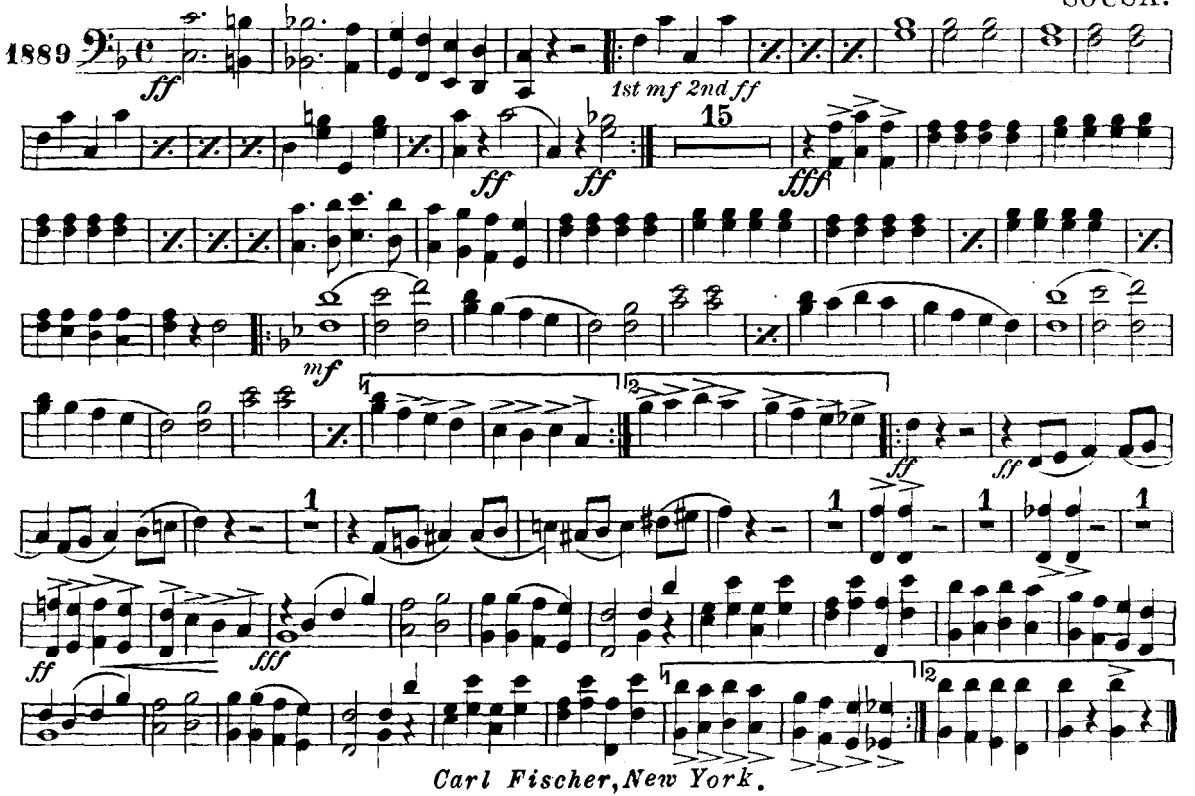
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

BASSOONS.

SOUSA.



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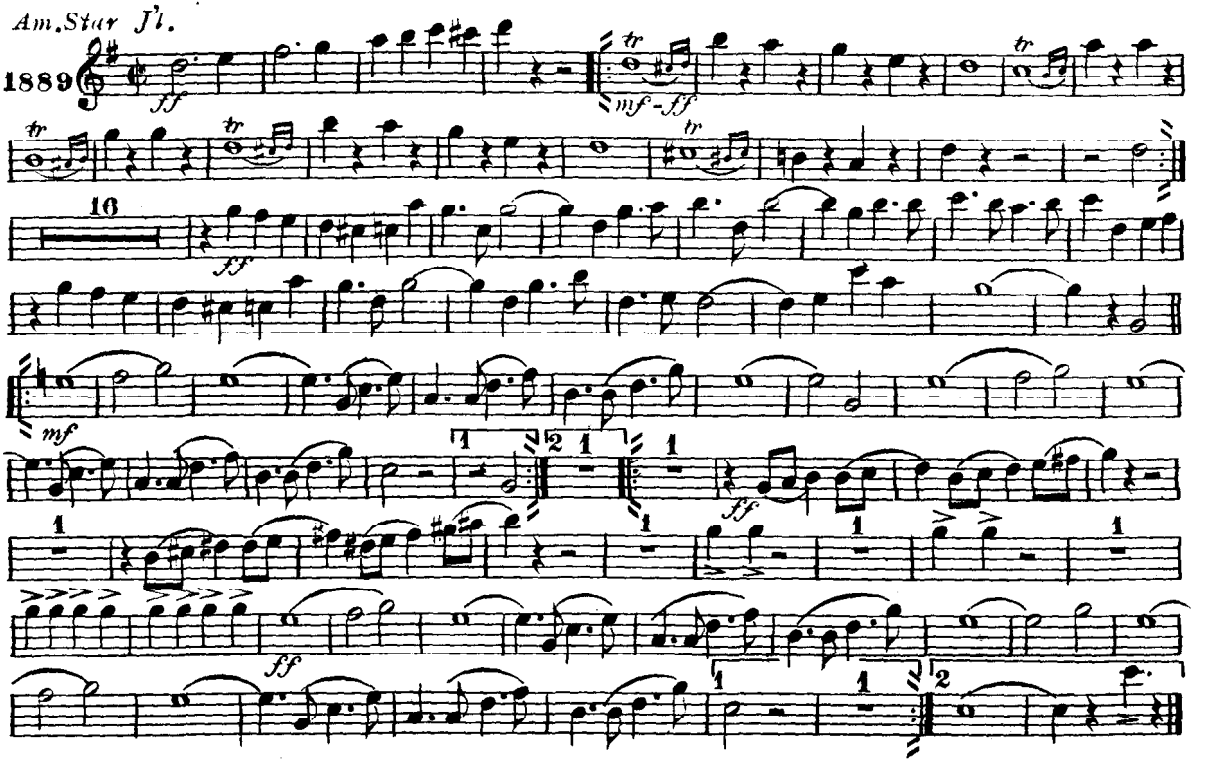
THE THUNDERER.

SOPRANO SAXOPHONE MARCH

SOUSA



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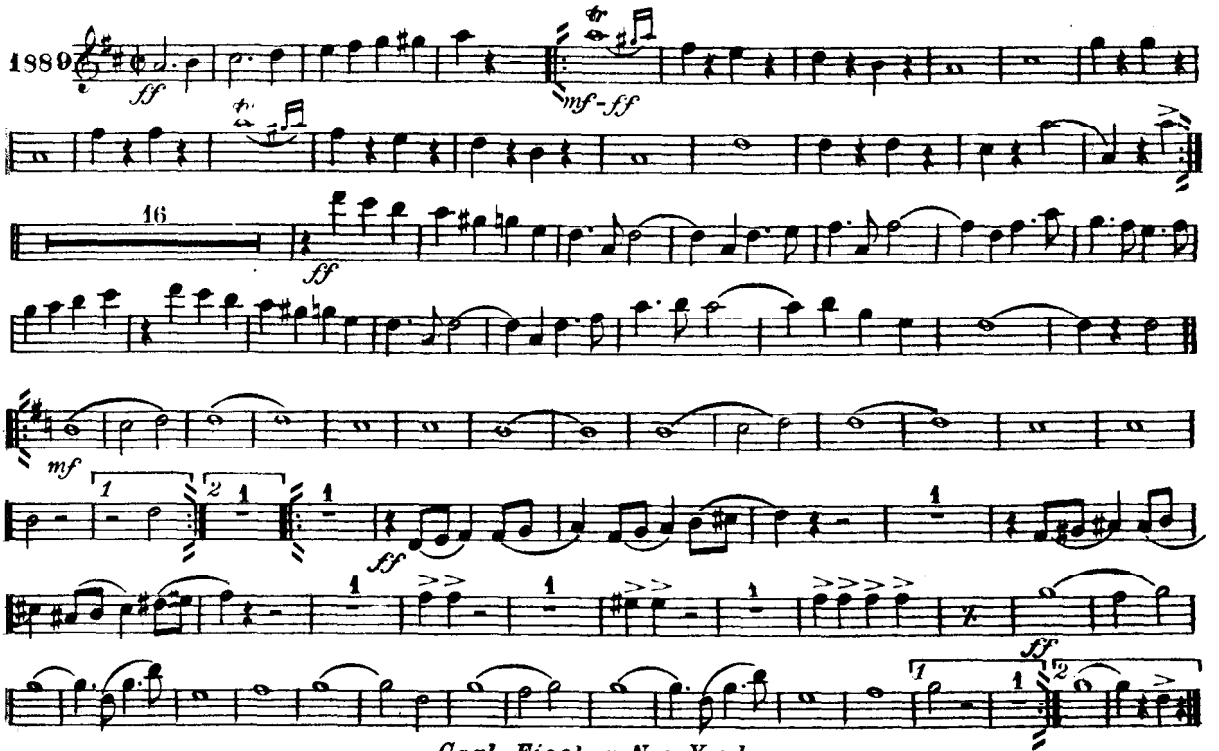
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH

ALTO SAXOPHONE

SOUSA



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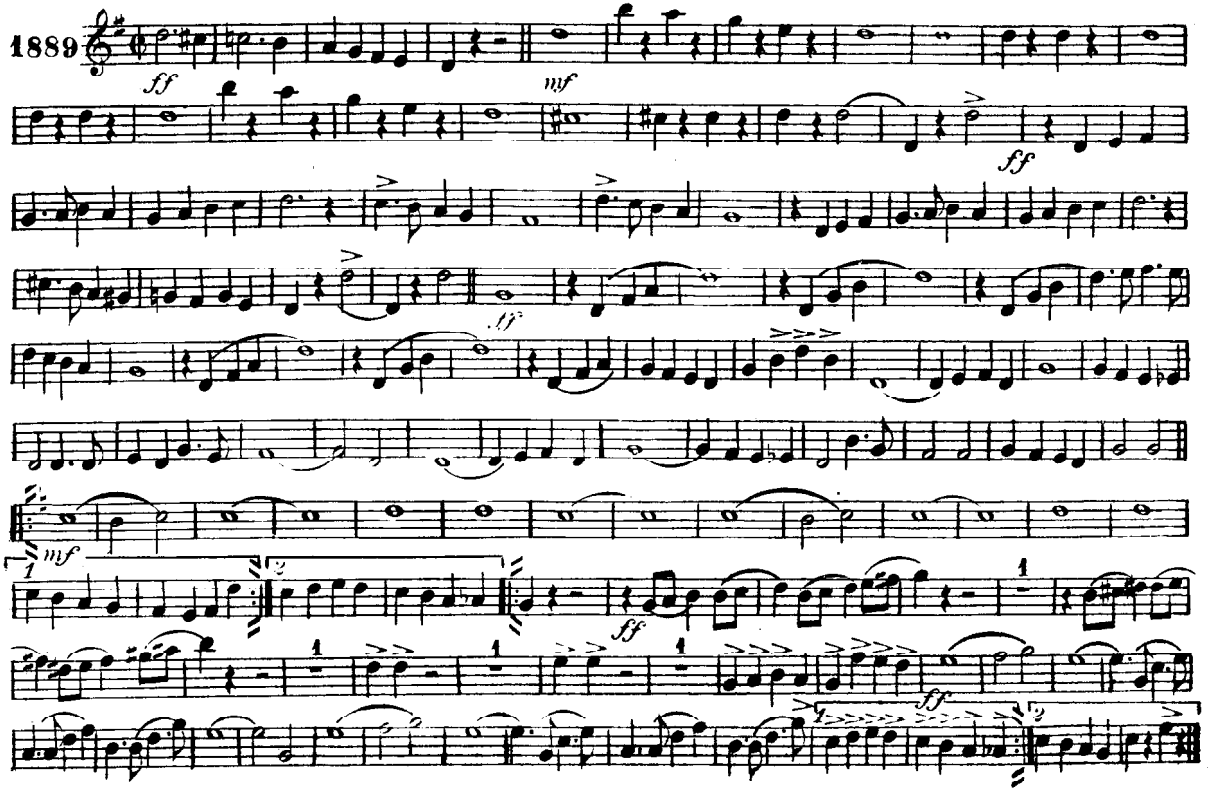
THE THUNDERER.

TENOR SAXOPHONE

MARCH

SOUSA



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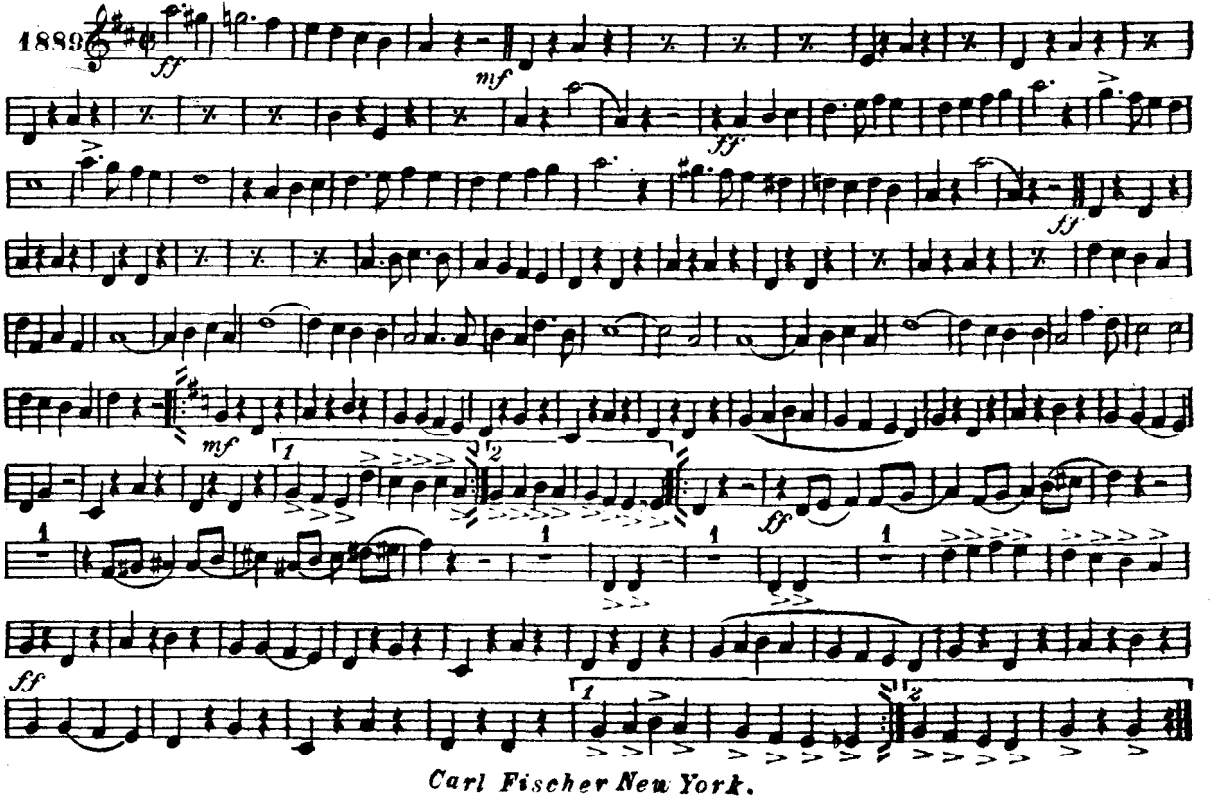
HUNDERER
MARCH

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

SOUSA



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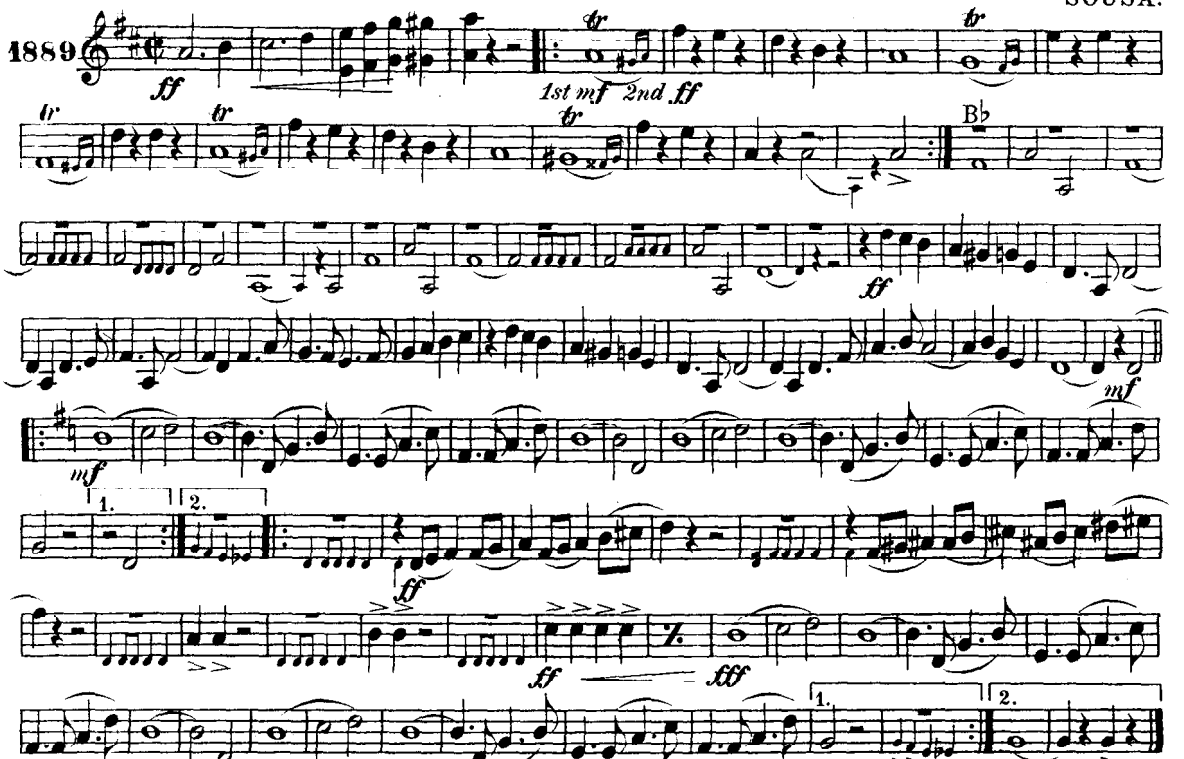
E♭ CORNET.

THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

SOUSA.



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THE THUNDERER.

SOLO B♭ CORNET.

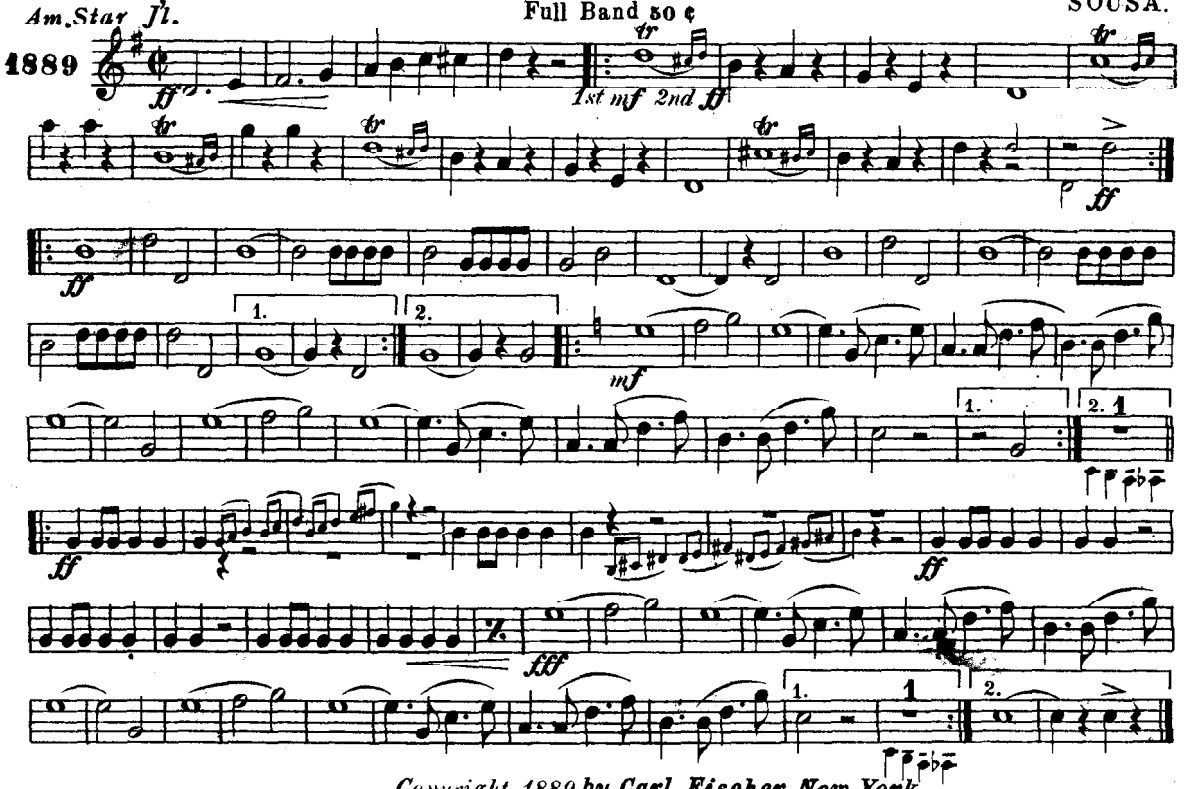
MARCH.

Full Band 50 ¢

SOUSA.

Am. Star Jl.

1889



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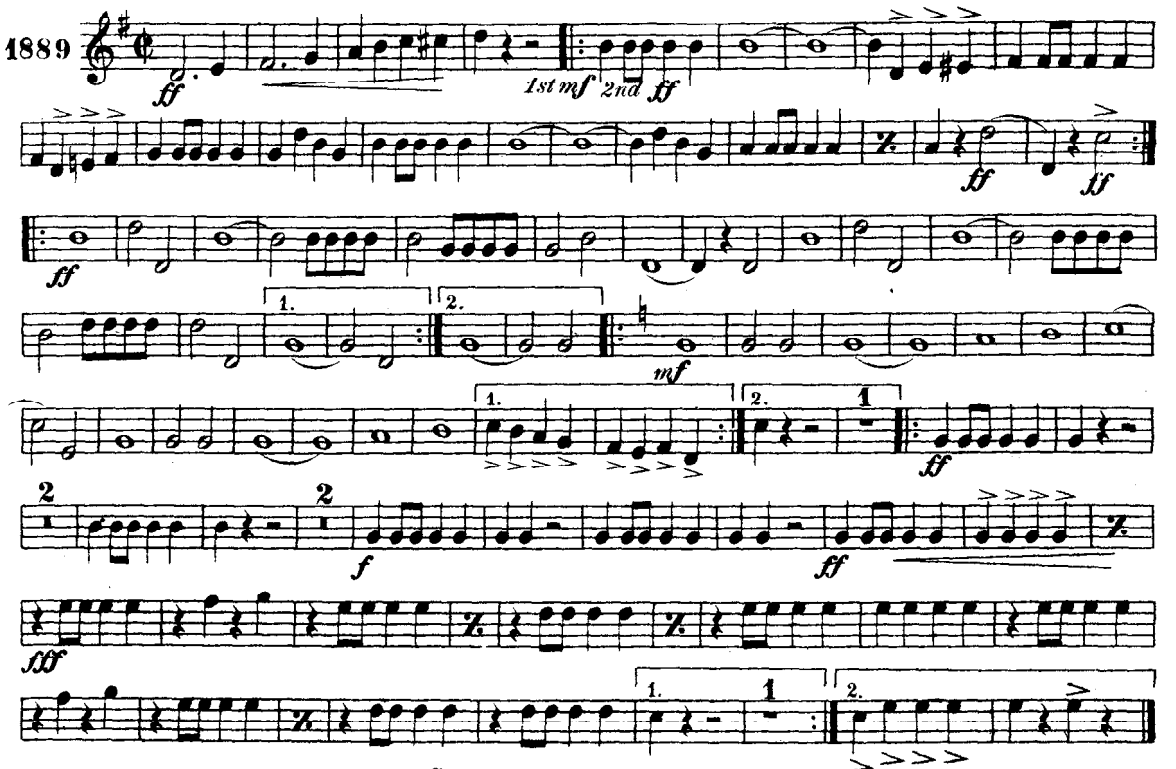
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

1st B♭ CORNET.

SOUSA.



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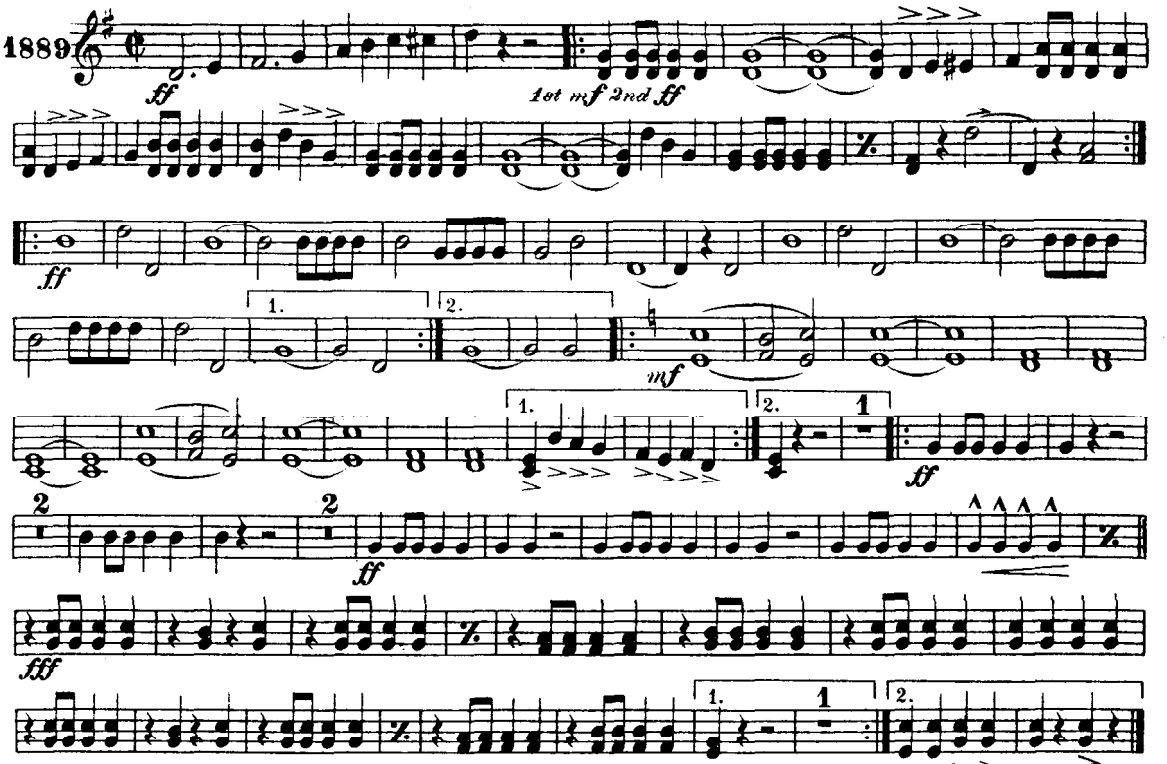
2nd & 3rd B♭ CORNETS.

THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

SOUSA



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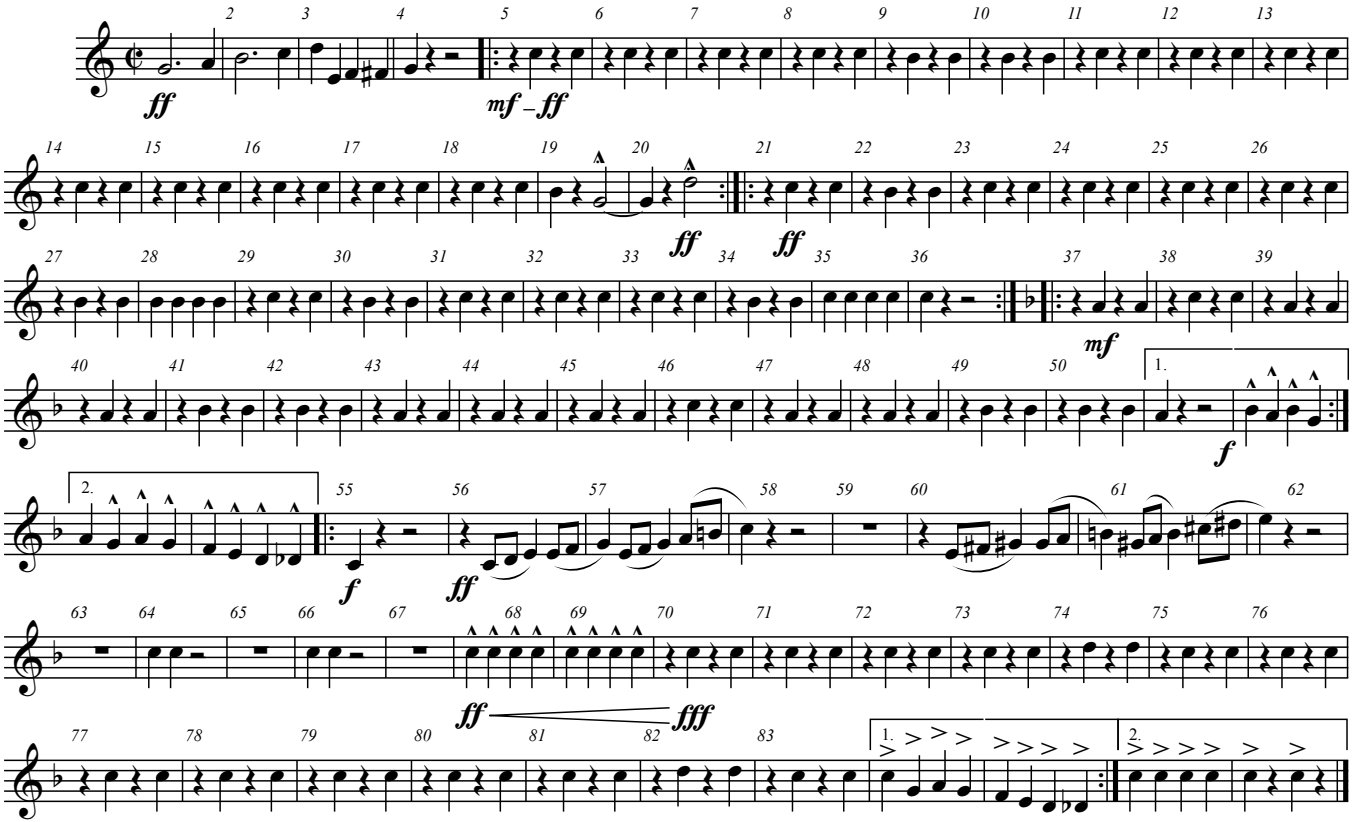
Thunderer

F Horn 1 **Sousa**

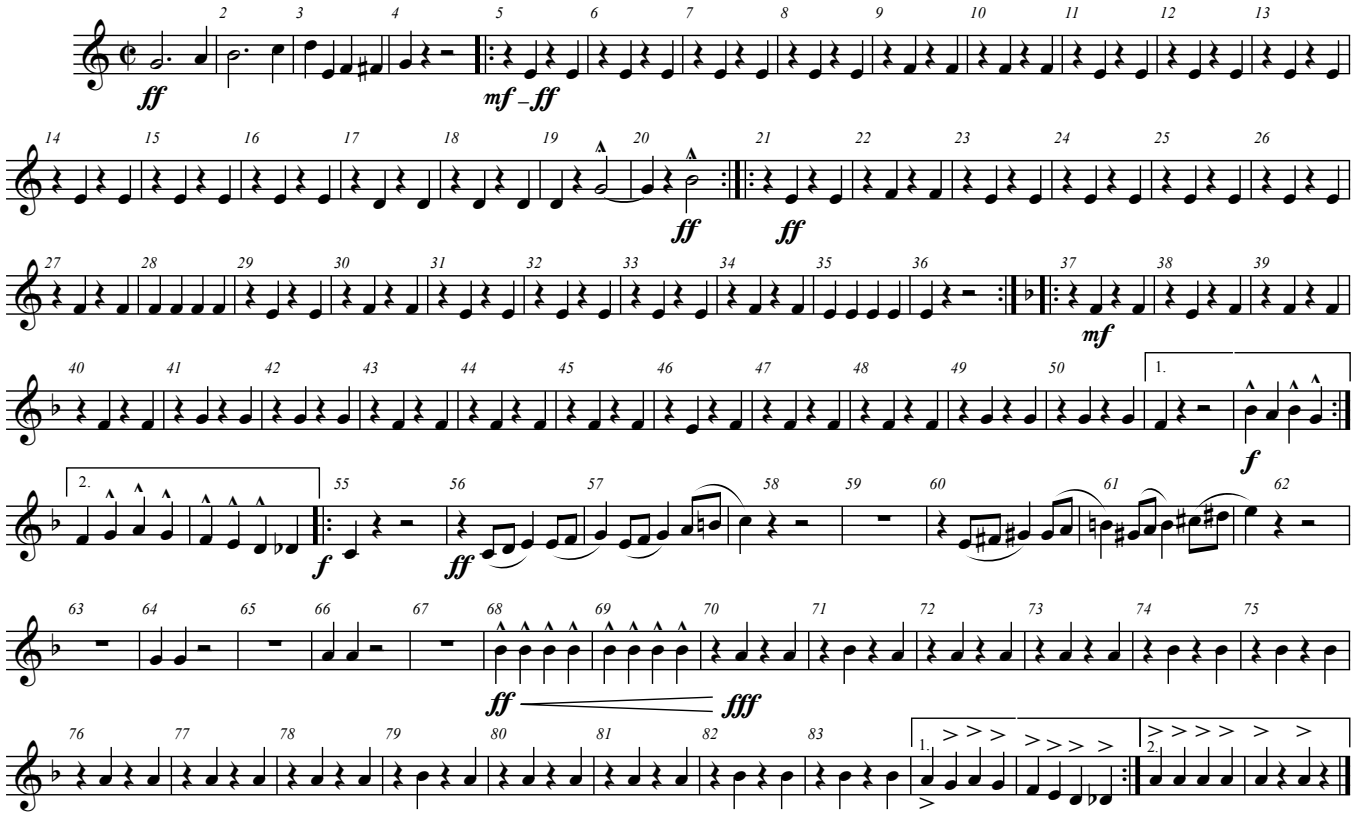


Transposed part by Tom Pechnik

Thunderer

F Horn 2

Sousa



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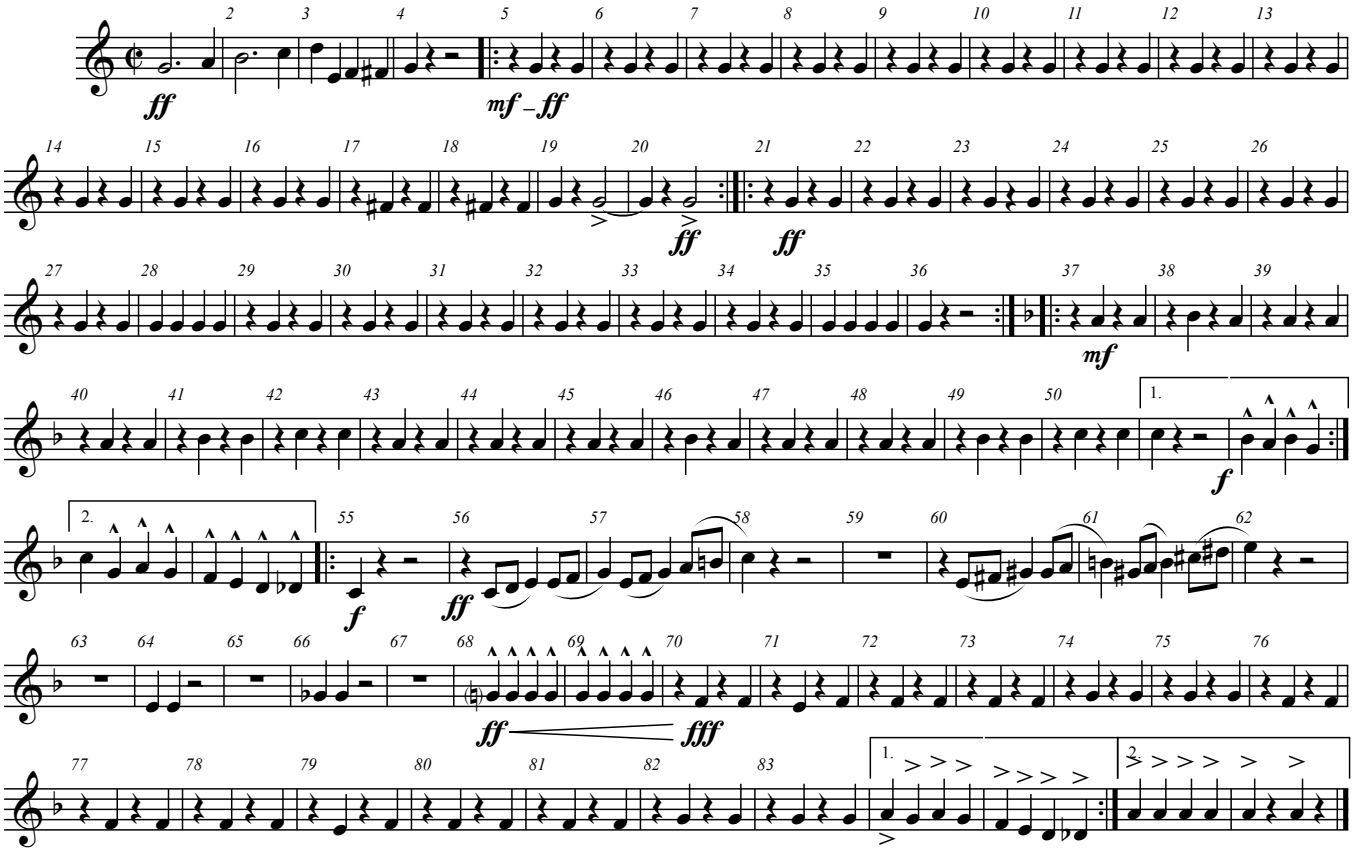
Thunderer

F Horn 3 **Sousa**



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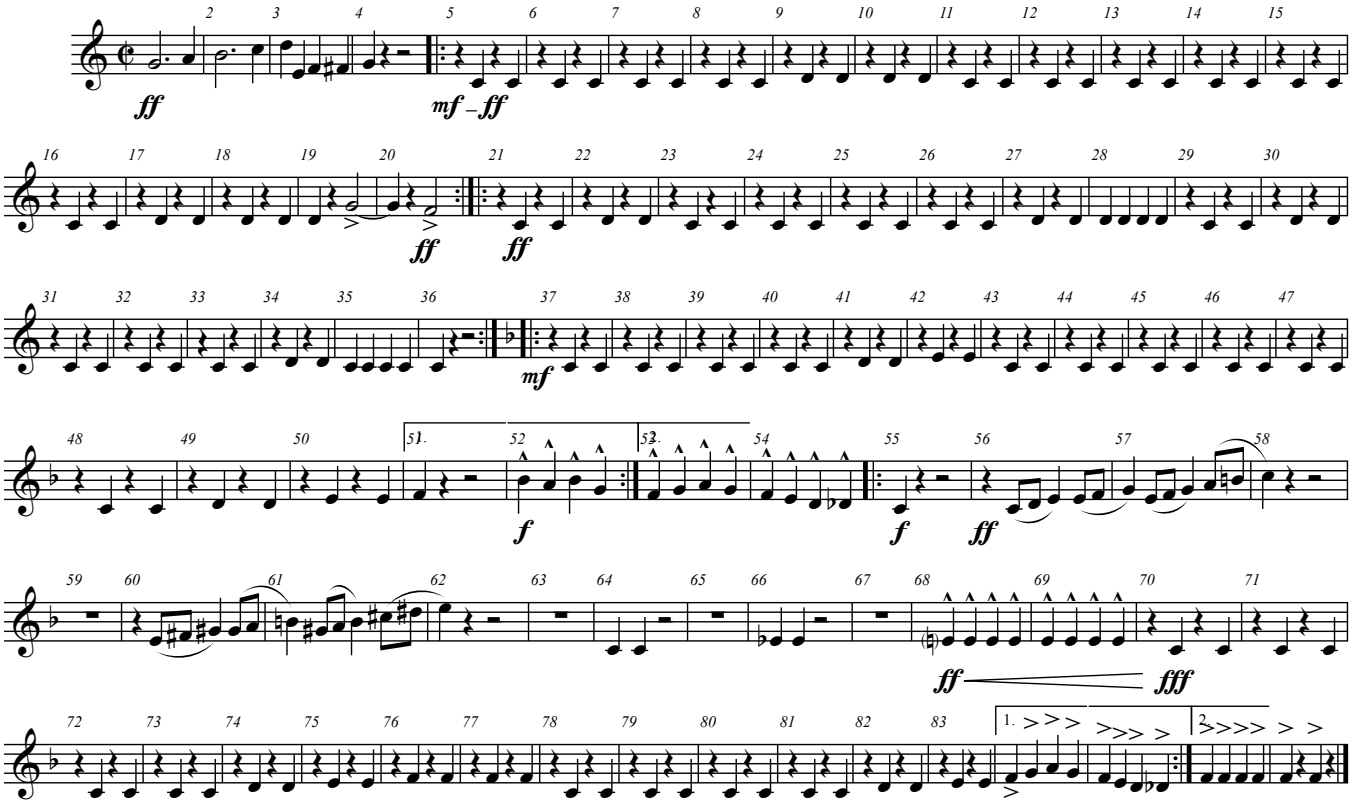
Thunderer

F Horn 4

Sousa



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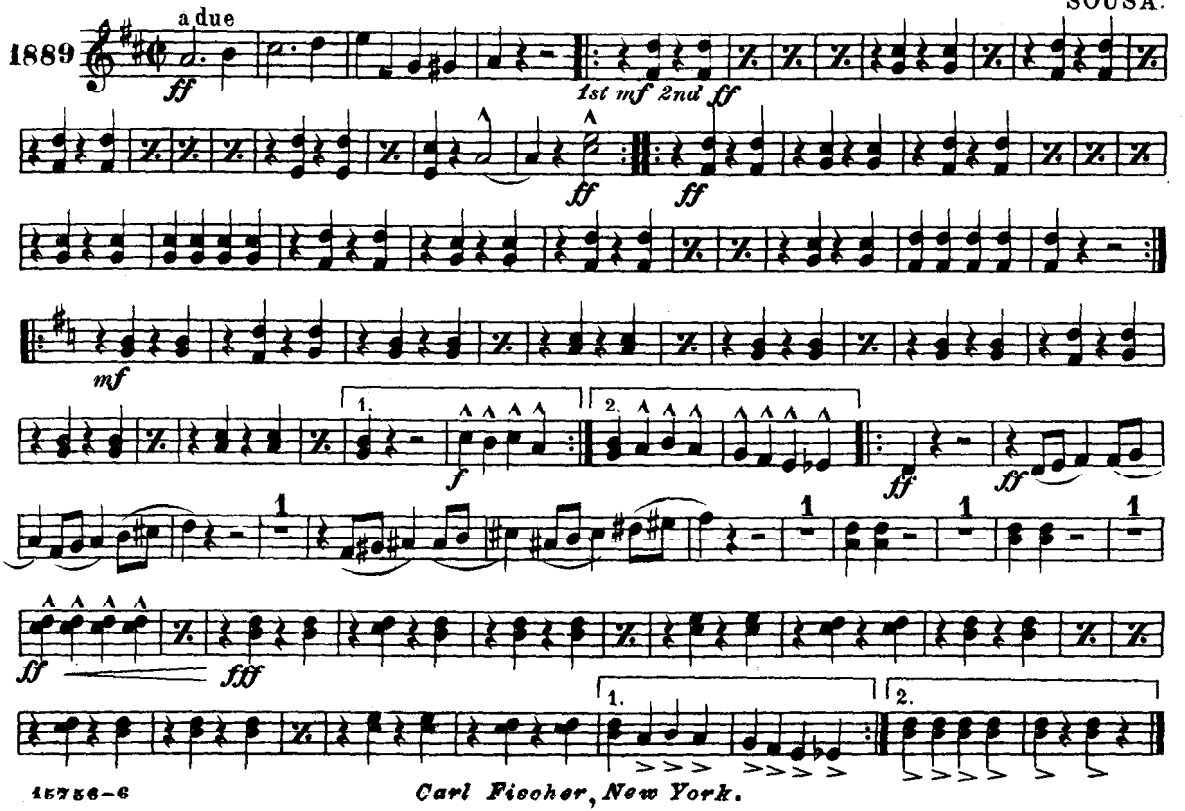
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

1st & 2nd ALTOS.

SOUSA.



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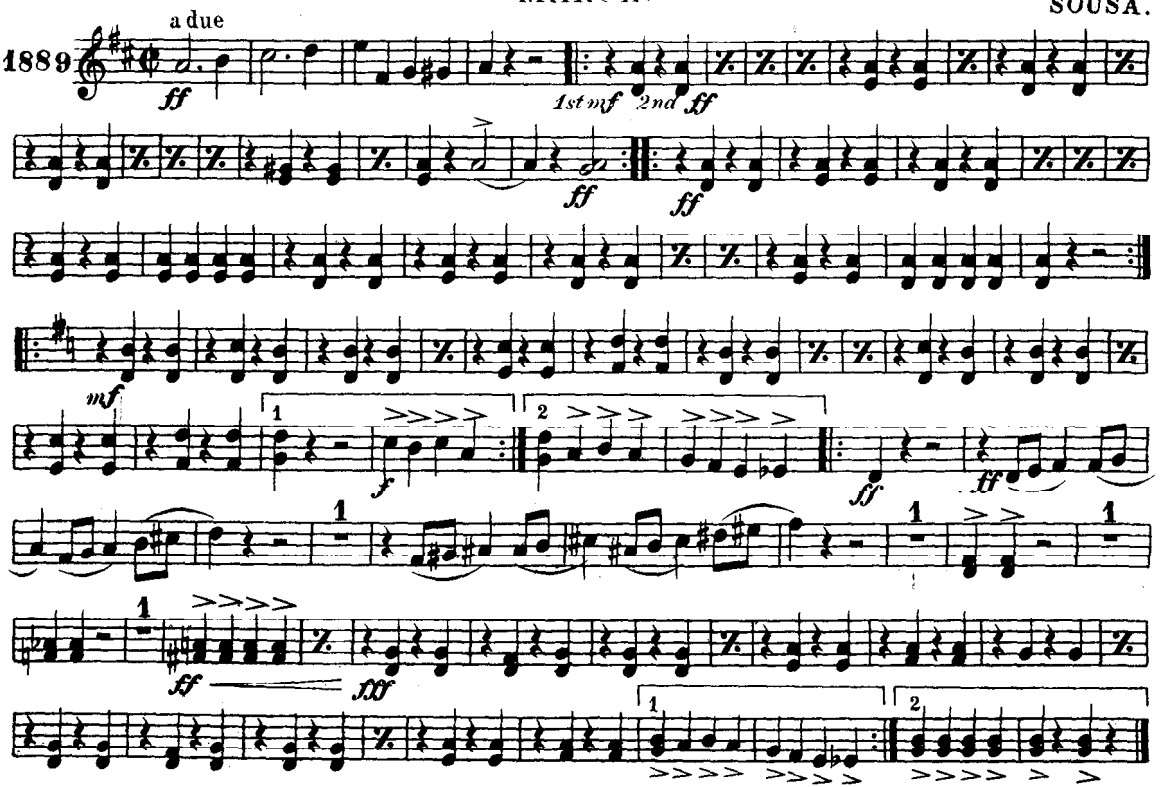
3rd & 4th ALTOS.

THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

SOUSA.



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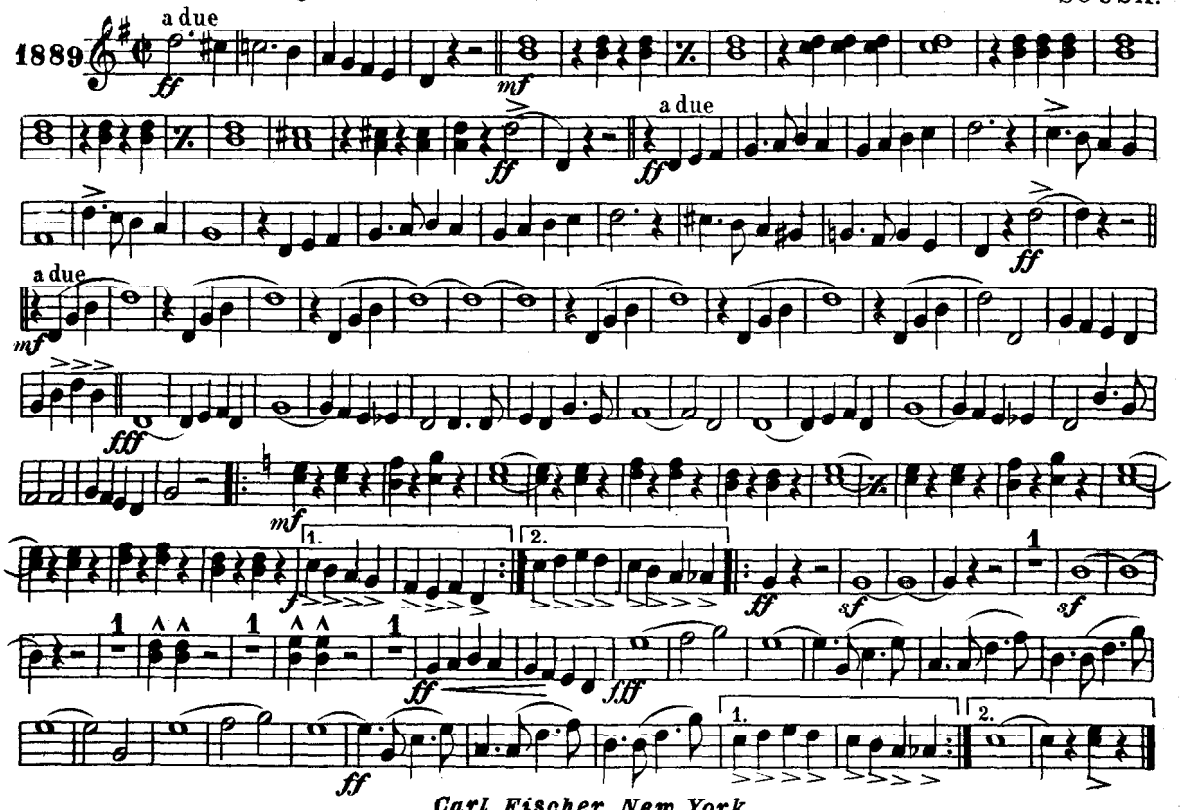
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

SOUSA.

1st & 2nd TENORS



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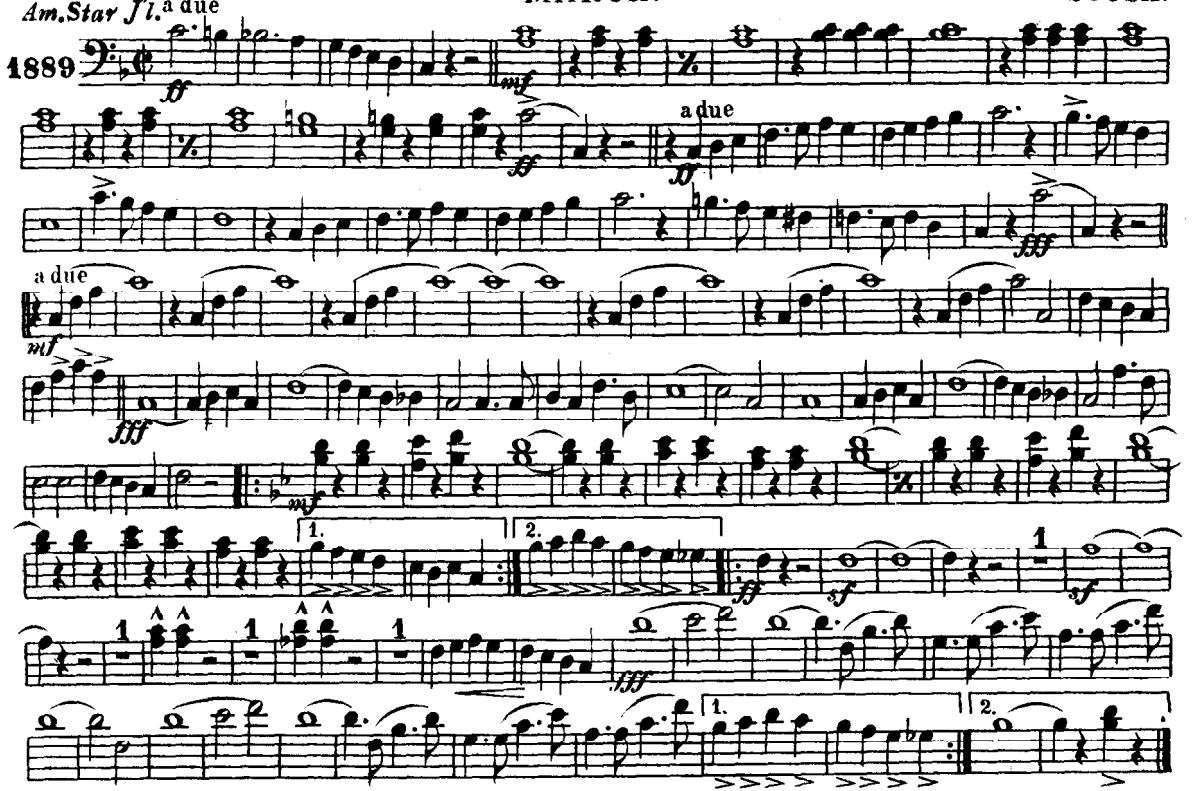
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

1st & 2nd TROMBONES.

SOUSA.



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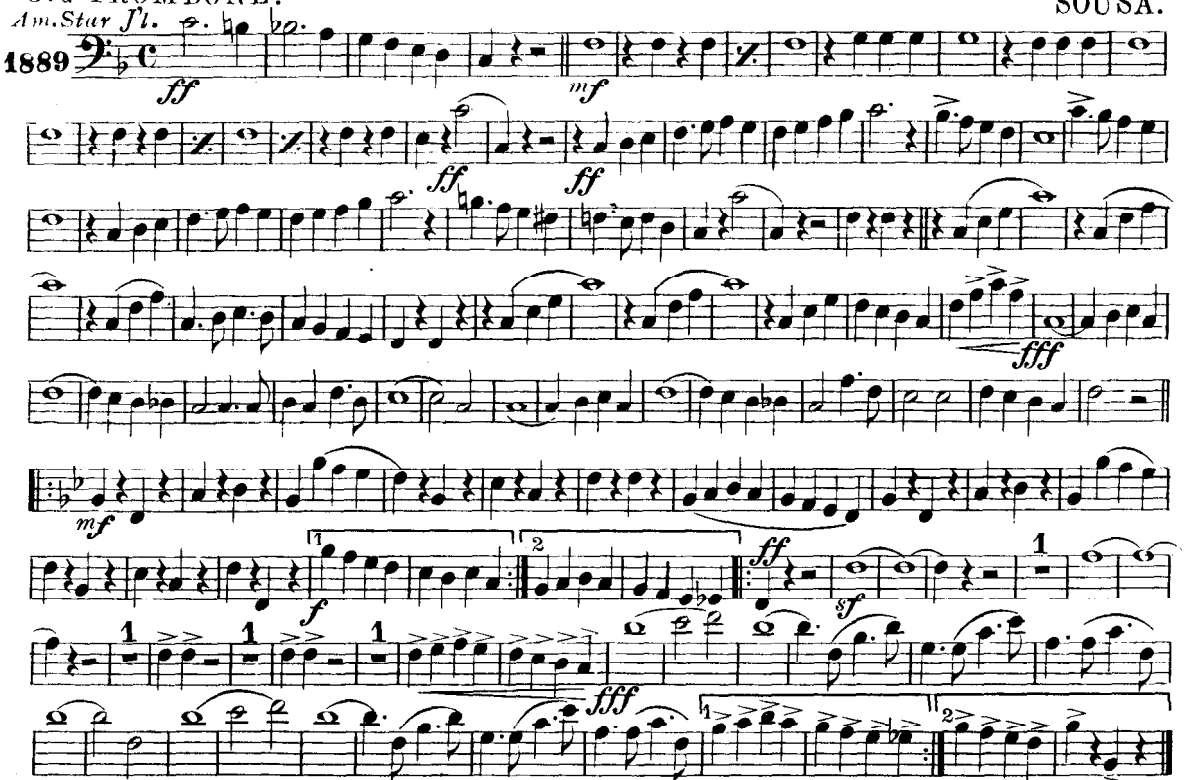
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

B♭ BASS or
3rd TROMBONE.

SOUSA.



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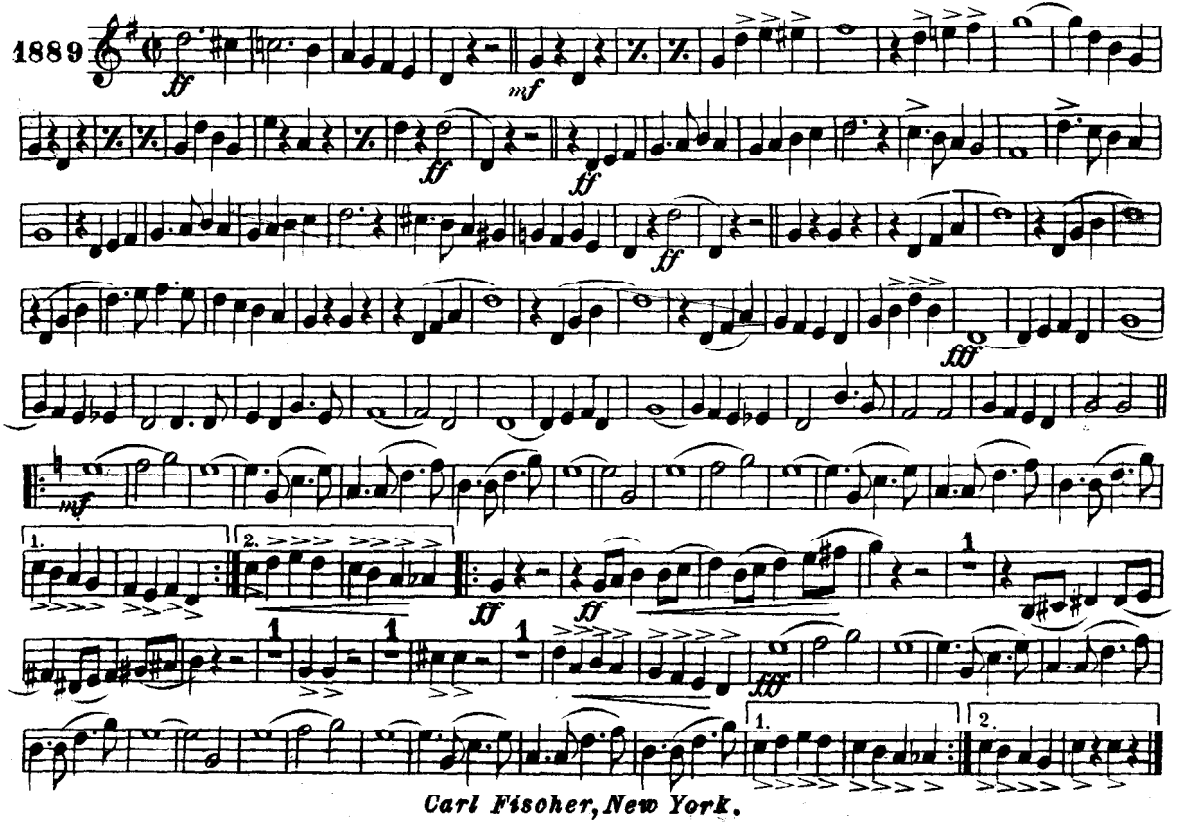
BARITONE

THE THUNDERER.

MARCH

SOUSA.



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BARITONE

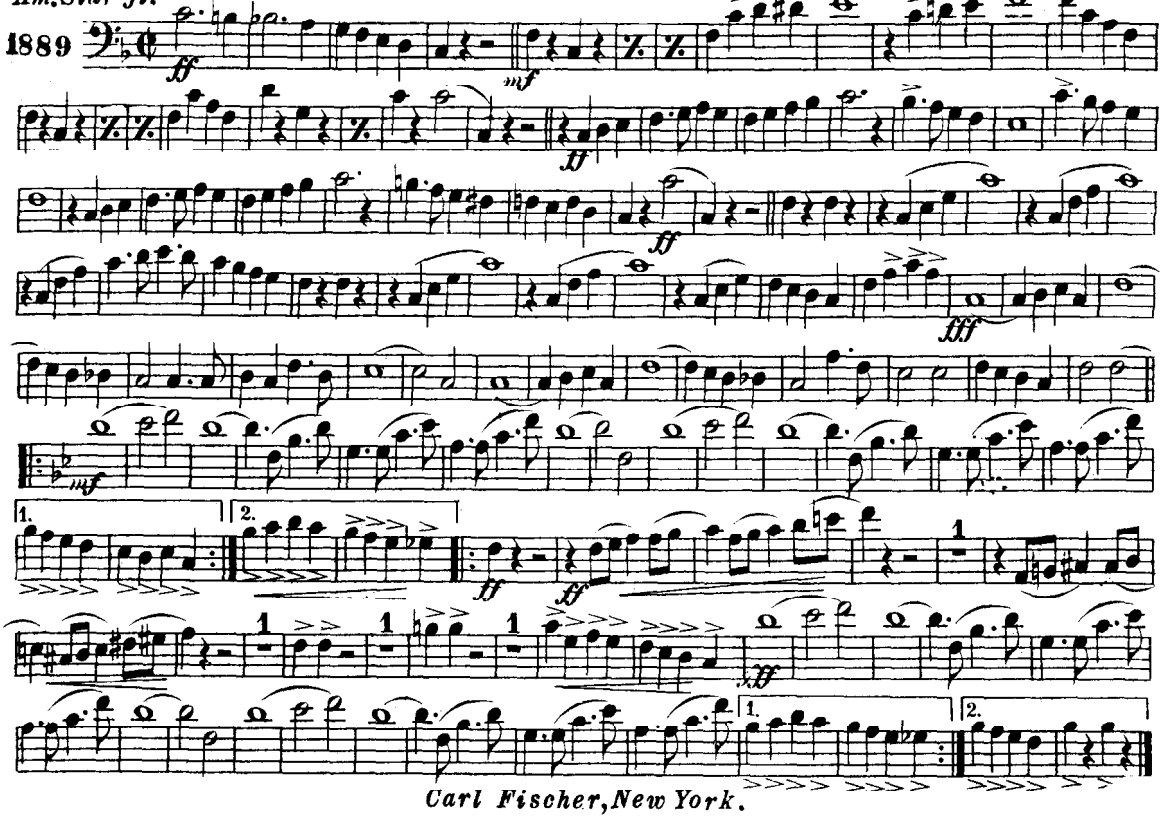
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

SOUSA.

Am. Star Jl.

1889



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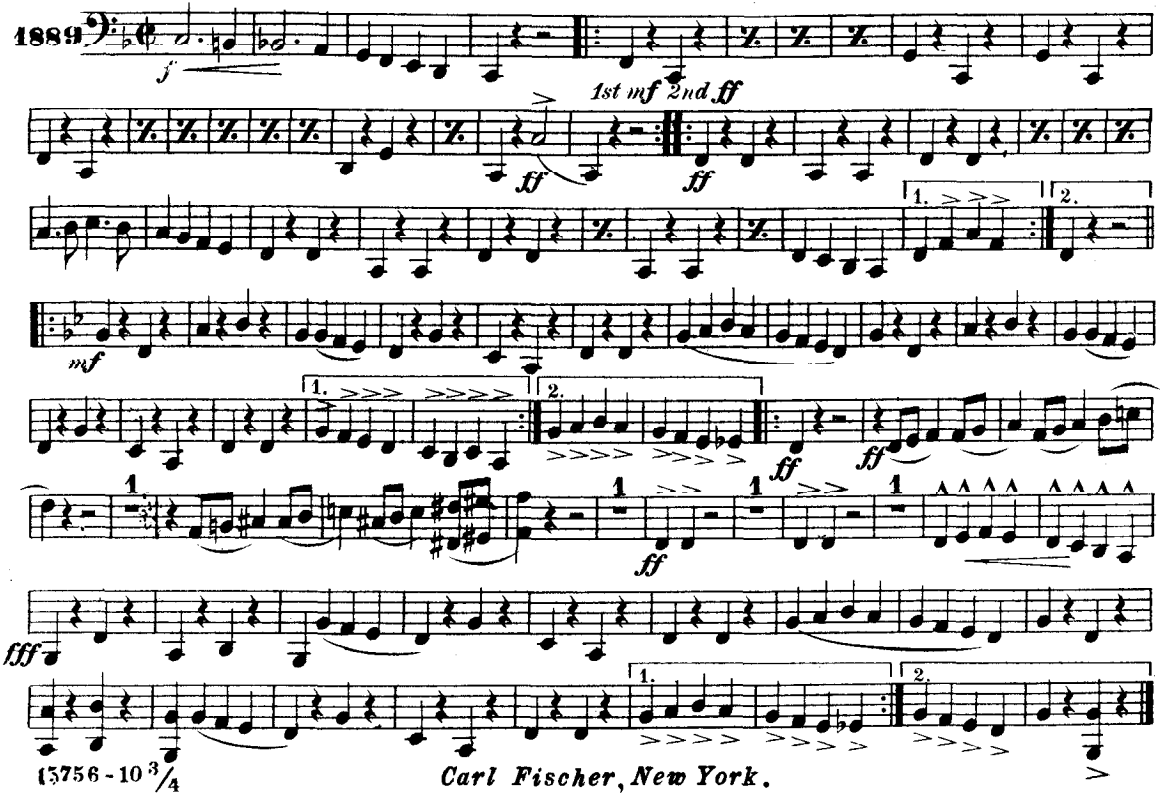
BASSES.
(*Tuba*)

THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

SOUSA.



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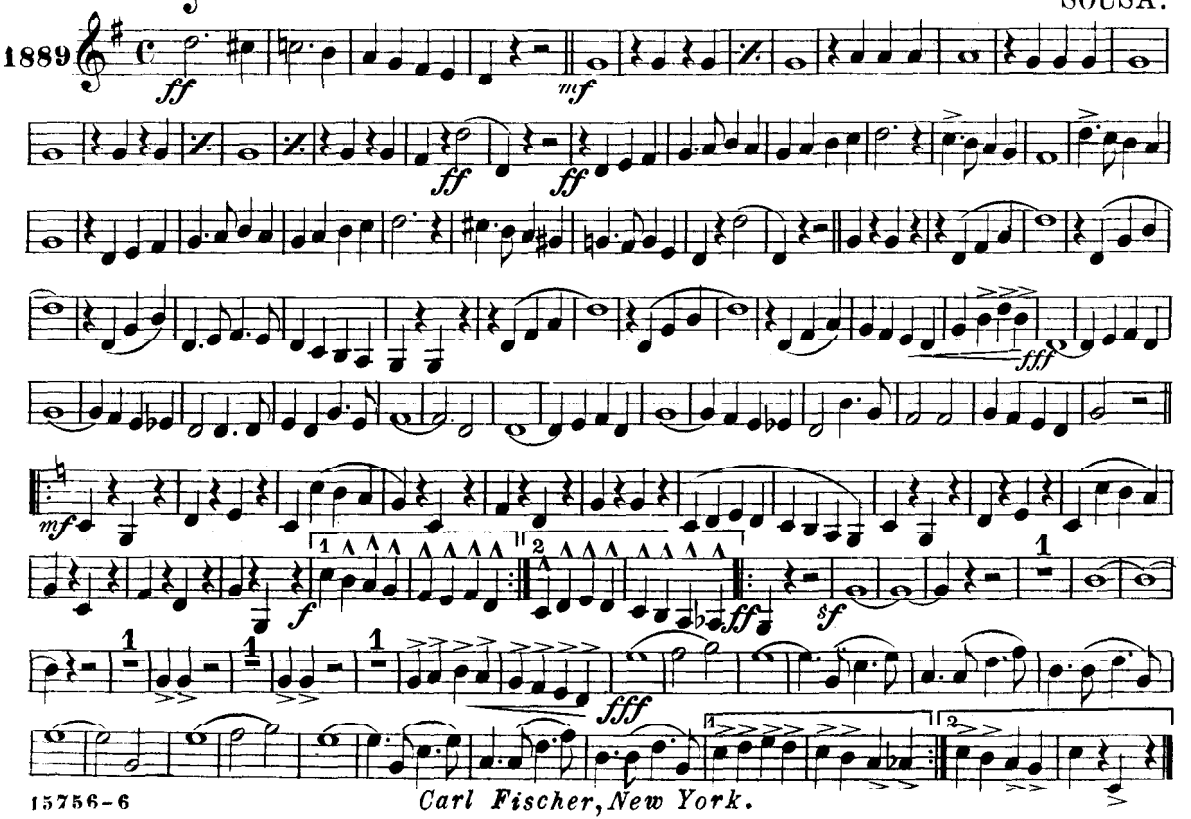
THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

B♭ BASS.

SOUSA.



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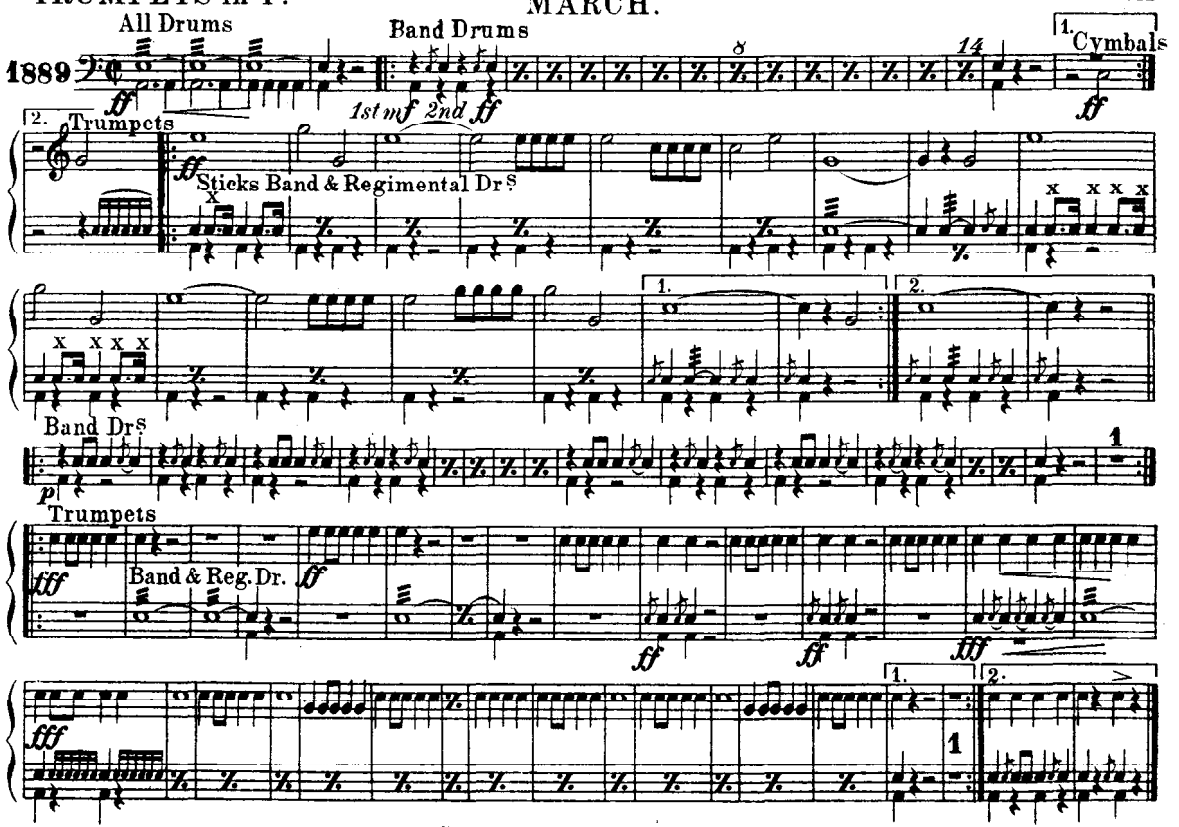
DRUMS & TRUMPETS in F.

THE THUNDERER.

MARCH.

SOUSA.



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