



Band Virtual Learning

High School Band

April 9th, 2020



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Lesson: April 9th, 2020

Objective/Learning Target:

History of Marches in Band

- Introduce three important composers
- Create understanding of march music in band
- Introduce the march form (how they are written)



Warm-Up Activity: Vocabulary

You need to know these terms often used in marches:

1. **Introduction**: the first few measures of the march, usually the shortest section
2. **Strain**: the primary melodic sections of a march (called the 1st strain, 2nd strain, etc.)
3. **Trio**: the third primary melody (or strain) of a march; usually the quietest section.
4. **Dog Fight**: the fourth primary melody (or strain) of a march; usually very aggressive



Activity:

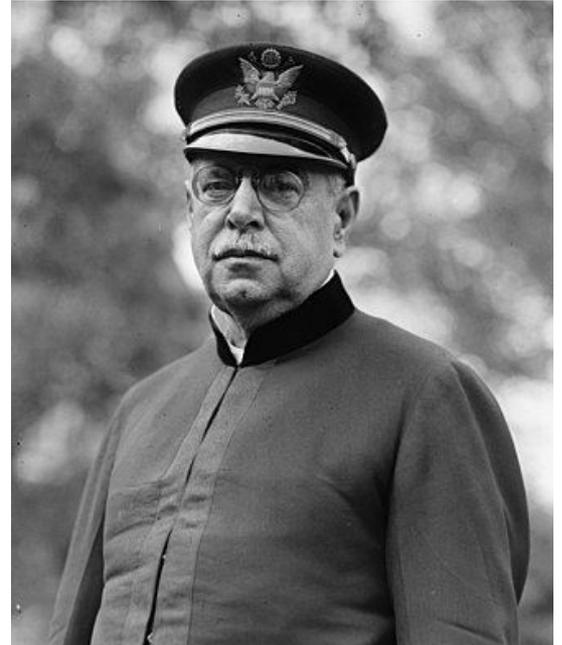
Now let's learn about some famous march composers:

1. John Philip Sousa: [Bio](#)
2. Karl King: [Bio](#)
3. Henry Fillmore: [Bio](#)

John Philip Sousa (1854-1932)

Known as “The March King”, Sousa was a famous composer known mostly for his great marches. He wrote 137 marches including “Semper Fidelis” which became the official march of the United States Marine Corps.

Listen: *Semper Fidelis*



Karl King (1891-1971)



Karl King was a composer of band music who wrote more than 300 pieces including many famous marches. One of his most well-known marches is “Barnum and Bailey’s Favorite”.

Listen: *Barnum and Bailey’s Favorite*

Henry Fillmore (1881-1956)

Henry Fillmore wrote more than 250 pieces of music including many famous marches. He also wrote several popular trombone “smears” or features for the trombone players.

Listen: *Americans We*





Practice: let's learn about marches!

The Introduction

What is the introduction? We will use Sousa for this:

1. Listen again to “[Semper Fidelis](#)” by Sousa
2. The introduction happens on the video from :49-:58



Practice: let's learn about marches!

The Strains

Next let's find out about the strains. Karl King will be the example here:

1. Listen again to “[Barnum and Bailey's Favorite](#)”
2. The first strain (or melody) starts at :06
3. The second strain (or melody) starts at :32
4. The third strain (also known as the trio) starts at 1:00



Practice: let's learn about marches!

The “Dog Fight”

Finally let's learn about the “dog fight strain”. This is usually the fourth main melody and happens after the trio. It's very aggressive and energetic.

1. Listen to all of “[Americans We](#)”
2. The dog fight strain starts at 1:23



Nice!

Now that you know more about marches, and the different musical sections of a march, go back and listen to the marches again and identify all the sections. Or find your own marches to listen to...there's lots of them!

Click [HERE](#) to find more marches and march composers!