Semper Fidelis

March

John Philip Sousa (1854-1932), "The March King" wrote some 136 marches, several operettas, and three novels. His father enlisted him at the age of thirteen in the U.S. Marine Corps as an apprentice to keep him from joining a circus band. Sousa became the conductor of the U.S. Marine Band – "The President's Own" – from 1880 until 1892. From 1892 until 1931, Sousa toured all over the world with his own band, performing 15,623 concerts.

This march, written in 1888, takes its title from the motto of the U.S. Marine Corps: *Semper Fidelis* – "Always Faithful". The march was dedicated to the officers and men of the U.S. Marine Corps, and is the official march of that branch of our armed services.

The first performance of this march was in the Inaugural Parade for President Benjamin Harrison. Sousa timed the playing of this particular piece so that the "trumpet" theme (beginning in m. 50 on handchimes) would be heard for the first time just as the band marched in front of the reviewing stand where the President, a large part of the House and Senate, members of the diplomatic corps, and many invited guests were seated. Ten extra trumpets joined this theme in unison. It was a very exciting moment followed by a standing ovation from those on the reviewing stand led by President Harrison himself.

It is suggested that the handchimes be featured in the performance of this arrangement to "recreate" this historical event.

Suggested Handbell/Handchime Assignments:

<u>HANDCHIMES</u>: mm. 50-66
P5: F5 & A5 (also mm. 67-98)
P8: C7
P9: F6
P10: A6
P11: C5 & C6 (also mm. 67-98)

<u>HANDBELLS</u>: mm. 83-98
P6: ring E5/F5 (excluding F5 in m. 88); ring D#5/E5 in m. 89
P7: ring G#5/A5; ring F5 in m. 88; ring F#5/G5 in mm. 89-90
P8: ring B5/C6 & B6/C7
P9: ring D#6/E6 in m. 89
P10: ring F#6/G6 in mm. 89-90

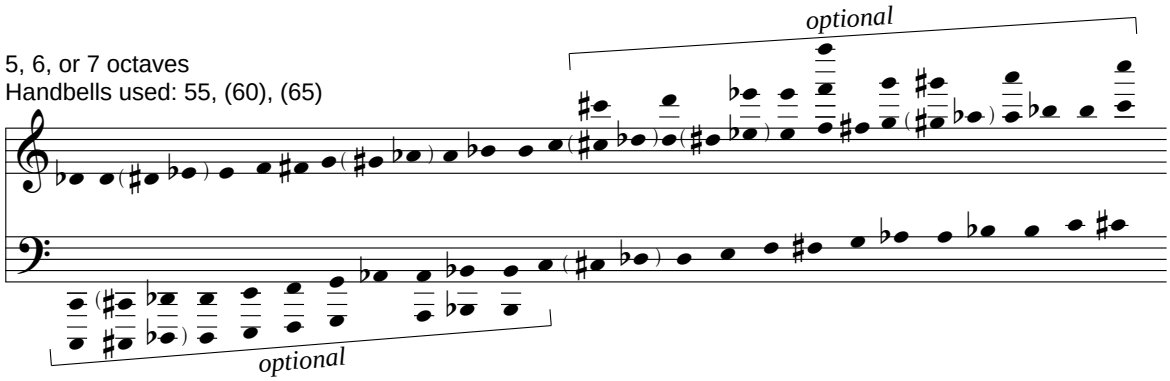
P11: In m. 43, pass B6/C7 to P8.
P8: In m. 98, pass C7 back to P11.
P8: ring B7 in m. 110

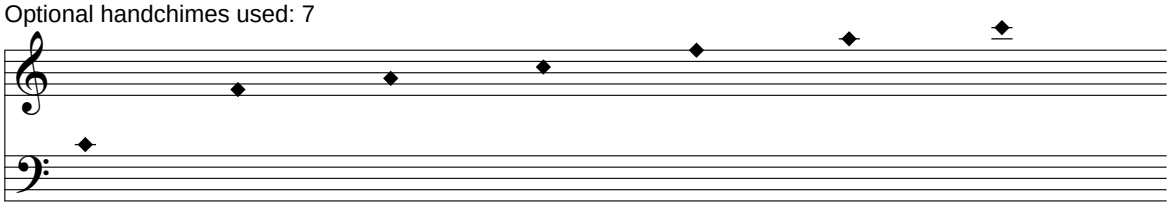
Dedicated to my father, Lt. Cmdr. Dr. Marvin Carroll McGowen (1910-1991),
who served with Carlson's Raiders in the Marines in the South Pacific during World War II

Semper Fidelis

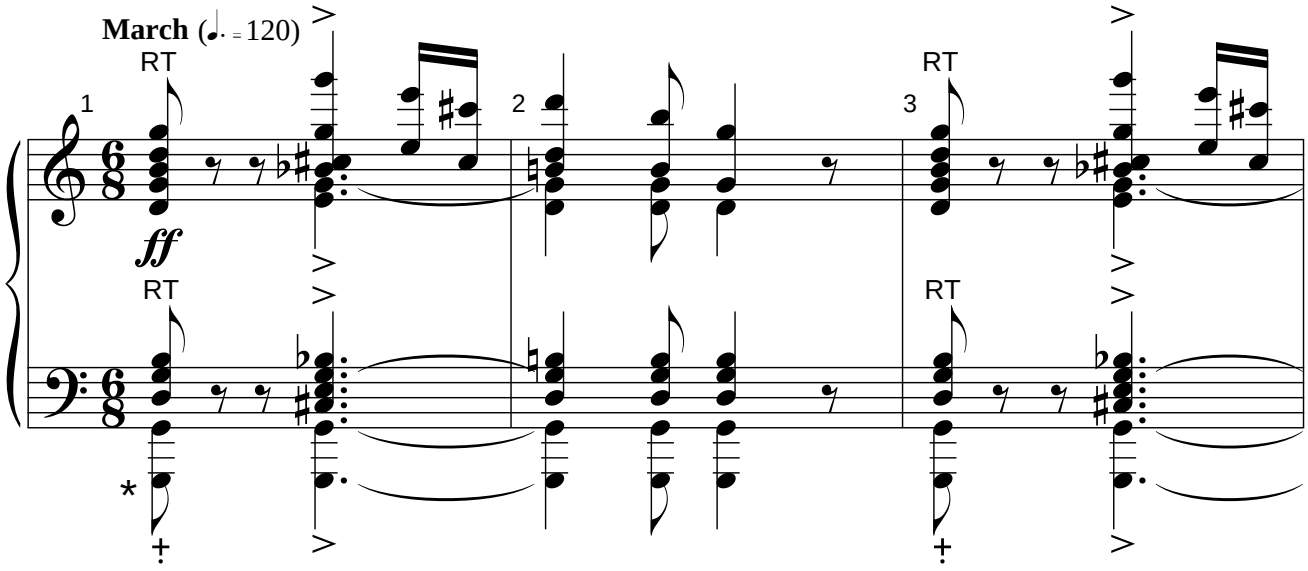
March

Handbell Score





John Philip Sousa, 1854-1932
arr. Carol Lynn Mizell



* All downstemmed bass notes shorter in duration than a dotted quarter note may be malleted if desired.
A full score is also available, code CGB662.
Instrumental parts for optional percussion (timpani, snare drum, bass drum and cymbals) are included in the full score.

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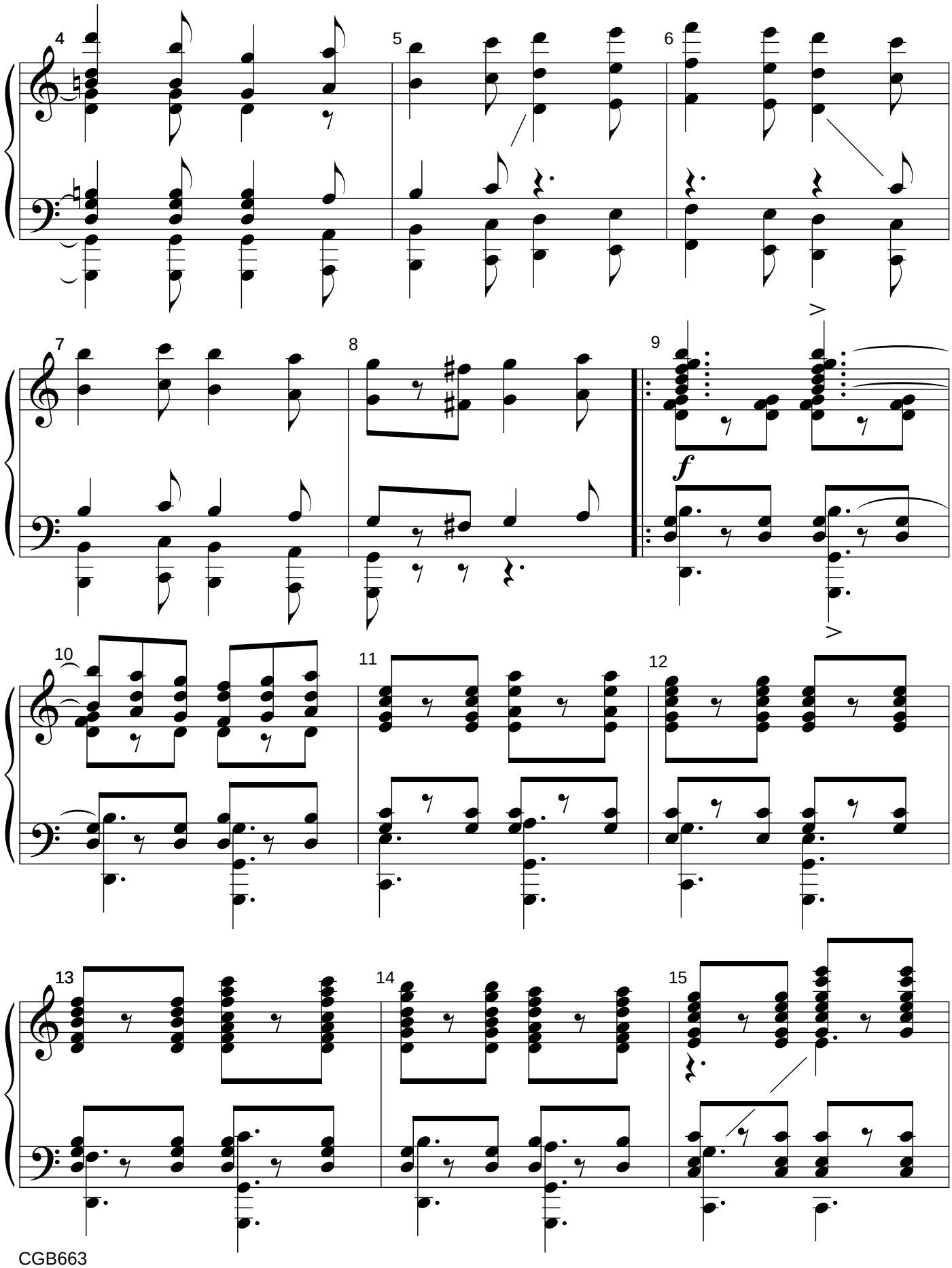
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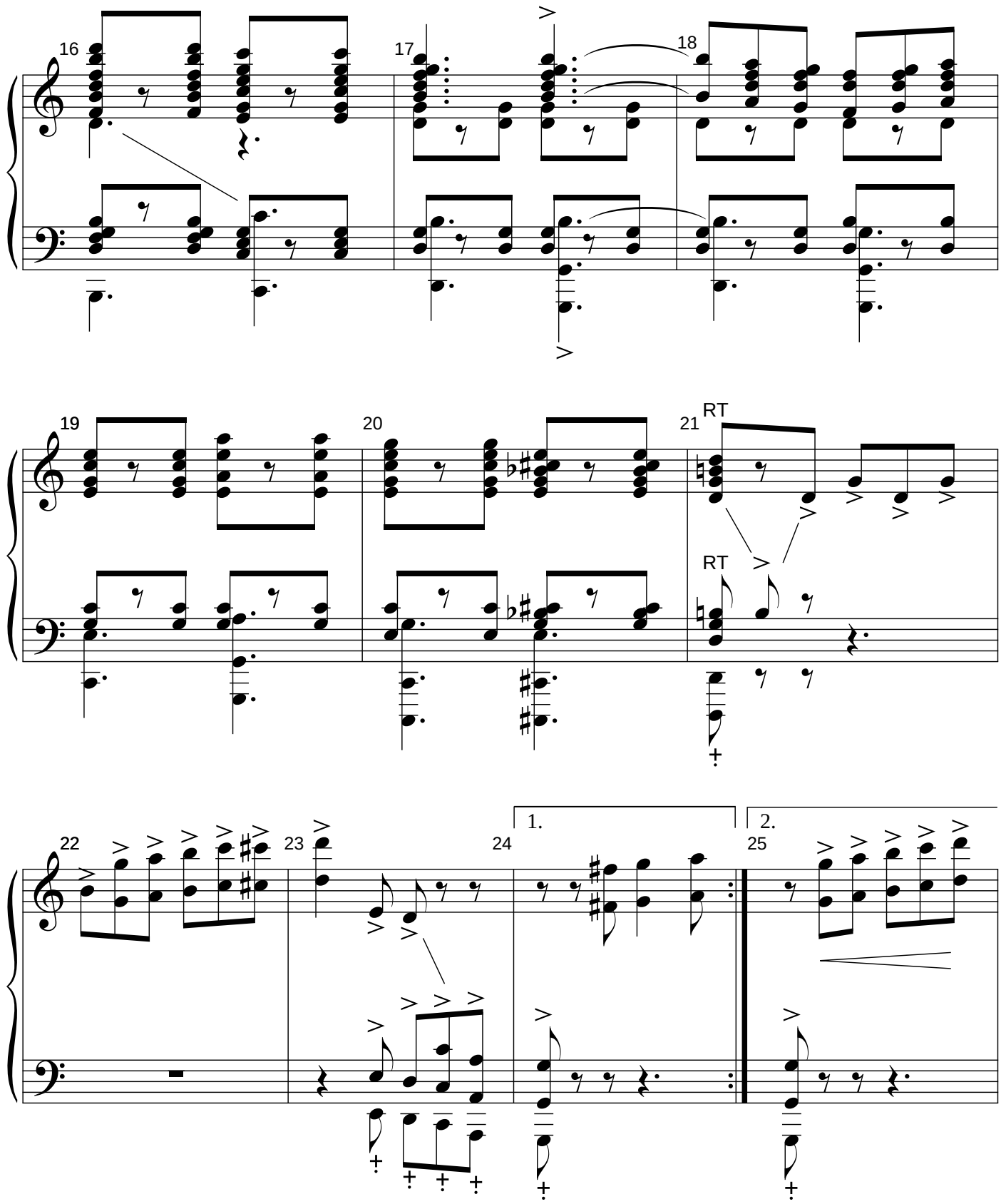
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