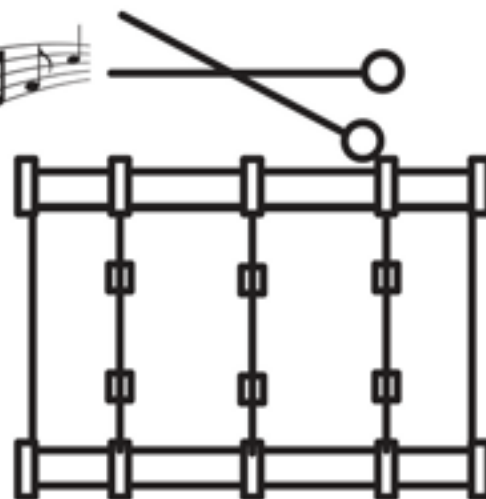


# The Washington Post March

*by John Philip Sousa*



SQUILT 



# Before the Lesson:

Print the *Washington Post March* listening packet (SQUILT Notebooking Page, Draw What You Hear, print and cut form cards, and a Drum Dot-to-Dot page for the little ones). Your child will choose one (or more) of these to use during our lesson.

Be prepared with colored pencils, etc...

We will focus mainly on the march, its instrumentation and form in our lesson. We will not focus as much on the composer during this lesson.

Some families enjoy having SQUILT Snacks to keep everyone happy and engaged - totally up to you! How about this **PATRIOTIC SNACK MIX?**

# The Washington Post March

by John Philip Sousa

(The following information is shared courtesy of the [United States Marine Band](#). John Philip Sousa was a conductor of the band.)

During the 1880s, several Washington, D.C., newspapers competed vigorously for public favor. One of these, the Washington Post, organized what was known as the Washington Post Amateur Authors' Association and sponsored an essay contest for school children. Frank Hatton and Beriah Wilkins, owners of the newspaper, asked Sousa, then leader of the Marine Band, to compose a march for the award ceremony.

The ceremony was held on the Smithsonian grounds on June 15, 1889. President Harrison and other dignitaries were among the huge crowd. When the new march was played by Sousa and the Marine Band, it was enthusiastically received, and within days it became exceptionally popular in Washington.

The march happened to be admirably suited to the two-step dance, which was just being introduced. A dancemasters' organization adopted it at their yearly convention, and soon the march was vaulted into international fame. The two-step gradually replaced the waltz as a popular dance, and variations of the basic two-step insured the march's popularity all through the 1890s and into the twentieth century. Sousa's march became identified with the two-step, and it was as famous abroad as it was in the United States. In some

European countries, all two-steps were called “Washington posts.” Pirated editions of the music appeared in many foreign countries. In Britain, for example, it was known by such names as “No Surrender” and “Washington Greys.”

Next to “The Stars and Stripes Forever,” “The Washington Post” has been Sousa’s most widely known march. He delighted in telling how he had heard it in so many different countries, played in so many ways—and often accredited to native composers. It was a standard at Sousa Band performances and was often openly demanded when not scheduled for a program. It was painful for Sousa to relate that, like “Semper Fidelis” and other marches of that period, he received only \$35 for it, while the publisher made a fortune. Of that sum, \$25 was for a piano arrangement, \$5 for a band arrangement, and \$5 for an orchestra arrangement.



# Music Concepts:

*We will focus on the SQUILT 4 box notebooking page during this lesson.  
The Elements of Music Posters will come in handy during our discussion.*

**FORM:** March form - common to most marches of the time — we will discuss this in our lesson in detail. The FORM of this march is: **Introduction AA BB CC DC DC**  
In a march, each section is called a **STRAIN**.

**INSTRUMENTATION:** This is for a concert band - notice you will not hear any members of the STRING family.

**TEMPO:** The official tempo is 110-120 BPM (beats per minute)... this tempo is **MODERATO**.

**DYNAMICS:** A wide range of dynamics are heard - piano (p) means soft and forte (forte) means loud.

**MOOD:** What do you think the mood of the piece is? Encourage your children to use descriptive adjectives? Why was (and still is) music like this important in our military? For our national pride? Music serves many purposes in our society - and uniting people is one of them!

# Additional Learning/Listening:

## Learning Links:

[John Philip Duck & The Washington Post March - SQUILT Music](#)

[John Philip Sousa - Dallas Symphony Orchestra](#)

[John Philip Sousa - @ 52 Composers](#)

## Listening Links:

[The Washington Post March - SQUILT Vimeo](#)

[The Washington Post March Form - SQUILT Vimeo \(private link\)](#)

