

Official Songs of the United States Armed Forces

5 Piano Solos and a Medley

Arranged by Mary K. Sallee



Every day, countless stories of heroism are told about the men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces. Their contributions play a vital role in maintaining peace, safety, and freedom throughout the world. To honor these remarkable individuals, this collection gathers into one volume the official songs of the Armed Forces. To make them accessible to pianists at various levels, arrangements are available in three separate editions:

- early intermediate to intermediate
- intermediate to late intermediate
- early advanced

The United States Armed Forces consist of five branches: the (1) Army, (2) Marine Corps, (3) Navy, (4) Air Force, and (5) Coast Guard. Each branch has a unique history and official song. This collection contains early advanced solo piano arrangements of the five songs, as well as a special concert-worthy medley that combines them. The arrangements are written in singable keys and contain lyrics, which makes them perfect for sing-alongs. They can also be performed for school talent shows, community celebrations, homecomings, and pageants. When played officially, the songs are to be performed in the order they are presented in this book.

"The Caissons Go Rolling Along" (aka "The Army Goes Rolling Along") was originally written by field artillery First Lieutenant Edmund L. Gruber, while he was stationed in the Philippines in

1908. It was transformed into a march by John Philip Sousa in 1917, and in 1956 it was adopted as the official song of the Army.

The **"Marines' Hymn"** is the oldest official song in the United States military. The author of the lyrics is unknown, but the music is from a duet in the 1859 opera *Geneviève de Brabant* by Jacques Offenbach.

"Anchors Aweigh" was written by Lieutenant Charles A. Zimmermann, bandmaster of the Naval Academy Band, and Midshipman First Class Alfred Hart Miles in 1906. It was subsequently dedicated to the Naval Academy Class of 1907 and adopted as the official song of the U.S. Navy. The word *weigh* comes from the archaic word meaning to heave, hoist, or raise. *Aweigh* means that the action has been completed. The anchor is *aweight* when it is pulled from the bottom.

"The U.S. Air Force" (originally titled "Army Air Corps") was written by Robert MacArthur Crawford in 1938. It was one of hundreds of submissions to a song competition created by the Air Corps and sponsored by *Liberty* magazine.

Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck wrote the words to **"Semper Paratus"** in the cabin of the cutter *Yamacraw* in Savannah, Georgia, in 1922. He wrote the music five years later on a "beat-up old piano" in Unalaska, Alaska. The phrase *Semper Paratus* dates back to ancient times and means *always ready* or *ever ready*.

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The Caissons Go Rolling Along

(aka "The Army Goes Rolling Along")

Words and Music by Edmund L. Gruber
Arr. Mary K. Sallee

Moderate march (♩ = 100-108)

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of five systems of music, each with a measure number in a box at the beginning. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo is marked 'Moderate march' with a quarter note equal to 100-108 beats per minute. The score includes piano accompaniment in both hands and a vocal line. Fingerings and articulations are indicated throughout. Dynamics include *mf*, *cresc.*, and *f*. The lyrics are: 'March a - long, sing our song with the Ar - my of the free. Count the brave, count the true who have'.

5

9

13

mf *cresc.* *f* *mf*

March a - long, sing our song with the Ar - my of the free. Count the brave, count the true who have

The Marines' Hymn

(aka "From the Halls of Montezuma")

Traditional
Arr. Mary K. Sallee

Moderate march (♩ = 108-120)

The musical score is presented in a grand staff format, with a vocal line in the upper treble clef and piano accompaniment in the lower bass and right-hand treble clefs. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is marked 'Moderate march' with a quarter note equal to 108-120 beats per minute. The score is divided into four systems, each starting with a measure number in a box (5, 9, 13). The piano accompaniment features a strong rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand. The vocal line includes lyrics and is marked with dynamics such as *f* (forte). Fingerings and articulation marks are provided throughout the score.

f From the

5 halls of Mon - te - zu - ma to the

9 shores of Trip - o - li, we

13 fight our coun - try's bat - tles in the

Semper Paratus

(Always Ready)

By Captain Francis Saltus Van Boskerck
 Arr. Mary K. Sallee

Upbeat march (♩ = 112-120)

The musical score is written for piano and includes the following elements:

- Tempo and Meter:** Upbeat march, quarter note = 112-120.
- Staff 1 (Measures 1-4):**
 - Right hand: *f* (forte), notes G4, A4, B4, C5.
 - Left hand: notes G3, F3, E3, D3.
 - Fingering: 2, 1, 2, 3 in the right hand; 3, 5, 3, 2 in the left hand.
- Staff 2 (Measures 5-8):**
 - Right hand: *mf* (mezzo-forte), notes D5, E5, F5, G5.
 - Left hand: notes G3, F3, E3, D3.
 - Fingering: 3, 2, 1 in the right hand; 1, 5 in the left hand.
- Staff 3 (Measures 9-12):**
 - Right hand: *leggiere* (leggiero), notes G4, A4, B4, C5.
 - Left hand: notes G3, F3, E3, D3.
 - Fingering: 5, 2, 1 in the right hand; 4, 4, 5, 3, 2 in the left hand.
- Staff 4 (Measures 13-16):**
 - Right hand: notes G4, A4, B4, C5.
 - Left hand: notes G3, F3, E3, D3.
 - Fingering: 5, 2, 1 in the right hand; 5, 3, 1 in the left hand.
- Staff 5 (Measures 17-20):**
 - Right hand: notes G4, A4, B4, C5.
 - Left hand: notes G3, F3, E3, D3.
 - Fingering: 5, 4, 1 in the right hand; 5, 4, 1 in the left hand.
- Staff 6 (Measures 21-24):**
 - Right hand: notes G4, A4, B4, C5.
 - Left hand: notes G3, F3, E3, D3.
 - Fingering: 4, 4, 3, 2, 1 in the right hand; 3, 2, 1 in the left hand.

Lyrics:

From
 Az - tec shore to Arc - tic zone, to Eu - rope and Far East, the
 flag is car - ried by our ships in times of war and peace. And
 nev - er have we struck it yet in spite of foe - men's might, who

Songs of the Armed Forces

(A Medley for Solo Piano)

Arr. Mary K. Sallee

Maestoso (♩ = ca. 104)

First system of musical notation, featuring a forte (*f*) dynamic and a Maestoso tempo marking. The music is in 2/4 time and consists of two staves (treble and bass clef).

5

The Caissons Go Rolling Along

dim. e poco rit. *mf*

Second system of musical notation, including fingering numbers (4, 3, 1, 5, 4, 1, 4, 1) and dynamic markings (*dim. e poco rit.*, *mf*). The music continues in 2/4 time.

9

a tempo

Third system of musical notation, including a fingering number (5, 1, 3, 2) and a tempo marking (*a tempo*). The music continues in 2/4 time.

13

Fourth system of musical notation, including a fingering number (5). The music continues in 2/4 time.

17

Fifth system of musical notation, including fingering numbers (4, 5, 1, 3, 2). The music continues in 2/4 time.