

SOUSA SPECTACULAR

THE EASTMAN WIND ENSEMBLE
Donald Hunsberger, Conductor

- 1 Semper Fidelis 2:33
- 2 The High School Cadets 2:25
- 3 The Washington Post 2:25
- 4 Jack Tar 2:21
- 5 The Loyal Legion 2:30
- 6 Anchor and Star 2:16
- 7 The Stars and Stripes Forever 3:28
- 8 El Capitan 2:12
- 9 Liberty Bell 3:24
- 10 Comrades of the Legion 2:28
- 11 The Corcoran Cadets 2:52
- 12 King Cotton 2:35
- 13 Hail to the Spirit of Liberty 3:09
- 14 The Thunderer 2:38

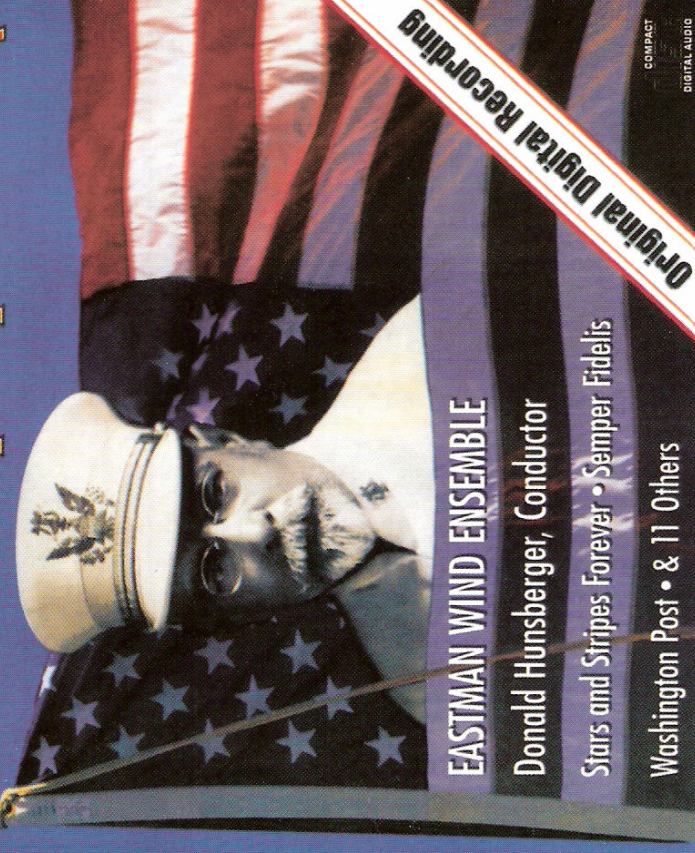


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PHCD 132

SOUSA SPECTACULAR



EASTMAN WIND ENSEMBLE

Donald Hunsberger, Conductor

Stars and Stripes Forever • Semper Fidelis

Washington Post • & 11 Others

Original Digital Recording

COMPACT
DIGITAL AUDIO

SOUSA SPECTACULAR

Produced by JOHN SANTUCCIO & RAYBURN WRIGHT
Executive Producer: JEFFREY KAUFMAN
Recording Engineer: Ros Ritchie
This recording digitally recorded by Soundstream
Recorded in the Eastman Theatre and the Kresge Recording Studios
of Rochester. ©1982 KEM Enterprises, Inc.

The Eastman Wind Ensemble Donald Hunsberger, conductor

Digital Recording Engineer: Sydney Davis
Digital Editing: Sydney Davis, Dennis Mecham
Art Direction: Fred Holtz

The Artists

Donald Hunsberger, conductor of the Eastman Wind Ensemble since 1965, is an internationally recognized authority on wind literature and eight publishers have printed his arrangements of band works. In addition to lecturing on wind ensemble performance and its history throughout the U.S. and abroad, Mr. Hunsberger is in constant demand as a guest conductor. He also conducts the Eastman-Dryden Orchestra which provides live musical accompaniments for silent films of the twenties.

The Eastman Wind Ensemble, with over 45 albums to its credit, is the most frequently recorded wind band, and is considered one of the primary forces in the symphonic wind ensemble movement in the United States. Founded in 1952, the Ensemble initiated an approach decidedly different from that of the traditional wind band—the numbers and types of instruments

for any particular work would vary widely to suit the exact wishes of the composer. Successful national and foreign tours in addition to the many recordings, have reinforced the Ensemble's reputation as the leader in the field during the past three decades.

Special thanks for the assistance with music materials to Loren Gieger, U.S. Marine Band; Lt. Col. John Bourgeois, Leader, G/Sgt. Frank Byrne, Librarian.
The bell is courtesy of the Fire Dept. of the City of Rochester, N.Y.

The Music

John Philip Sousa was born November 6, 1854 in Washington, D.C. and died March 6, 1932 at the age of 78 on his way to conduct a high school band in Reading, Pa. For most Americans today, Sousa represents the Spirit of America in marches played for all holiday parades and celebrations. In his time, however, the Sousa Band played for dancing, the two-step being as popular as the waltz in America. Sousa was also a successful opera composer, the most famous being "El Capitán" which ran on Broadway in 1896.

Sousa was director of the U.S. Marine Band from 1880 until 1892 when he formed his own band and toured all over the U.S. and the world. His early marches were distinctly military in character, but when he left the Marine Band, they became more complex in their musical structure and more sophisticated in style, and marches from both periods are included on this record. His late works, following World War I, show another level of development as found in "Comrades of the Legion" composed for the newly organized American Legion in 1920, and included here.

All of Sousa's marches have colorful and imaginative titles, many reflecting the specific occasions of their creation—"The Washington Post" for an essay contest sponsored by the Washington Post; "Hail to the Spirit of Liberty" for the U.S. tribute to the Lafayette Monument at the Paris Exposition on July 4, 1900; "King Cotton" for the Cotton States

Exposition in Atlanta in 1895 and so on.

Along with the unfamiliar but equally enjoyable marches of Sousa on this album, are some of the most familiar ones including, of course, the march that has been called the "unofficial" national anthem: "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Sousa himself wrote in his memoirs "Marching Along" (Hale, Cushman and Flint; Boston 1928) of the strange way this march was composed. During a voyage from Italy back to the U.S. at a time of personal grief, he was pacing the deck thinking of his lost friend when "Suddenly, I began to sense the rhythmic beat of a band playing within my brain. It kept on ceaselessly playing, playing, playing. Throughout the whole tense voyage, that imaginary band continued to unfold the same themes, echoing and reechoing the most distinct melody. I did not transfer a note of that music to paper while I was on the steamer, but when we reached shore, I set down the measures that my brainband had been playing for me, and not a note of it has ever been changed."

Sousa's marches in their original orchestrations are difficult to play well and require a virtuoso ensemble; indeed, Sousa's Band contained some of the greatest instrumental players of the time. The Eastman Wind Ensemble, with Donald Hunsberger, is unrivaled in its presentations of all band classics, and continues the unique American tradition of the great Sousa Band.