

Official Songs of the United States Armed Forces

5 Piano Solos and a Medley

Arranged by Melody Bober



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 intermediate to intermediate 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 aweigh 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. Melody Bober

Lively

mf *mp* O - ver

5

hill, o - ver dale, we will hit the dust - y trail as the

9

cais - sons go roll - ing a - long. Up and *mf*

13

down, in and out, count - er - march and right a - bout, and our

The Marines' Hymn

(aka "From the Halls of Montezuma")

Traditional
Arr. Melody Bober

With energy

mf From the halls of

Mon - te - zu - ma to the shores of Trip - o -

li; we fight our coun - try's bat -

ties in the air, on land and sea. First to

f

Anchors Aweigh

Music by Charles A. Zimmerman

Words by Alfred Hart Miles

Arr. Melody Bober

Briskly

mp *mf*

5 2 1 3 1 5 2 1 5

1 3 2 3

5

1 2 1 2

1. Stand Na - vy out to
2. An - chors a - weigh my

f

1 1 1 5

10

5 1 5 1 2

sea, boys, fight an - our bat - tle a - cry. weigh.

1 1 2 1 3 1

15

3 1 2 1 4 1

mf

We'll nev - er to change our course, so
fare - well to col - lege joys, we

The U.S. Air Force

(aka "The Wild Blue Yonder")

Words and Music by Robert Crawford
Arr. Melody Bober

Soaring

8va both hands -----

5

9

mf

Off we go in - to the wild blue yon - der,

13

climb - ing high in - to the sun.

Songs of the Armed Forces

(A Medley for Solo Piano)

Arr. Melody Bober

Spirited

f

5 3 1 5 3 1

1 2 5 1 2 5 1 2 5

5

The Caissons Go Rolling Along

mp

5 3 1 5 3 1

5 2 1 1 2 1

9

mf

5 1 1 1 2 1

13

f

5 1 2 3 1 2 1

4 1 5 1 5 1 4