

# Official Songs of the United States Armed Forces

5 Piano Solos and a Medley

Arranged by Dan Coates



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 intermediate to late 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. Dan Coates

Moderate march

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement. The vocal line is a simple melody with lyrics underneath. Fingerings and articulation marks are provided throughout.

**System 1:** Starts with a *mf* dynamic. The vocal line begins with "O - ver hill, o - ver dale, we will hit the dust - y trail as the". The piano accompaniment has a bass line with notes 4, 1/2, 5, 4. A *LH detached* instruction is present below the piano part.

**System 2:** The vocal line continues with "cais - sons go roll - ing a - long. Up and". The piano accompaniment continues with notes 4, 1/2, 5, 5, 1/2, 5, 5, 4, 5.

**System 3:** The vocal line continues with "down, in and out, count - er - march and right a - bout, and our". The piano accompaniment continues with notes 4, 1/2, 5, 4, 3.

**System 4:** The vocal line concludes with "cais - sons go roll - ing a - long. For it's". The piano accompaniment continues with notes 4, 1/2, 5, 5, 1/2, 5, 5, 1/2, 5, 1/2, 5.

# The Marines' Hymn

(aka "From the Halls of Montezuma")

Traditional  
Arr. Dan Coates

**Lively**

1. From the *mf* halls of Mon - te - zu ma to the  
flag's un - furled to ev - 'ry breeze from —

5 shores of Trip - o - i, we  
dawn to set - ting sun. We have

9 fight our coun - try's bat - tles in the  
fought in in ev - 'ry clime and place where —

12 air, we on could land and take a sea gun. First to the  
we could take a sea gun. In the

# Anchors Aweigh

Music by Charles A. Zimmerman

Words by Alfred Hart Miles

Arr. Dan Coates

**Brightly**

1. Stand  
2. An  
*mf*

1 2 1 4 1 5 1 2 1

Na - vy a - weigh to sea, boys,

4 1 2 5 1 3 5 5

5

5 1 5 2 1 5 1

fight an - our bat - tle a - cry. weigh.

5 1 2 1 3 4 1 2

9

3 1 4 1 4 2 1

We'll nev - er to change our course, so  
Fare - well to coll - ege joys, we

5 1 2 5 2 1 2 1

13

1 2 1 4 2 1 5 1 4 1 3 1

vi - cious at foe break steer of - shy day, - y day, - y day, - y. day.

4 1 2 5 1 1 1 1 1

# Songs of the Armed Forces

(A Medley for Solo Piano)

Arr. Dan Coates

March tempo

*The Caissons Go Rolling Along*

LH detached