

History was made today, on May 14, 1897. John Philip Sousa and his band, played for the first time, his new, patriotic march, "Stars and Stripes forever." This march was one of the best marches that has ever been composed in America, and maybe in the world. It is no surprise that John Philip Sousa would make something this spectacular, especially after everything he has done in his amazing life.

As a boy, Mr. Sousa studied music. He learned music theory with two different teachers. The first teacher was John Esputa, but then he changed to George Felix Benkert. At the age of six, he started to learn to play different instruments. He played many of the band instruments, and he started to compose his own music. His father, an immigrant from Portuguese, played the trombone. He almost became a trombonist, because of his dad. Instead of pursuing the trombone, he became a violinist. Later, at the age of thirteen, he was enlisted in the U.S Marine Corps band, as an apprentice. He was in the band for around seven years before being discharged. He played in many orchestras after that, and he even started his own band. His band gained popularity, and they went on a world tour. They toured many places in the United States and in Europe. In 1880, Mr. Sousa was appointed the head of the U.S Marine band, and he has made it one of the best marching bands in the world.

Mr. Sousa has an amazing story on how he made his march, "Stars and Stripes Forever." Mr. Sousa says that he made the song with help from God. In an interview with Mr. Sousa, he said that he was in Italy, when he was informed that his manager had died. He made the decision that he wanted to come back to America, as soon as he could. He passed through three different countries before making it on the ship. While he was on the ship ride to America, he said that he could hear the band playing the march in his head. Later, after the ship docked, Mr. Sousa wrote the march down on paper. Before this, while he was away from home, he thought about America, and how the American flag was the greatest of them all. He was very eager to return back home, and he was more eager to write down the march. The longer he waited to write it down, the more eager he became. He was beginning to be restless, and he desperately wanted to write the song down. The ship docked, and he finally wrote the march down. He felt much better after that, and the feeling of restlessness went away. "I experienced a wonderful sense of relief and relaxation," said Mr. Sausa, "I was satisfied, delighted, with my work after it was done."

Mr. Sousa's song was made with pure patriotism. He said he thought of the American flag flying next to the White house while he was on his journey. This inspired Mr. Sousa's song.

Mr. Sousa's march delighted the audience in the Philadelphia Academy of Music! The audience cheered wildly, and they wanted to hear the song again. The band did play it again, and the audience loved it. This song will resonate in every American who hears this march for the rest of their lives. This song shows the patriotism of America better than almost every other song. Every American that will live should hear this

march, and every American should be thankful that John Philip Sousa shared it with the world.

Credits:

<https://www.loc.gov/item/lhas.200152755/>

<https://www.marineband.marines.mil/Audio-Resources/The-Complete-Marches-of-John-Philip-Sousa/The-Stars-and-Stripes-Forever-March/#:~:text=There%20was%20a%20vigorous%20response,traditional%20at%20Sousa%20Band%20concerts.>

<https://info.mysticstamp.com/first-public-performance-of-stars-and-stripes-forever/#:~:text=On%20May%2014%2C%201897%2C%20John,the%20national%20march%20in%201987.>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/John-Philip-Sousa>