



- Sousa's father played trombone in the U.S. Marine Band.
- John's first instrument was the violin which is an orchestra instrument.
- When he was only 13, his father arranged for him to apprentice with the Marine Band where he learned to play many band instruments.

- Sousa learned to conduct and later became the director of the Marine Band before starting his own band that toured all over the world.
- He developed the sousaphone - which is the "marching band tuba."
- He is best known for all of the marches he wrote and is known as the "March King."
- He composed 130+ marches and 16 operettas, as well as many concert pieces, hymns, overtures, songs and pieces for trumpets & drums.



Listen to *Stars and Stripes Forever*.  
What does it remind you of?

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