The Elks (B.P.O.E.)

by: M. A. Althouse

Original Copyright: 1889
By: J.S. Unger

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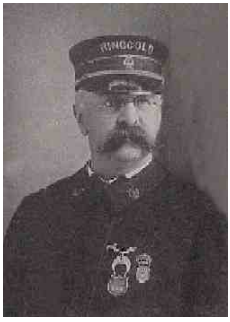

Althouse, Monroe A.

DOB: May 26, 1853 (Centre Township, PA)
DOD: October 12, 1924 (Reading, Pennsylvania)

It is difficult to say whether the fame of Monroe Althouse stems more from his long leadership of the famous Ringgold Band or from the many marches he composed.

Althouse's marches are considered by some march connoisseurs to be among the finest "street" marches ever written. Compared to the marches of Sousa, Blankenburg, Ricketts (Alford) and other greats, his are simple in structure. The percussion is especially important in Althouse's marches.

Monroe Althouse was born on May 26, 1853, in Centre Township, near West Leesport, Pennsylvania, the son of Jonathan and Mary Althouse, and spent his youth working with his father on the family farm. He exhibited considerable talent as a youth. His first instrument was the violin, and eventually he gained proficiency on the trombone and baritone horn. He traveled with Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show while in his teens, and one of his early compositions, Always on the Road, was dedicated to that organization.

About 1872, he moved to Reading, Pennsylvania. Althouse performed with virtually all instrumental groups in Reading, including the Philharmonic Orchestra. He met John Philip Sousa when Sousa was with one of the shows passing through Reading, and the two became lifelong friends.

From 1895-1901, he was partner in a music business with James S. Althouse. Their firm also published music, mostly the music of composers living in that part of the country.

Althouse was leader of the Ringgold Band until his retirement in 1922, and he also conducted the Germania Orchestra until 1919. During his farewell concert with the Ringgold Band, one of the band's officers read a telegram from Sousa in which he paid tribute to Althouse's genius. The last number Althouse conducted was, fittingly, Sousa's The Stars and Stripes Forever. Since that time, the band has had a fine tradition; their concerts always include at least one Althouse march.

Althouse died at his Reading home on October 12, 1924, after having been in ill health for about three years, and is buried in the Charles Evans Cemetery in Reading. His own Silent Friend, composed some 30 years earlier, was played at his funeral. Many of his marches are still being sold by the Ringgold Band. Counting the music written for other than band, his works number over 150.[1]

The Elks (B.P.O.E.) (march) was published in 1889 by J.S. Unger (Reading, PA).

Program note researched by Marcus L. Neiman
Medina, Ohio

Additional information on either the composer or composition would be welcomed. Please send information to
marcusneiman@zoominternet.net

[1] http://www.kshs.org/exhibits/bands/bands8.htm

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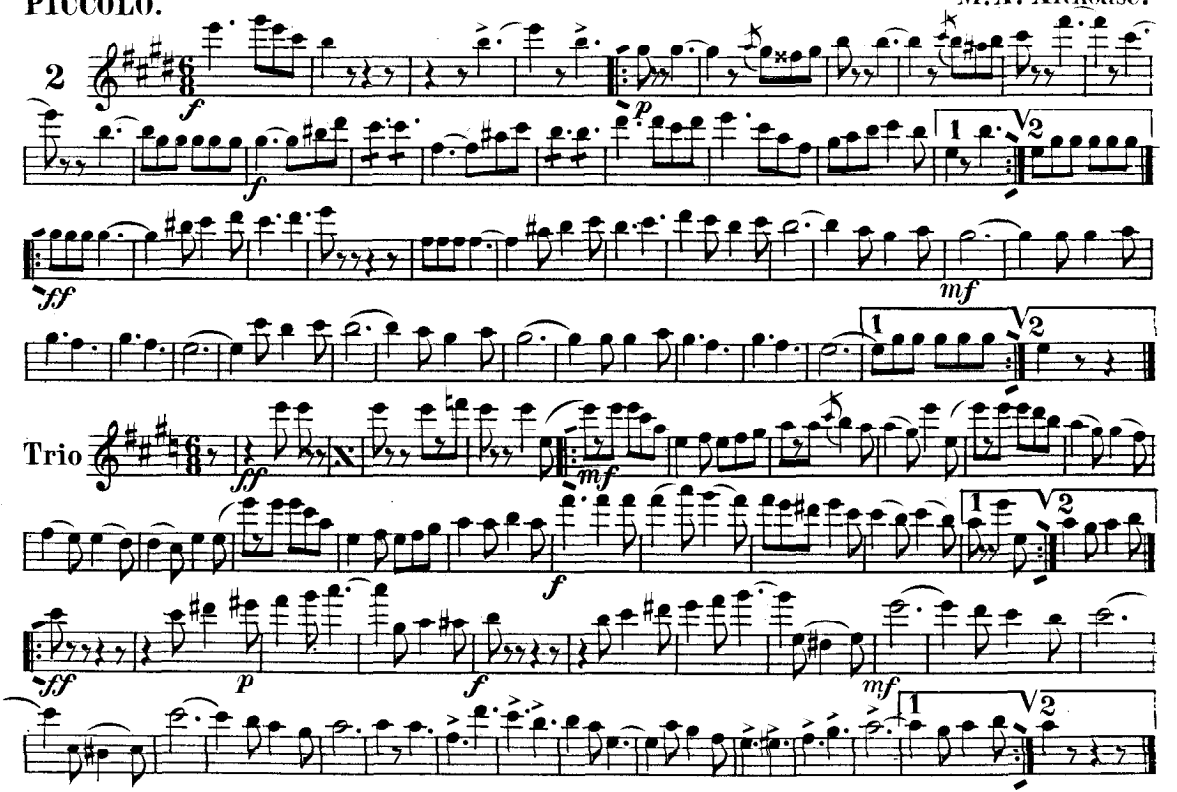
MARCH "THE ELKS." (B.P.O.E.)

PICCOLO.

M.A. Althouse.



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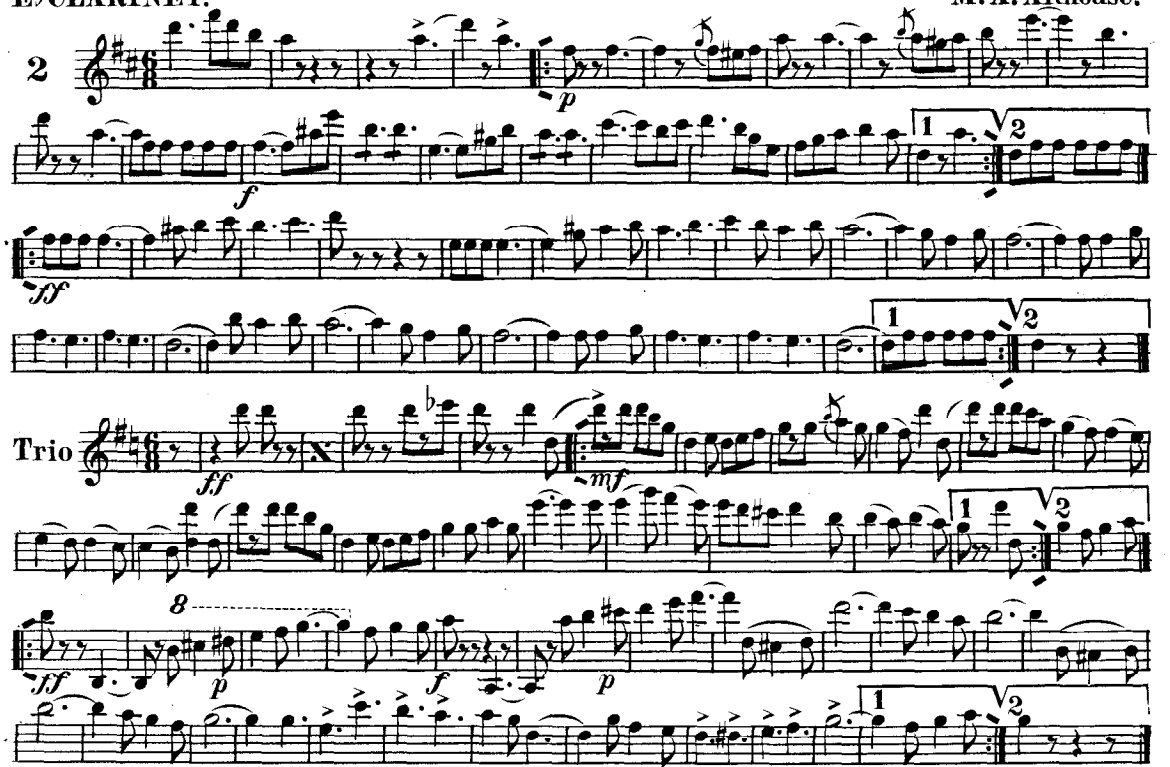
MARCH "THE ELKS." (B.P.O.E.)

E♭ CLARINET.

M. A. Althouse.



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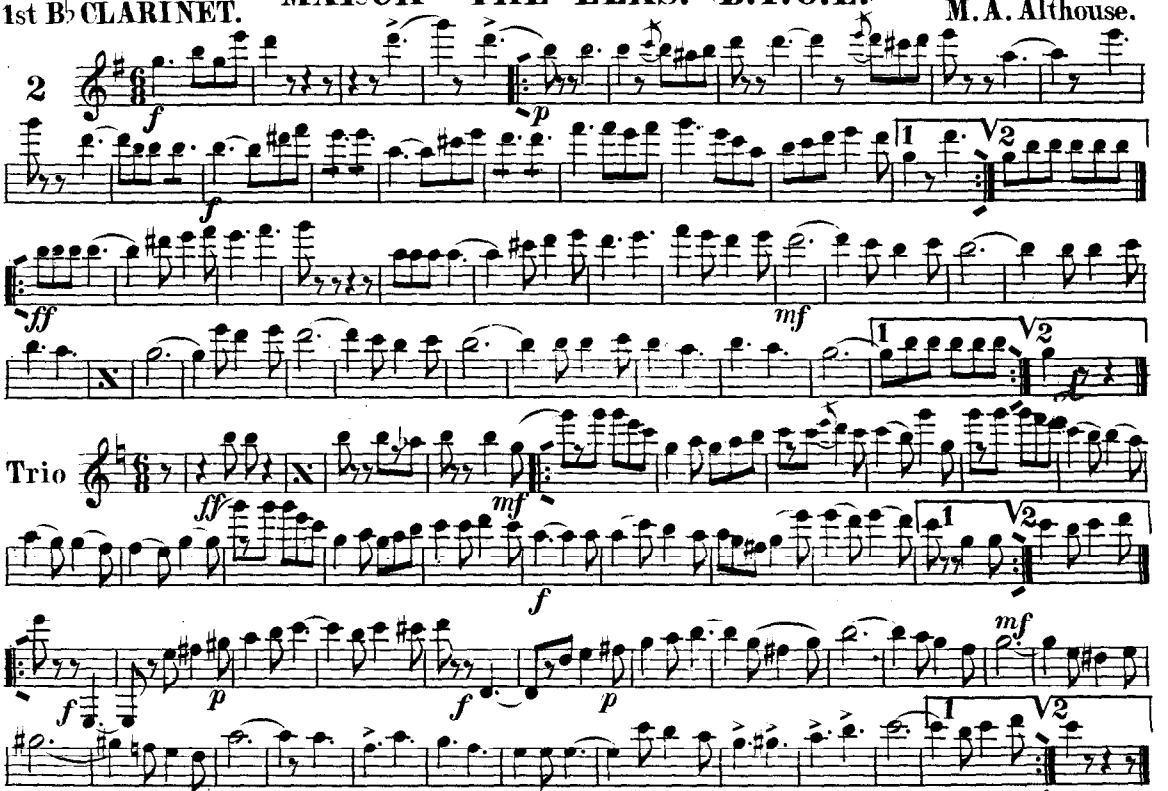
MARCH "THE ELKS." (B.P.O.E.)

1st B♭ CLARINET.

M. A. Althouse.



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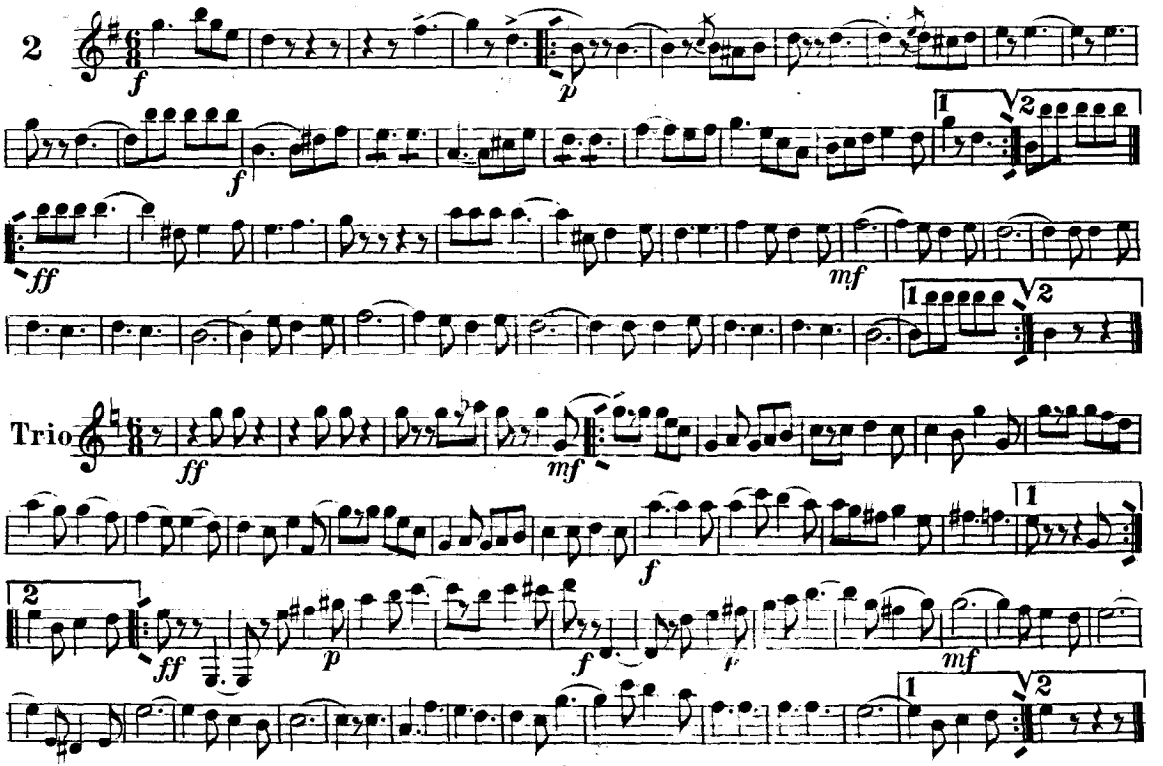
2d B♭ CLARINET.

MARCH "THE ELKS." (B.P.O.E.)

M.A. Althouse.



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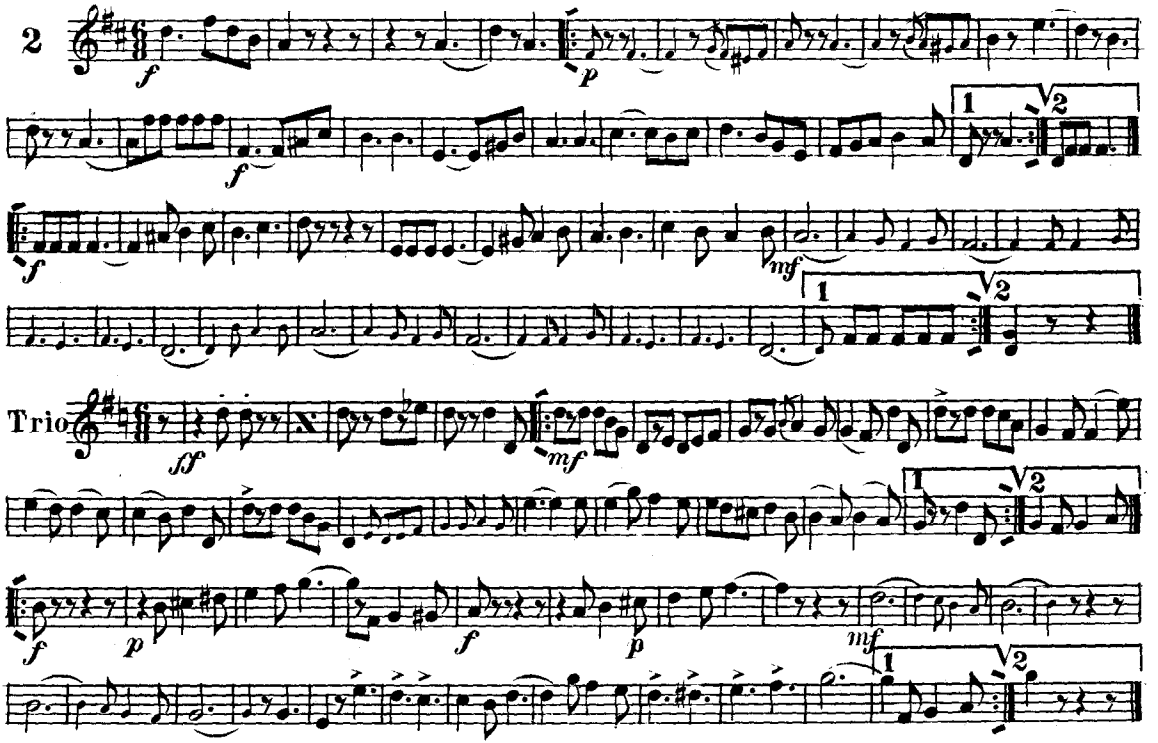
MARCH "THE ELKS." (B.P.O.E.)

E♭ CORNET.

M.A. Althouse.



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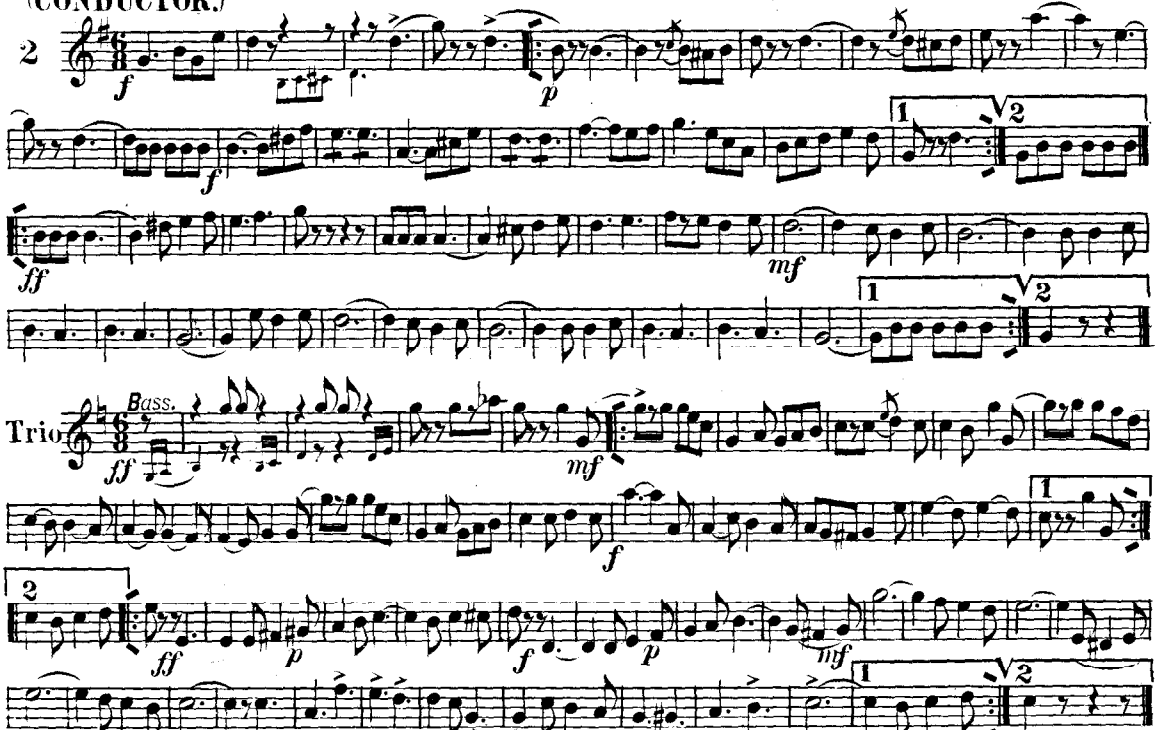
MARCH "THE ELKS." (B.P.O.E.)

M.A. Althouse.
Leader of Germania Band, Reading, Pa.

SOLO B♭ CORNET.
(CONDUCTOR.)



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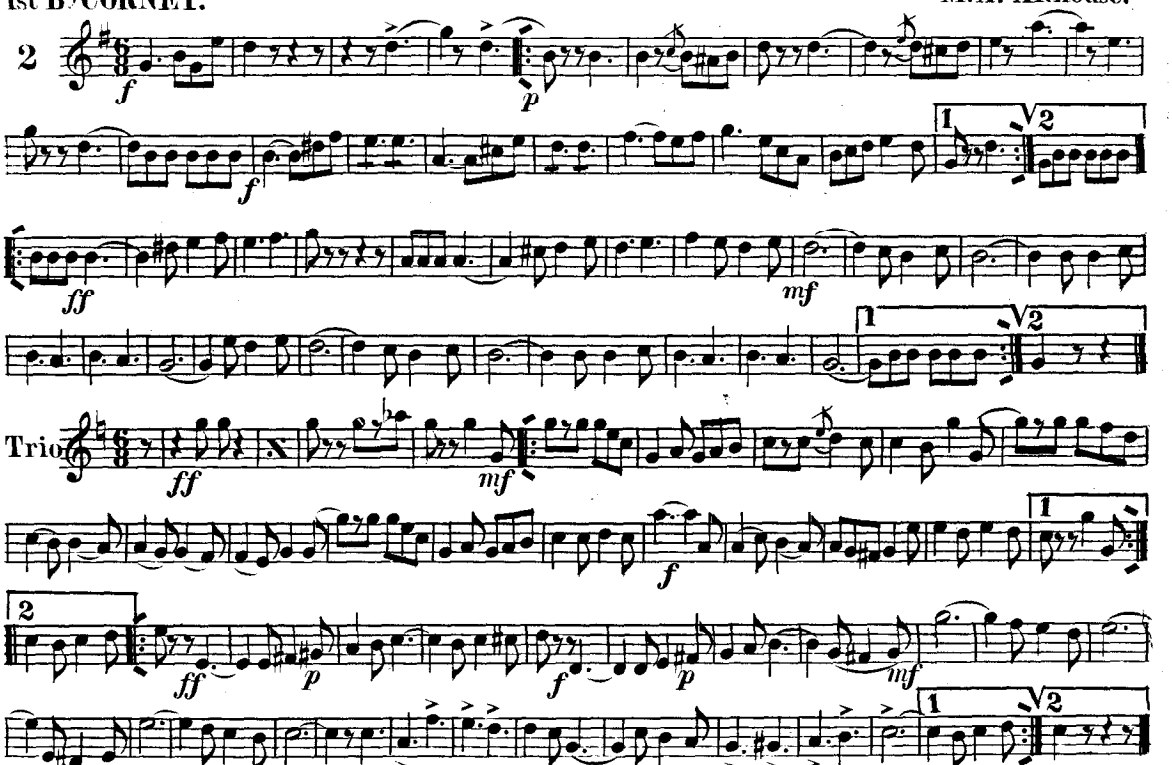
1st B♭ CORNET.

MARCH "THE ELKS." (B. P. O. E.)

M. A. Althouse.



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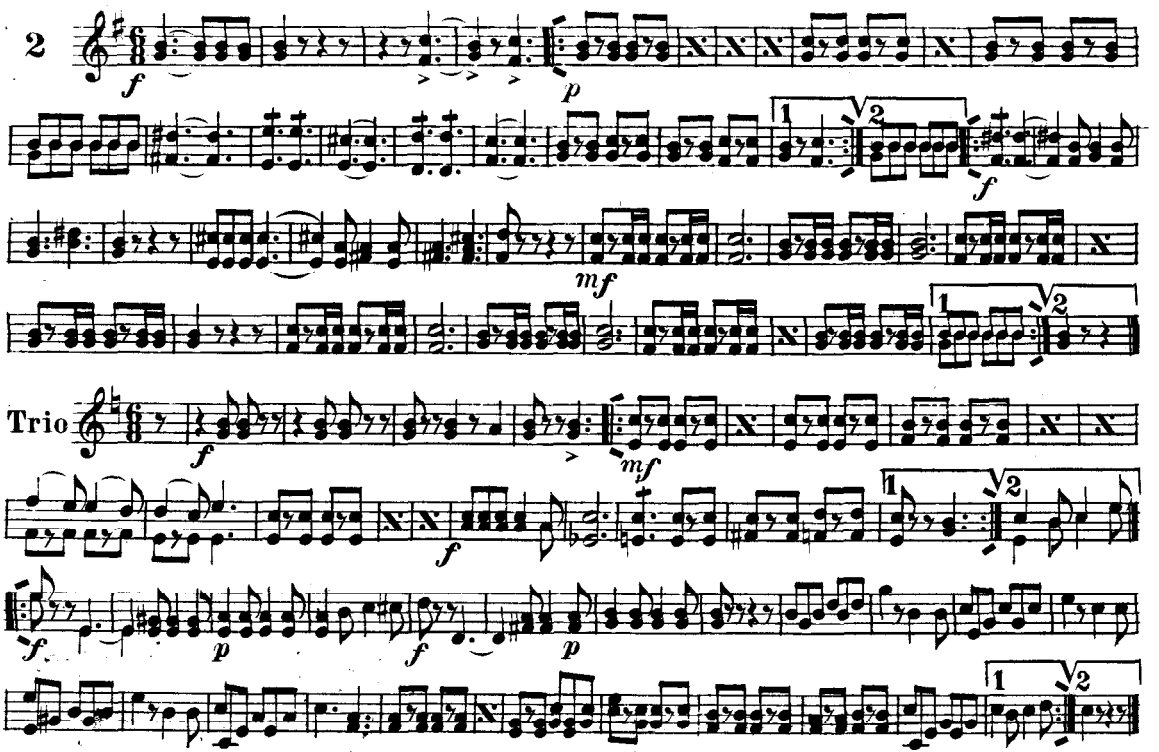
MARCH "THE ELKS." (B.P.O.E.)

2d & 3d B♭ CORNETS.

M. A. Althouse.



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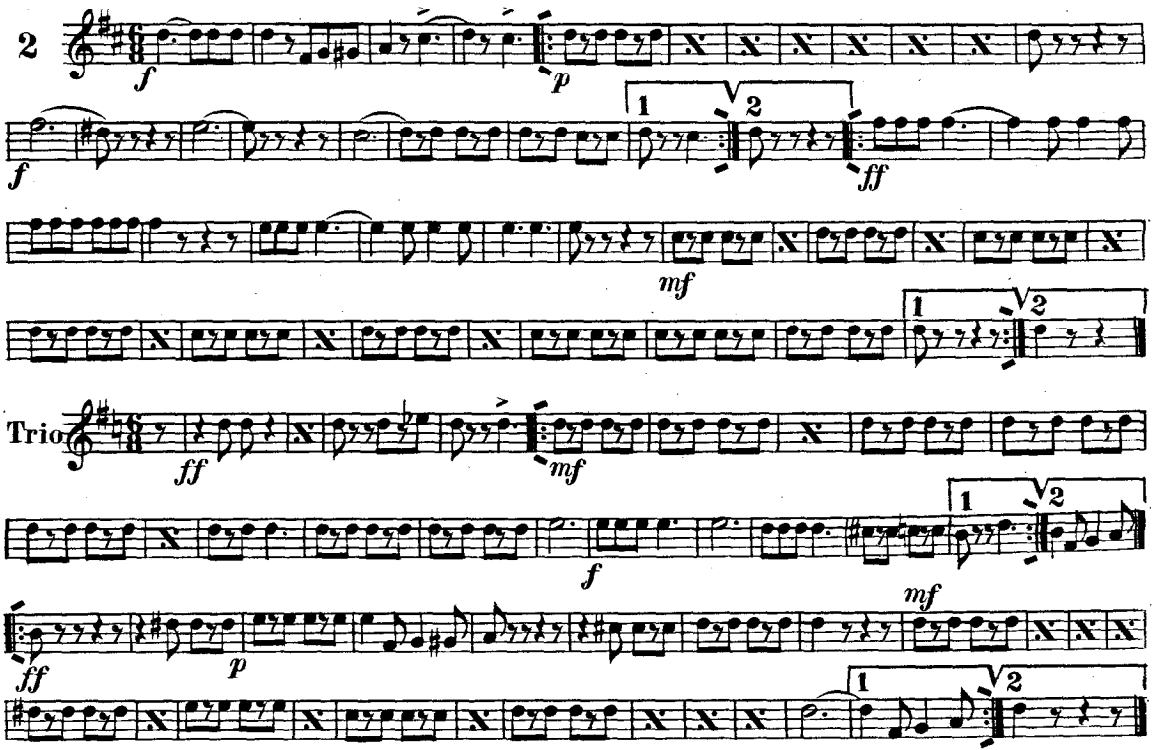
MARCH "THE ELKS." (B. P. O. E.)

1st ALTO.

M. A. Althouse.



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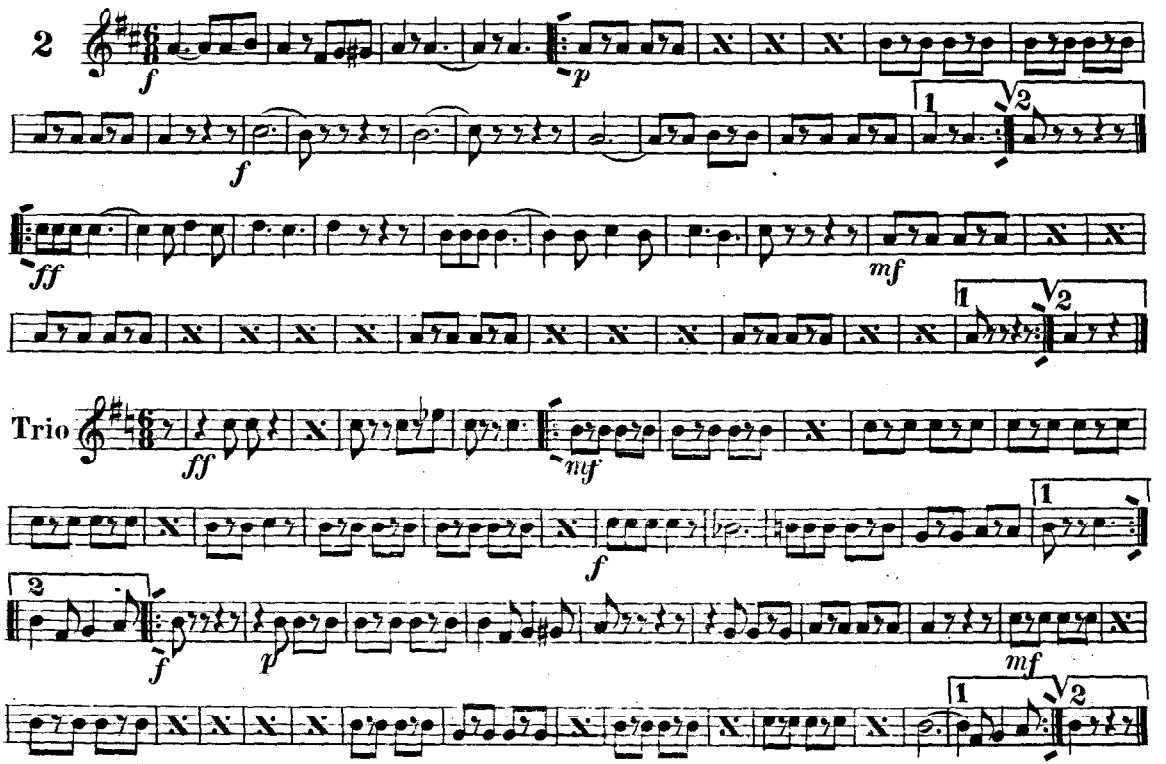
MARCH "THE ELKS." (B. P. O. E.)

2d ALTO.

M. A. Althouse.



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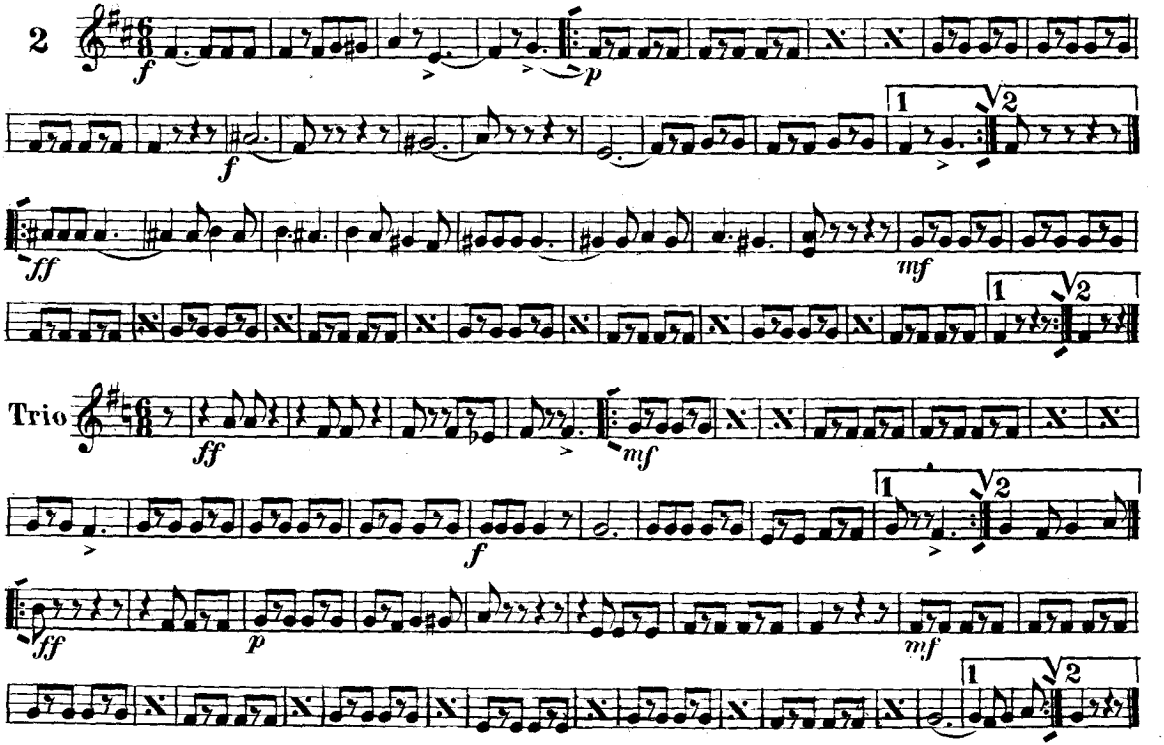
3d ALTO.

M. A. Althouse.



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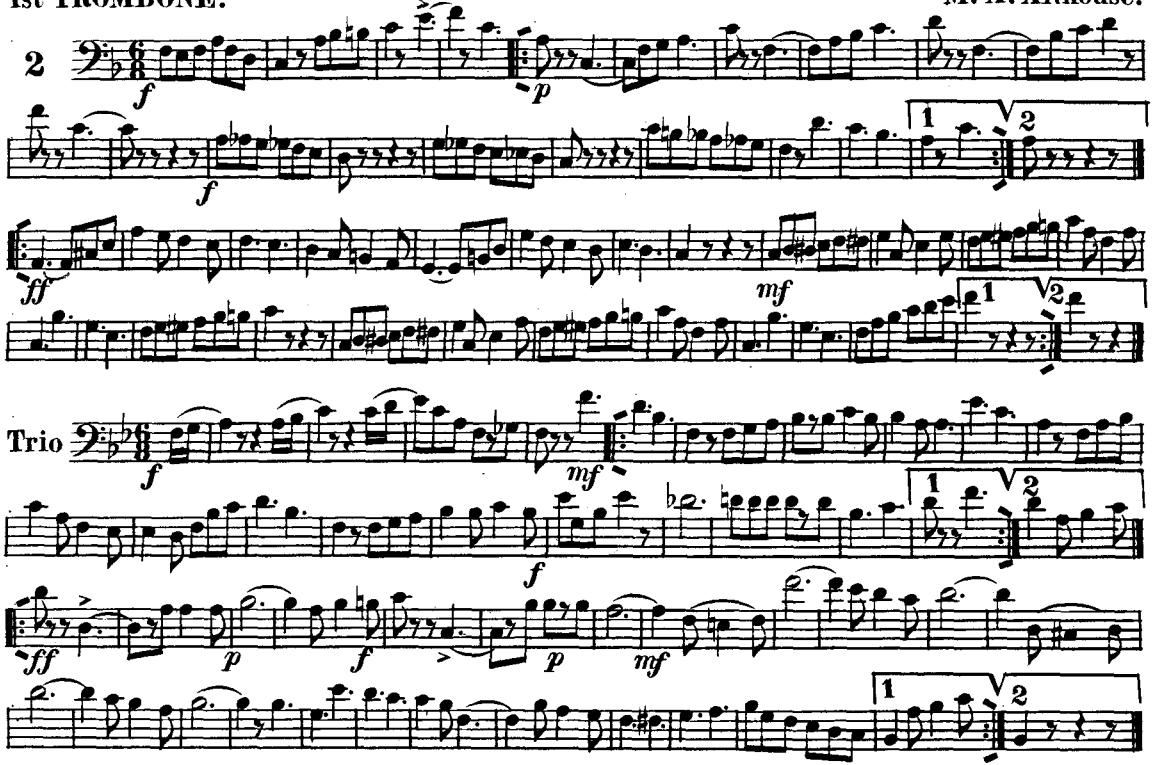
1st TROMBONE.

MARCH "THE ELKS." (B. P. O. E.)

M. A. Althouse.



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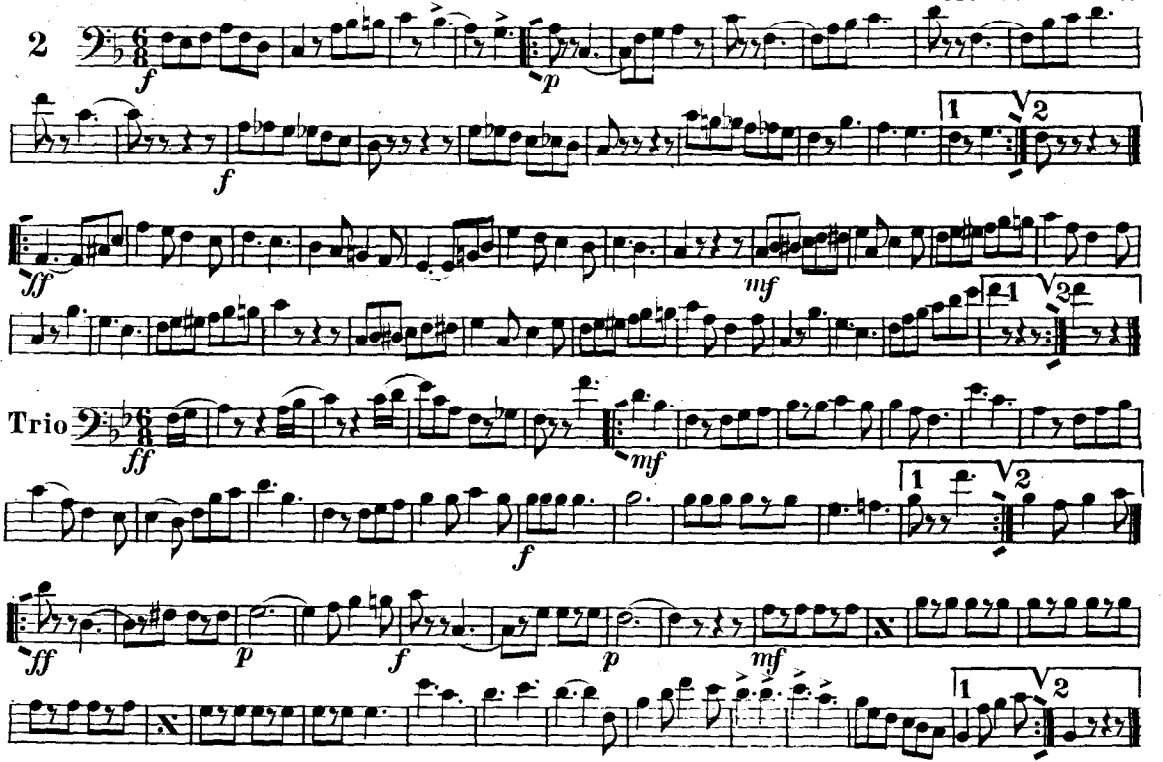
M.A. Althouse.



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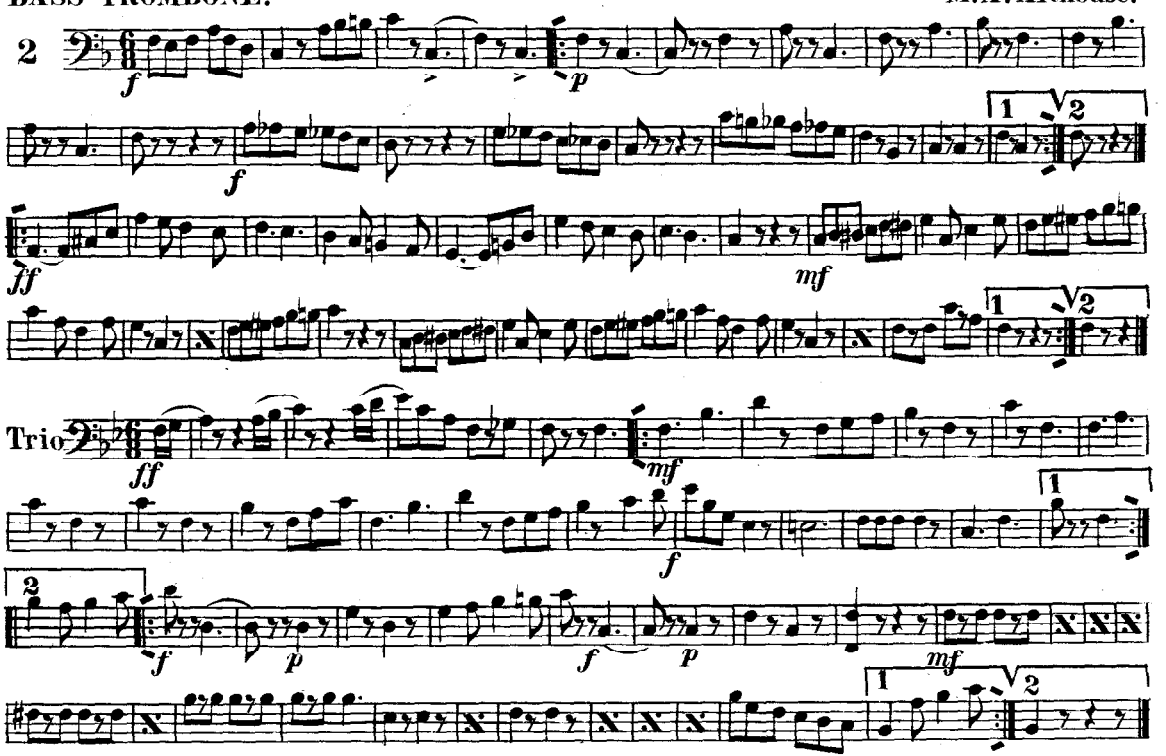
MARCH "THE ELKS." (B.P.O.E.)

BASS TROMBONE.

M.A. Althouse.



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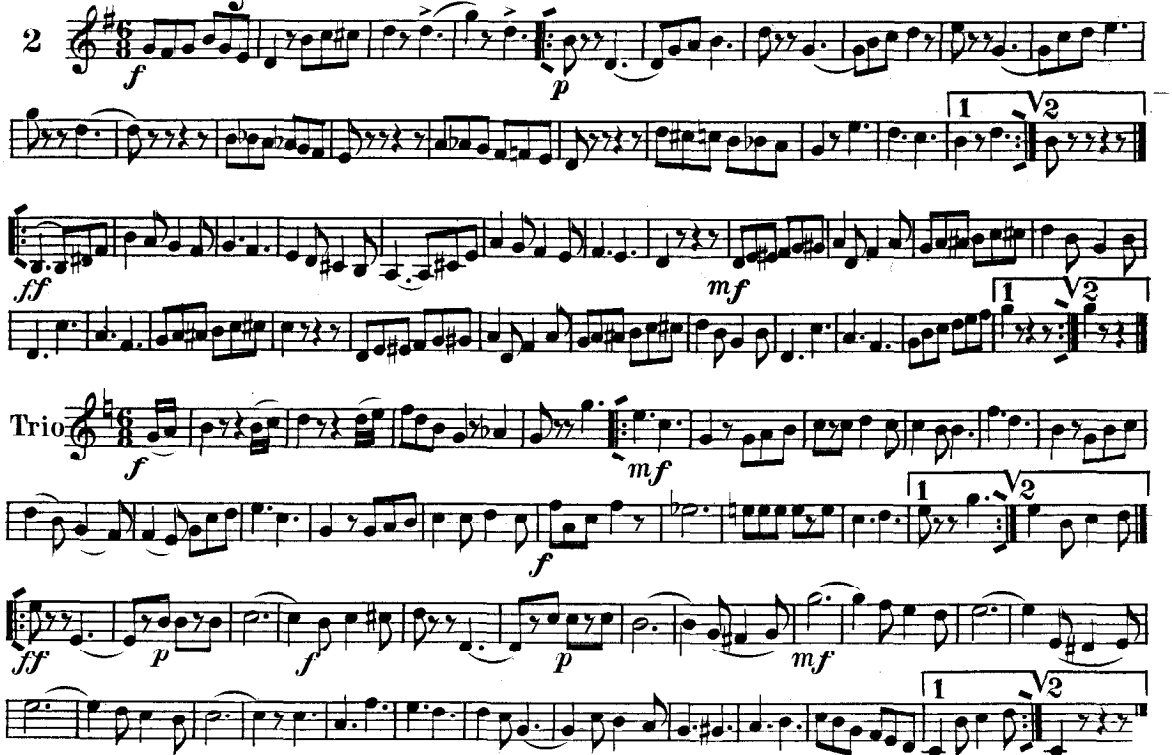
M. A. Althouse.



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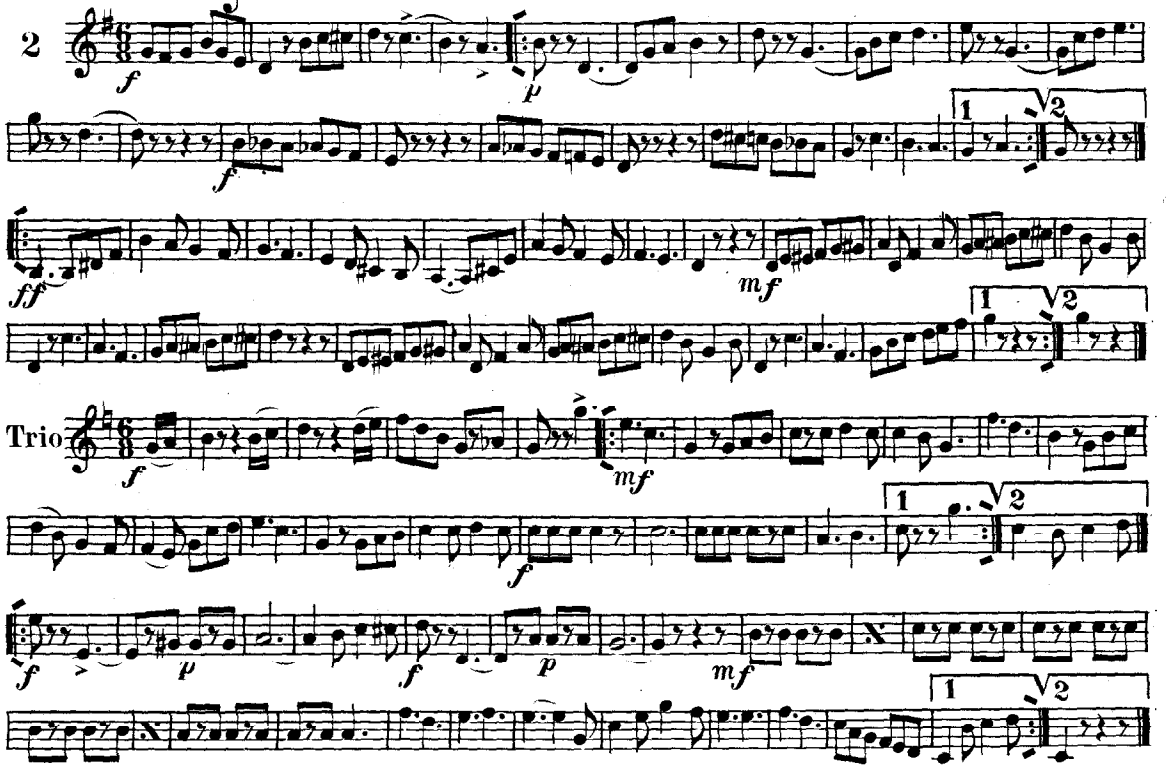
M. A. Althouse.



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BARITONE.

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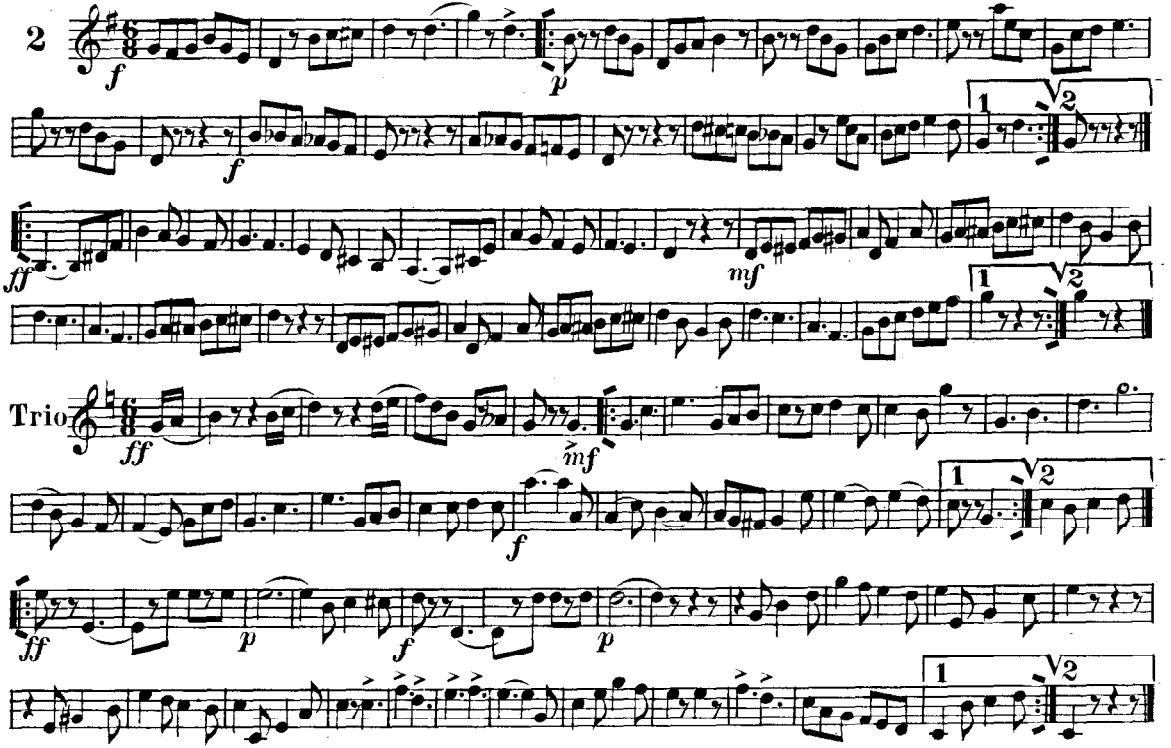
M. A. Althouse.



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BARITONE.

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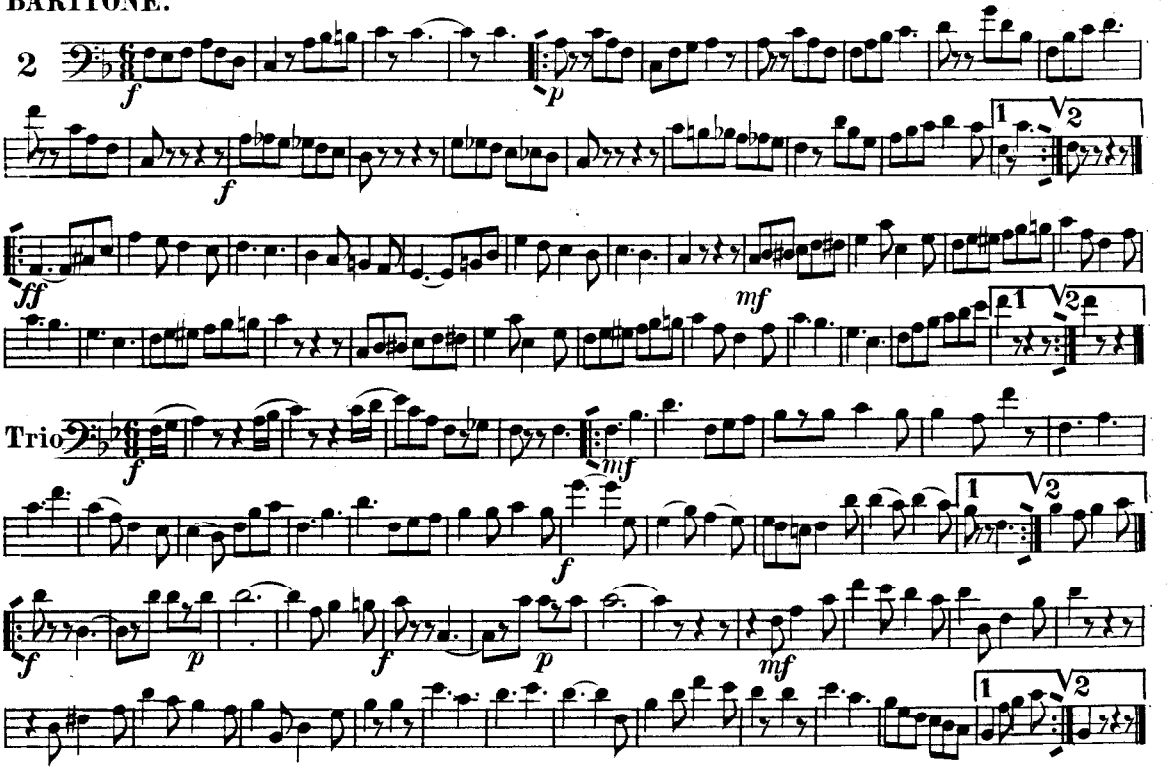

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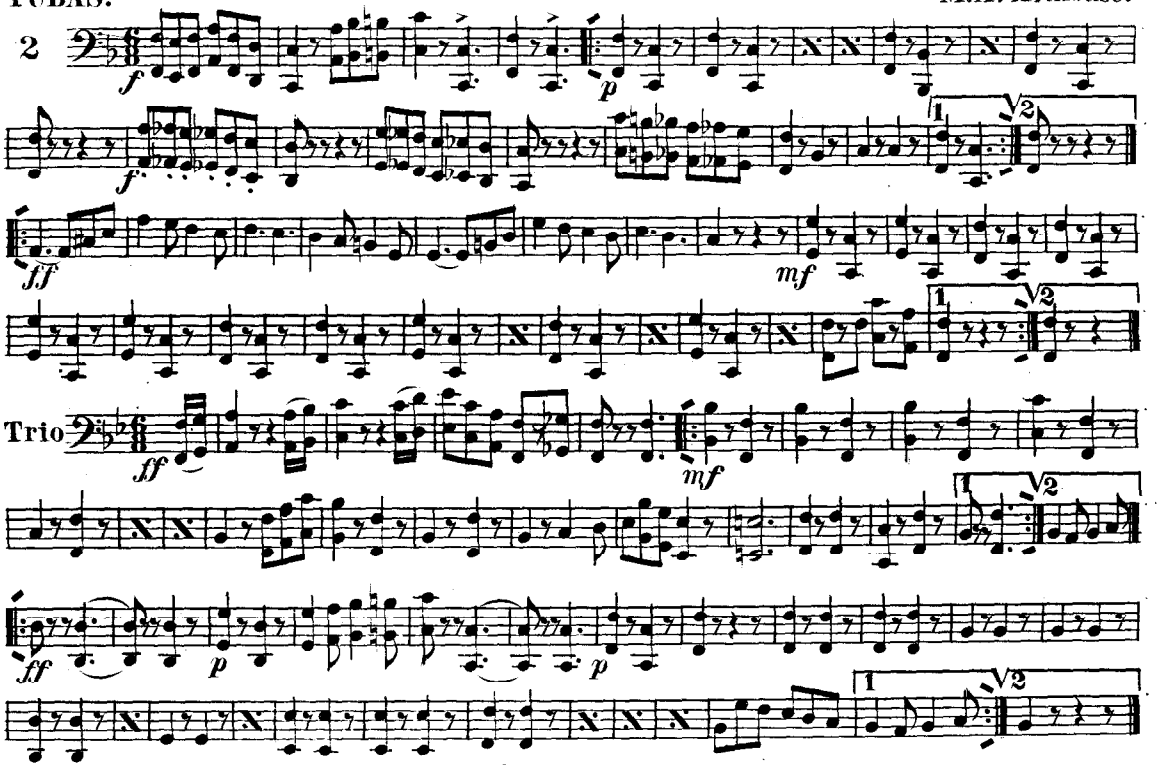
MARCH "THE ELKS." (B.P.O.E.)

TUBAS.

M.A. Althouse.



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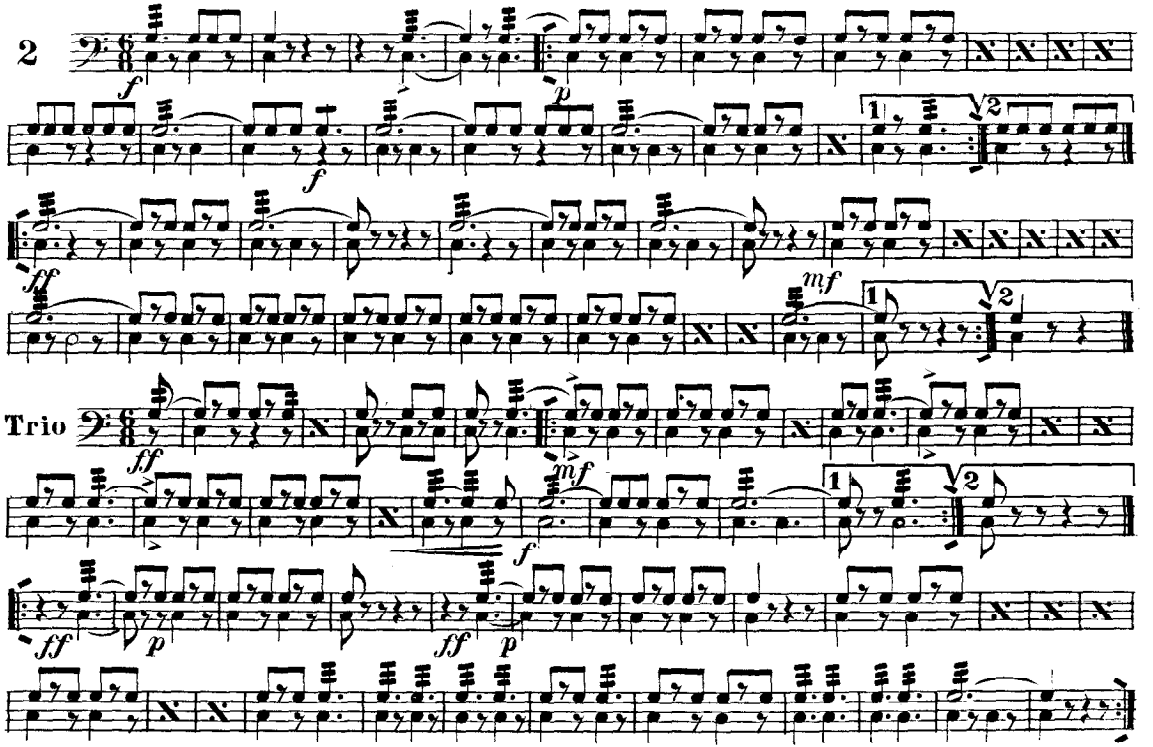
DRUMS.

MARCH "THE ELKS." (B.P.O.E.)

M.A. Althouse.



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