

Esberger, Walter

DOB: 23 July 1884, Cincinnati, Ohio

DOD: 22 June 1962, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

"In the Esberger family, there were six musical children whose music was directed by their father, himself a musician. He was very stern about their music lessons; having talents, they must make the best use of them, if they desired, they might make a profession of music, but each must learn one thing in addition to music by which to make a living." (Cincinnati Post, April 28, 1930, page 1.)

In 1895, (aged ten), Esberger was climbing a fence in his back yard when a ring on the third finger of his right hand caught on a nail and ripped the finger off his hand. Blood poisoning set in, and a local newspaper reported that "serious results were anticipated". Luckily, he survived.

The 1907 Cincinnati Enquirer described Esberger as "one of the city's ablest and most thorough musicians." The 1910 census listed him as living with his parents, Charles, (born in Germany ca. 1852), and Louisa, (born in Ohio ca. 1854 to German immigrant father and Ohioan mother), and siblings Walter, Flora, Hubert, Charles Jr., and his wife Lillie, and child Eleanor. Walter is listed as a music teacher.

He attended Cincinnati public schools and studied piano at the old College of Music and Conservatory in Cincinnati. In 1911, Walter Esberger was working in the banking field, as a clerk for the Union Trust and Savings Bank. At the age of 27, he found the music field to be more profitable and to his liking. He was one of the youngest band leaders in the United States at that time, and quickly surpassed many veteran leaders.

In 1914, he is listed at 1408 Vine St. under "Bands and Orchestras" in the Cincinnati directory. By 1920, his is listed as "Musician, Own Business" in Cincinnati directory.

In 1942 he was employed by Baldwin Piano Co., 142 W. 4th St, Cincinnati. At this time, he states in his WW2 military draft card that "Third finger right hand is amputated". Walter Esberger was also one of the principal artists at the Vocalstyle Music Co., where he recorded piano rolls.

For more than 25 years Esberger and his brother, Walter, were associated with bands in Cincinnati and free concerts in Eden Park. His band frequently played for the Turnfest, The Elks' Reunion, the Cincinnati Zoo, visits by President Taft, WLW radio, and other civic functions. An active Mason, Esberger was also a member of the Knights Templars, the Shriners, and Oola Khan Grotto. He led the Cincinnati Syrian Shrine Band from 1926-1957.

Esberger retired from his music career in 1957. He and his wife moved to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, where he died of a heart attack on June 22, 1962. He is buried in Cincinnati's Spring Grove Cemetery.

Paul E. Bierley's book, 'Hallelujah Trombone!: The Story of Henry Fillmore" is quite unkind to Esberger: *"It is perhaps poetic justice that many of the concerts which Henry conducted would ordinarily have been conducted by Walter or Charles Esberger, his successors as leader of the Syrian Temple Shrine Band, and with whom there had previously been unpleasant relations. Walter Esberger was also a composer of marches, and a study of his programs shows that he almost never played any of Henry's music. Henry's friends who played in Esberger's band resented this."*

KNOWN WORKS (8) - Heritage Encyclopedia of Band Music

American Spirit March (Church, 1922)
By Power of Right March (Fillmore, 1915)
Freedom of the Seas March (Church, 1918)
Our Nominee March (Church, 1916)
Our Pride, march
Our Republic March (Church, 1912)
Paeon of Triumph March (Fillmore, 1916)
Pie

Information compiled by Mark A. Hensler.

MADE A HIT WITH TURNER MINSTRELS



ALBERT ESBERGER

WALTER ESBERGER

With their sister, Miss Norma Esberger, they made a hit at the North Turner minstrel performance Saturday and Sunday in a skit entitled "At Opack's Garden," which they themselves wrote.

Freedom of the Seas March

Solo B \flat Cornet
(Conductor)

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score is written for four parts: Solo B \flat Cornet (Conductor), Bass, 1st B \flat Cornet, and Trombone & Baritone. The key signature is one flat (B \flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The score begins with a measure number of 590. The Solo B \flat Cornet part features a variety of dynamics including *ff*, *mf*, *fz*, *p*, and *p dolce*, along with articulation marks like accents and slurs. The Bass part includes dynamics like *ff* and *fz*. The 1st B \flat Cornet part has a 'Solo' section marked with a double accent. The Trombone & Baritone part is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The score includes repeat signs with first and second endings, and concludes with a double bar line.

Freedom of the Seas March

Piccolo in C

WALTER ESBERGER

ff

f

mf

fz

fz

14

ff

22

ff

31

1.

2.

p

39

p dolce

55

71

fz

fz

fz

85

ff

96

111

fz

Freedom of the Seas March

Oboe

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score for the Oboe part of 'Freedom of the Seas March' by Walter Esberger is written in 6/8 time. The piece begins at measure 590. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The score includes various dynamics such as *ff* (fortissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *fz* (forzando), *p* (piano), and *p dolce* (piano dolce). There are also articulations like accents and slurs. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing first and second endings (1 and 2). The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

Freedom of the Seas March

Bassoons

WALTER ESBERGER

590

2

ff *mf* *fz*

f

p

ff *fz* *fz*

f

Freedom of the Seas March

E♭ Clarinet

WALTER ESBERGER

590

1

ff *f* *mf* *p* *p dolce*

1 2


1 1 1 1

ff

8

f

Freedom of the Seas March

Solo & 1st B♭ Clarinets  WALTER ESBERGER

WALTER ESBERGER

Solo & 1st B \flat Clarinets

590

WALTER ESBERGER

This musical score is for the Solo and 1st B-flat Clarinets, measures 590 through 600. The music is in 6/8 time and B-flat major. It begins with a forte (f) dynamic and a first ending bracket. The score features a variety of articulations, including accents, slurs, and staccato markings. Dynamics range from fortissimo (ff) to piano (p). The piece concludes with a first ending bracket and a final cadence.

Freedom of the Seas March

2d & 3d B♭ Clarinets

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score for measures 590-600 is written for two staves, 2d and 3d B♭ Clarinets. The key signature has two flats (B♭ and E♭), and the time signature is 6/8. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature change to two flats. Measure 590 starts with a forte (ff) dynamic and a first ending bracket. The melody is composed of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplets. Measure 591 continues the melody with a forte (fz) dynamic. Measure 592 features a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic and a first ending bracket. Measure 593 has a forte (fz) dynamic and a first ending bracket. Measure 594 continues the melody with a forte (fz) dynamic. Measure 595 features a first ending bracket and a forte (ff) dynamic. Measure 596 has a forte (ff) dynamic and a first ending bracket. Measure 597 features a first ending bracket and a forte (ff) dynamic. Measure 598 has a forte (ff) dynamic and a first ending bracket. Measure 599 features a first ending bracket and a forte (ff) dynamic. Measure 600 has a forte (ff) dynamic and a first ending bracket. The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (ff, fz, mf, p), articulation (accents, slurs), and first ending brackets.

Freedom of the Seas March

Soprano Saxophone

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score for Soprano Saxophone, measures 590-600, is written on ten staves. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, along with dynamic markings like *ff*, *mf*, *fz*, *p*, and *p dolce*. There are also articulation marks like accents and slurs. Rehearsal marks with first and second endings are present in measures 591, 594, and 597. The piece concludes with a final double bar line in measure 600.

Printed in the United States

Freedom of the Seas March

Alto Saxophone

WALTER. ESBERGER

590

The musical score for the Alto Saxophone part, measures 590-600, is written in 6/8 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score consists of ten staves. Measure 590 begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The first staff contains measures 590-591, marked with *ff* and *mf*. The second staff contains measures 592-593, marked with *f*. The third staff contains measures 594-595, marked with *p*. The fourth staff contains measures 596-597, marked with *dolce*. The fifth staff contains measures 598-599, marked with *ff* and *fz*. The sixth staff contains measures 600-601, marked with *fz* and *ff*. The seventh staff contains measures 602-603, marked with *fz* and *ff*. The eighth staff contains measures 604-605, marked with *fz* and *ff*. The ninth staff contains measures 606-607, marked with *fz* and *ff*. The tenth staff contains measures 608-609, marked with *fz* and *ff*. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

Freedom of the Seas March

Tenor Saxophone

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score for the Tenor Saxophone part, measures 590-600, is written on ten staves. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, along with dynamic markings like *ff* (fortissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *fz* (forzando), and *p* (piano). There are also articulation marks like accents and slurs. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

ff *mf* *fz* *ff* *ff* *p* *p* *ff* *fz* *ff*

Printed in the United States

Freedom of the Seas March

Baritone Saxophone

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score is written for Baritone Saxophone in 6/8 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score is divided into two systems of five staves each. The first system starts with a measure number of 590. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), *f* (forte), and *fz* (forzando) are used throughout. There are also accents (>) and slurs. The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings, marked with '1' and '2'. The piece concludes with a final *fz* marking.

Freedom of the Seas March

E♭ Cornet

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score for the E♭ Cornet part of 'Freedom of the Seas March' is written on ten staves. The key signature has one flat (B♭) and the time signature is 6/8. The score begins at measure 590. The first staff contains measures 590-591, marked *ff* and *mf*, with a first ending bracket over measures 590-591. The second staff contains measures 592-593, marked *fz* and *ff*, with a first ending bracket over measures 592-593. The third staff contains measures 594-595, marked *ff*. The fourth staff contains measures 596-597, marked *p* and *p dolce*, with a first ending bracket over measures 596-597. The fifth staff contains measures 598-599, marked *p*. The sixth staff contains measures 600-601, marked *Bass fz*. The seventh staff contains measures 602-603, marked *B♭ Cor.* and *fz*. The eighth staff contains measures 604-605, marked *fz*. The ninth staff contains measures 606-607, marked *fz*. The tenth staff contains measures 608-609, marked *fz*. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat signs.

ff *mf* *fz* *fz* *ff* *ff* *p* *p dolce* *Bass fz* *B♭ Cor.* *fz* *fz* *fz*

Freedom of the Seas March

1st B♭ Cornet

WALTER ESBERGER

590

ff *mf* *fz* *fz* *f* *ff* *p* *ff*

1 2 1 2 1 1

play lower notes when no 2d Cor. or 2d Clar.

2d Cor. 2d Cor.

Freedom of the Seas March

2d & 3d Bb Cornets

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (Bb), and a 6/8 time signature. The music is written for 2d and 3d Bb Cornets. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The dynamics include *ff* (fortissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *fz* (forzando), and *p* (piano). There are also accents (>) and a 'Solo' section indicated by a bracket. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, and 600 visible. The music concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

Freedom of the Seas March

1st & 2^d Altos (Horns in E \flat)

WALTER ESBERGER

590

2

ff *mf* *f*

1 2

ff *p*

1 1

ff

Freedom of the Seas March

3d & 4th Altos (Horns in E \flat)

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score is written for 3d & 4th Altos (Horns in E \flat). It begins with a treble clef and a 6/8 time signature. The first staff starts with a measure rest of 2 measures, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamic markings include *ff*, *mf*, *fz*, *f*, and *ff*. The score features several repeat signs and first/second endings. The key signature has one flat (B \flat). The piece concludes with a final cadence.

Freedom Of The Seas March

Horn in F 1 & 2

WALTER ESBERGER

ff mf fz fz

14 ff ff

26 1. 2. ff

39 p

50

62

71 fz fz fz fz fz fz

85 ff

97

109

Freedom Of The Seas March

Horns in F 3 & 4

WALTER ESBERGER

14
26
39
51
63
71
85
97
109

ff *mf* *fz* *f* *ff* *p* *ff* *fz* *fz* *fz* *fz* *ff*

Freedom of the Seas March

1st & 2^d Tenors  (or Trombones)

WALTER ESBERGER

590

ff *mf* *fz* *f* *p* *tutta forza* *ff*

Freedom of the Seas March

B♭ Bass 3rd Trombone

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score is written for the B♭ Bass (3rd Trombone) part of the Freedom of the Seas March. It begins at measure 590 in 6/8 time. The key signature has one flat (B♭). The score consists of ten staves of music. The first staff contains measures 590-591, marked *ff* and *mf*. The second staff contains measures 592-593, marked *fz* and *ff*, with first and second endings. The third staff contains measures 594-595, marked *ff*. The fourth staff contains measures 596-597, marked *p*, with first and second endings. The fifth staff contains measures 598-599. The sixth staff contains measures 600-601, marked *ff* and *fz*. The seventh staff contains measures 602-603, marked *tutta forza*. The eighth staff contains measures 604-605. The ninth staff contains measures 606-607. The tenth staff contains measures 608-609, marked *fz*. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests, as well as dynamic markings and articulation symbols.

Freedom of the Seas March

1st & 2d Trombones ♭:

WALTER ESBERGER

590

2

ff *mf* *fz* *ff*

1 2

ff *tutta forza* *fz*

Freedom of the Seas March


3d Trombone ♭:

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score is written for a 3d Trombone in bass clef, 6/8 time. It begins with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb). The score consists of 11 staves of music. The first staff starts with a measure rest followed by a '2' above the staff, indicating a second ending. The music features various dynamics including *ff* (fortissimo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *fz* (forzando), and *p* (piano). There are also accents (>) and slurs throughout. The score includes first and second endings marked with '1' and '2' above the staff. The key signature changes to one flat (Bb) in the final section of the piece.

Freedom of the Seas March

Baritone  2

WALTER ESBERGER

590



ff *mf* *fz* *f* *ff* *p* *p dolce* *tutta forza* *ff*

Freedom of the Seas March

Baritone 9:

WALTER ESBERGER

590

ff *mf* *f₂* *ff* *p* *p dolce* *tutta forza* *ff*

Freedom of the Seas March

Basses

WALTER ESBERGER

590

2

ff

mf

fz

ff

p

ff

ff

fz

ff

ff

Freedom of the Seas March

Drums

WALTER ESBERGER

590

The musical score for drums is written on ten staves. It begins with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 6/8. The first staff includes a measure with a '2' above it, indicating a second ending. Dynamics such as *ff*, *fz*, *mf*, and *p* are used throughout. Articulations like accents and slurs are present. The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings. A section labeled 'Cym. B. D. Cym.' is marked in the seventh staff. The notation includes various drum-specific symbols like eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and beams.