

Meteor, The

Richards, J. J.

The Meteor

by: J. J. Richards

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Richards, Joseph John

DOB: August 27, 1878 (Cwmavon, Wales)
DOD: March 16, 1956 (Long Beach, California)

The life pattern of Joseph John (Johnny) Richards was similar to that of many of his contemporaries in American band music. He grew up in the American Midwest, was drawn to music and bands at an early age, had a long career in circus music, and eventually left the circus to direct municipal bands and to teach. He was, like Karl L. King and Fred Jewell, not only a talented musician but was also a conductor and composer who received the admiration and respect of those who worked with him.

When he was four years of age, his family immigrated to the United States and settled in a small town in Kansas. Attracted to music, he played alto horn. At the age of 10, he played in the town band. He switched to the trombone at age 15 and then to the cornet a year later. After a short tour with a traveling show, he returned home to become leader of the local band.

During the 1906 season, he was solo cornetist with the Adam Forepaugh-Sells Brothers Circus. After a season with Barnum & Bailey, he rejoined the Forepaugh-Sells band as director. In 1911, he became conductor of the Ringling Brothers Circus band and held this position until 1919, when the show merged with Barnum & Bailey. Between seasons, Richards attended Kansas State Teachers College and the American Conservatory of Music. Shortly after World War I, he taught music in the U.S. Army at Camp Grant, Illinois. When returning to Kansas, he taught school and also directed the Mirza Temple Shrine Band in Pittsfield (Kansas).

He then taught school music in Pittsfield, Rock Falls, (Illinois), and Sterling (Illinois). While in Sterling, he also directed the town's municipal band and traveled 30 miles to Mt. Morris (Illinois) to direct the Kable Printing Company's Old Timers Band. This busy schedule was maintained through 1944.

In 1981, he was elected posthumously to the Windjammers' Hall of Fame. Although many of his works reflect his circus background, he understood the need for music suitable for school music programs and composed many elementary pieces.¹

Meteor, The (Galop) was published in 1895 by the Fillmore Brothers Company (Cincinnati, Ohio).

Program note researched by Marcus L. Neiman
Medina, Ohio

Additional information on either the composer or composition would be welcomed. Please send information to

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¹ Rehrig, William H. , Bierley, Paul E. (Editor). The Heritage encyclopedia of band music, Robert Hoe Foundation, Columbus, OH., 2005 CD, used with permission.

Piccolo

The Meteor

GALOP

J.J. RICHARDS

1249

ff *f* *ff* *tr* *p* *ff* *D.S.*

Fillmore Music House, Cin. O.

The Meteor

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

Oboe

1249

The musical score for the Oboe part of "The Meteor" Galop by J.J. Richards is written on eight staves. The piece is in 2/4 time and begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff starts with a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and includes a fermata over a note. The second staff continues the melodic line. The third staff features a first ending marked with a '1' and a second ending marked with a '2'. The fourth staff has a dynamic marking of *ff* and a section marked *D.S.* (Da Capo). The fifth staff begins with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano). The sixth staff includes a first ending marked with a '1' and a second ending marked with a '2'. The seventh staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The eighth staff concludes with a first ending marked with a '1' and a second ending marked with a '2'. The score is marked with various dynamics and includes repeat signs and first/second ending brackets.

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The Meteor

E♭ Clarinet

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

The musical score is written for E♭ Clarinet in 2/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B♭). The piece is marked 'GALOP' and 'J. J. RICHARDS'. The score starts at measure 1249. The first measure is marked *ff*. The second measure is marked *f*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and trills. There are two first endings and two second endings marked with '1' and '2' and repeat signs. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a section marked 'D. S.' (Da Capo).

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The Meteor

Solo or 1st B \flat Clarinet

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

The musical score is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B \flat) and a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes a variety of rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs and eighth-note figures. The score contains first and second endings, a trill, and a *D.S.* (Da Capo) marking. The piece concludes with a final cadence.

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Zimmerman Print
Cincinnati, Ohio

The Meteor

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

2^d & 3^d B \flat Clarinets

1249

The musical score is written for two parts: 2^d & 3^d B \flat Clarinets. It begins in 2/4 time with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B \flat). The first staff starts with a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes a first ending bracket. The second staff continues the melody with a dynamic marking of *f*. The third staff features a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes a first ending bracket. The fourth staff has a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes a first ending bracket. The fifth staff is marked *D.S.* and changes to a 9/4 time signature with a bass clef and a key signature of two flats (B \flat , E \flat). The sixth staff has a dynamic marking of *p* and includes a first ending bracket. The seventh staff has a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes a first ending bracket. The eighth staff has a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes a first ending bracket. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

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Bassoon The Meteor J. J. RICHARDS
GALOP

1249

ff *f* *ff* *ff* *D.S.* *p* *ff* *ff*

Fillmore Music House, Cin.O.

Soprano Saxophone

The Meteor

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

The musical score is written for Soprano Saxophone in 2/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The piece is marked with a forte dynamic (*ff*) and includes various articulations such as accents and slurs. The score features several first and second endings, indicated by '1' and '2' above the notes. A double bar line with repeat dots is used to denote the end of a section. The piece concludes with a *D.S.* (Da Capo) marking. The tempo is indicated as a Galop.

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The Meteor

Alto Saxophone

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff *f* *ff* *ff* *p* *ff*

D.S.

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The Meteor

Tenor Saxophone

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

The musical score for Tenor Saxophone is written in 2/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff starts with a dynamic of *ff* and includes a first ending. The second staff continues the melody with a dynamic of *f*. The third staff features a dynamic of *ff* and includes a first ending. The fourth staff concludes with a dynamic of *ff* and a first ending, followed by a section marked *D.S.* (Da Capo). The fifth staff begins with a dynamic of *p* and a key signature change to two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The sixth staff includes a dynamic of *sf* and a first ending. The seventh staff continues with a dynamic of *sf* and a first ending. The eighth staff concludes with a dynamic of *sf* and a first ending.

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The Meteor

Baritone Saxophone

GALOP

J.J. RICHARDS

1249

ff *f* *ff* *ff* *p* *ff*

D.S.

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The Meteor

E♭ Cornet

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff *f* *ff* *ff* *ff* *D.S.* *ff*

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Solo B♭ Cornet
(Conductor)

The Meteor

GALOP

J. I. RICHARDS

1249

The musical score is written for a Solo B♭ Cornet (Conductor) in 2/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B♭). The score is divided into 12 staves. The first staff starts with the number '1249' and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The second staff has a dynamic marking of *f*. The third staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The fourth staff has a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes a 'Bass' section. The fifth staff has a dynamic marking of *p* and includes a 'Bass' section. The sixth staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The seventh staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The eighth staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The ninth staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The tenth staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The eleventh staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The twelfth staff has a dynamic marking of *ff*. The score includes first and second endings, marked with '1' and '2'. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

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The Meteor

1st B♭ Cornet

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff *f* *ff* *D.S.* *p* *ff*

2^d & 3^d B \flat Cornets

The Meteor

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff *f* *ff* *p* *ff*

D. S.

8

1 2 1 2 1 2

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The Meteor

1st & 2d Eb Altos

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff *f* *ff* *ff* *D.S.* *p* *ff* *ff*

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3^d & 4th Eb Altos

The Meteor

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff

f

1 2

ff

D.S.

p

1 2

1 2

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The Meteor

1st & 2d Trombones

GALOP

I. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff

f

ff

D.S.

8

p

ff

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The Meteor

3^d Trombone b

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff

ff

ff

ff

p

ff

ff

D.S.

8

1 2

1 2

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1st & 2^d Trombones

The Meteor


GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff *f* *ff* *D.S.* *p* *ff*

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3^d Trombone 

The Meteor

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249



ff *f* *ff* *D.S.* *p* *ff*

8

1 2 1 2

1 2

1 2

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The Meteor

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

Baritone

ff *f* *ff* *p* *ff*

D.S.

1 2 1 2 1 2

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Baritone B

The Meteor

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff *f* *ff* *p* *ff*

1 2 1 2

D.S.

1 2

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The Meteor

Basses

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

ff *f* *p* *ff* *D.S.* *p* *ff*

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The Meteor

Drums

GALOP

J. J. RICHARDS

1249

4

f

1 2

ff

B.D. Cym. Tog. B.D.

Cym. D.S.

15

1 2

ff

1 2

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