From the Shores of the Mighty Pacific

By: Herbert L. Clarke

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Clarke, Herbert Lincoln

DOB: September 12, 1867 (Woburn, Massachusetts) **DOD:** January 20, 1945 (Long Beach, California)

Herbert Lincoln Clarke, regarded as the greatest cornetist of all time, was born in Woburn, Massachusetts, on September 12, 1867. He was the youngest of four boys, only one of whom did not follow a career in music.

After attending a concert, while living in Toronto, Canada, Clarke wrote, "I was so moved by the cornet soloist that I knew in time that I too must play cornet." His determination resulted in his being accepted, at the age of only 14, as a trumpet player in the Queen's Own Rifle Regiment Band - even though the minimum age was 18.

Later he became a valued member of Sousa's Band. He had often told Sousa that he would retire at age 50, since he believed that cornet soloists began to perform less effectively at that age. Sousa contended that he was playing better than ever, to which Clarke replied,

"Then I'll quit while I'm ahead."

After retiring from Sousa's Band, Clarke moved to Canada and served as conductor of the Anglo-Canadian Concert Band of Huntsville, Ontario, from 1918-1923. He then directed the Long Beach (California) Municipal Band from 1923-1943. He died in Long Beach on January 31, 1945, and his ashes were interred in Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C., just a few feet from the grave of John Philip Sousa.

It is estimated that Clarke played over 15,000 solos during his long and active career. He traveled over 90,000 miles with the bands of Gilmore, Sousa, Innes, Herbert, and others. He made 34 tours of the United States and Canada, four European tours, and one tour around the world.

A dedicated composer, author, conductor, cornetist, and teacher, Clarke believed that cornet playing should be pleasure rather than a chore. An example of his skill with the cornet is the fact that he could play a chromatic scale of three full octaves four times through in one breath. Among his many writings is a 12-chapter chronicle of the Sousa Band's world tour of 1910-1911 (Musical Messenger, July, 1918, through May, 1919).¹

From the Shores of the Mighty Pacific (cornet solo). Published in 1912 by M. Witmark & Sons, (New York). "From the Shores of the Mighty Pacific", described as a "Rondo Caprice," was written by the American cornet virtuoso Herbert Lincoln Clarke. He recorded it with the Sousa Band. The piece has remained an important part of the standard solo literature with band.

Program note researched by Marcus L. Neiman Medina, Ohio

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

¹ Rehrig, William H., Bierley, Paul (editor). *The encyclopedia of band music,* Integrity Press, Westerville, OH. (2005), CD, used with permission.

From The Shores Of The Mighty Pacific.

Rondo Caprice.



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From the Shores of the Mighty Pacific Solo Bb Clarinet CORNET SOLO

HERBERT L. CLARKE





From the Shores of the Mighty Pacific **1st B** Clarinet RONDO CAPRICE











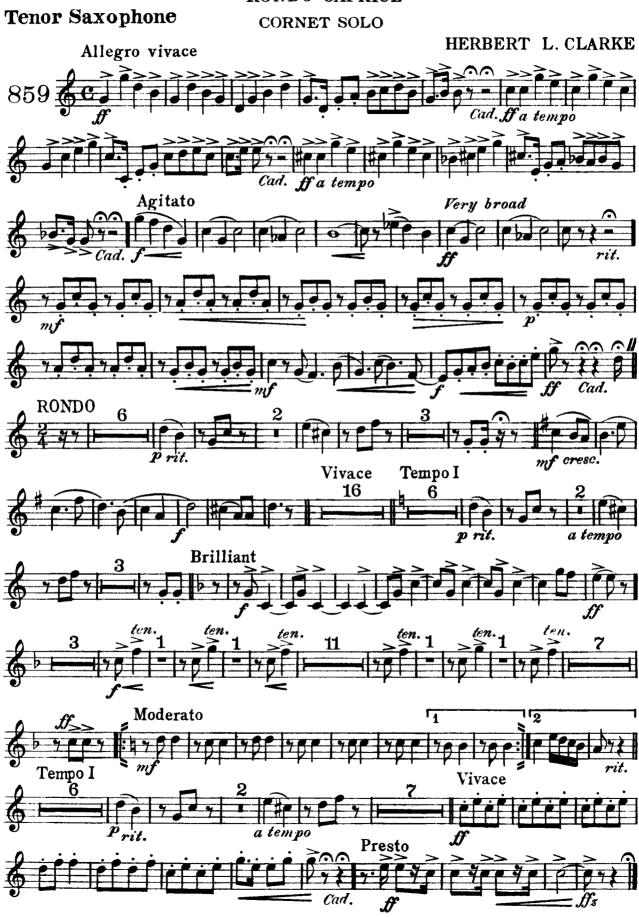






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From the Shores of the Mighty Pacific RONDO CAPRICE



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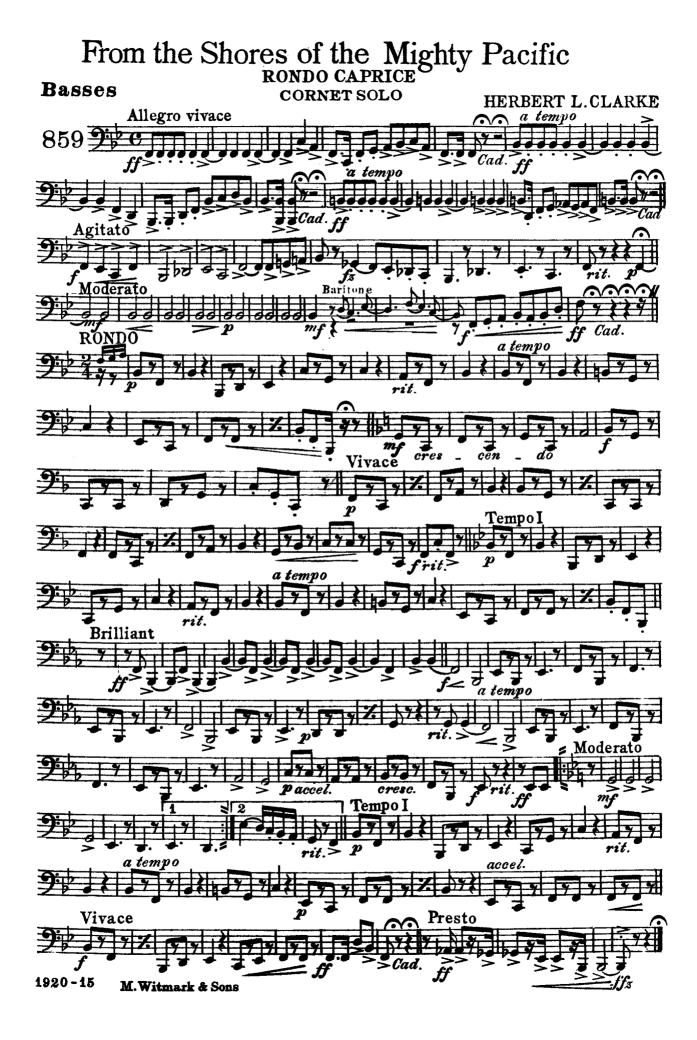




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From the Shores of the Mighty Pacific **RONDO CAPRICE**

Bass Drum

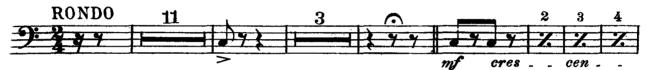
CORNET SOLO

HERBERT L. CLARKE





















From the Shores of the Mighty Pacific RONDO CAPRICE



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