On! Iowa!

by: W. R. Law
arr: Harry L. Alford

Original Copyright: 1919
By: Harold Rossiter

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North Royalton, Ohio
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Law, Watson R.

DOB: unknown
DOD: unknown

At this date, no information has been found on Watson R. Law.

Alford, Harry L.

DOB: August 3, 1875 (Hudson, Michigan)
DOD: March 4, 1939 (Elmhurst, Illinois)

Harry LaForrest Alford, for many years one of America's best known and busiest band and orchestra arrangers, was born in Hudson, Michigan, on August 3, 1875. The Alford family moved to the nearby community of Blissfield two years later, where young Harry developed his life-long love of the "concord of sweet sounds." As a boy, he learned to play the slide trombone, piano, and organ.

From an early age, he was fascinated with composing and arranging music. This self-taught activity was encouraged when, at age 14, he convinced the leader of a visiting brass band to play one of his marches. The success of this endeavor encouraged Alford to use Blissfield's town band for many subsequent composition experiments.

By the early 1890's, Alford decided to make music his career, despite parental disapproval. He moved to Toledo, Ohio, finding employment as a trombonist in a theater orchestra. There, he soon became aware of deficiencies in his training, and he resolved to learn the "grammar of music" at Dana's Musical Institute in Warren, Ohio. Upon completion of these studies, Alford embarked on the life of an itinerant trombonist, playing with many small bands and orchestras that accompanied touring minstrel shows, wild west extravaganzas, and theatrical troupes.

In 1903, Alford tired of traveling and organized his own free-lance arranging bureau in Chicago. This was a novel idea at that time, since arranging was considered to be a mere sideline, and Alford was ridiculed when he made it known that he intended to make a full-time living as an arranger. However, the laughter subsided when he found jobs scoring the pit orchestra music for the famous comedienne Eva Tanguay (The "I Don't Care Girl"), and notated some of the songs of balladeer Carrie Jacobs-Bond.

Alford elevated the arranger's role to that of a creative artist; his ingenious and quirky orchestrations were a sensation. By 1910, his clientele, particularly in the field of vaudeville, was enormous. He arranged and orchestrated the music of many of America's leading popular composers and songwriters, including Scott Joplin, W.C. Handy, Irving Berlin, Charles L. Johnson, and many others. In addition, bandmasters John Philip Sousa, Patrick Conway, Arthur Pryor, Albert Austin Harding, and Merle Evans were loyal customers for not only Alford's arrangements but his original band compositions as well. From 1904-1924, the Harry L. Alford Studio (which continued operations until 1940) produced over 34,000 separate arrangements.

Today, Alford is best remembered as a composer of excellent marches (his most enduring being The Purple Carnival and Glory of the Gridiron), as well as for his Hungry Five folios for little German band. He was a pioneer in both the school band movement and in the development of the football game half-time show.

From 1927 until his death, Alford conducted the Knights Templar Band of the Siloam Commandery in Chicago. A devoted family man and a musician known and admired throughout the nation, Alford suffered a fatal heart attack in his sleep on March 4, 1939. He was buried at Mt. Emblem Cemetery in Elmhurst, Illinois.[1]

On! Iowa! (march) was copyrighted in 1919 by Harold Rossiter Music Company and published by Melrose Brothers Music (Chicago, Illinois).

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

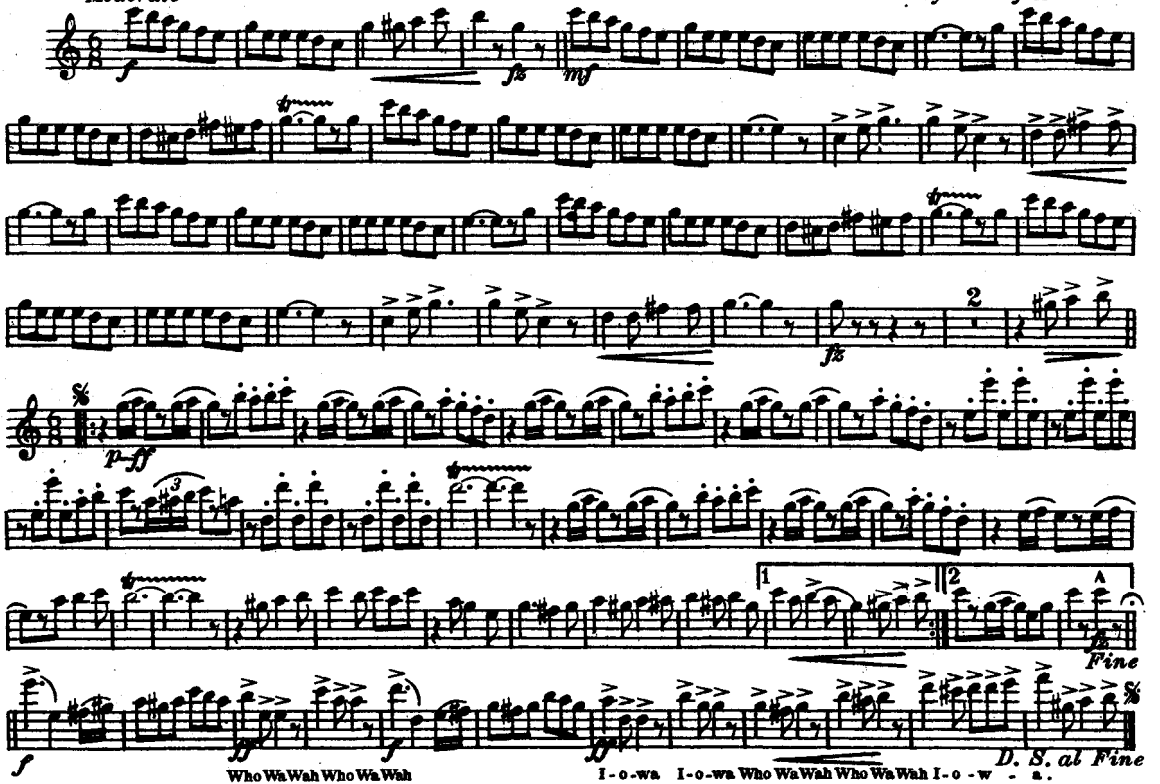
[1] Rehig, William H., Bierley, Paul (editor). *The encyclopedia of band music,* Integrity Press, Westerville, OH. (2005), CD, used with permission

D♭ Piccolo

On! Iowa!

By W. R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford

Moderato



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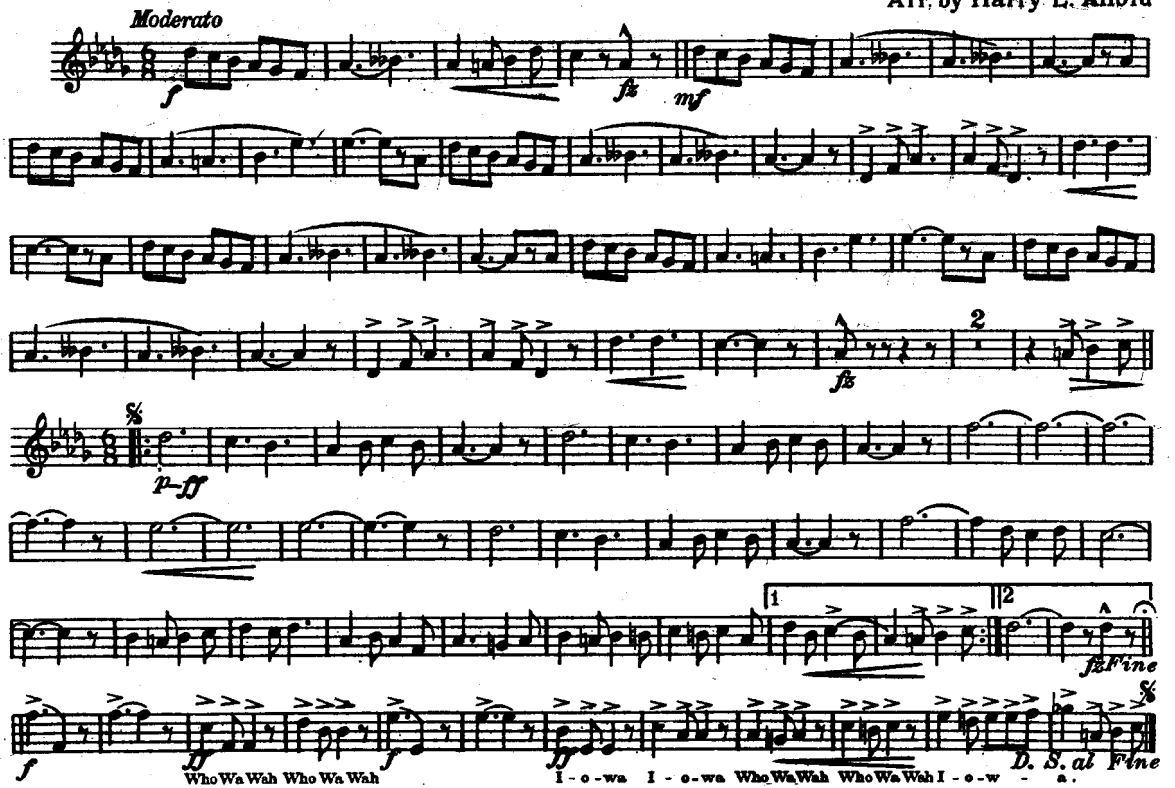
Oboe

On! Iowa!

By W. R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford



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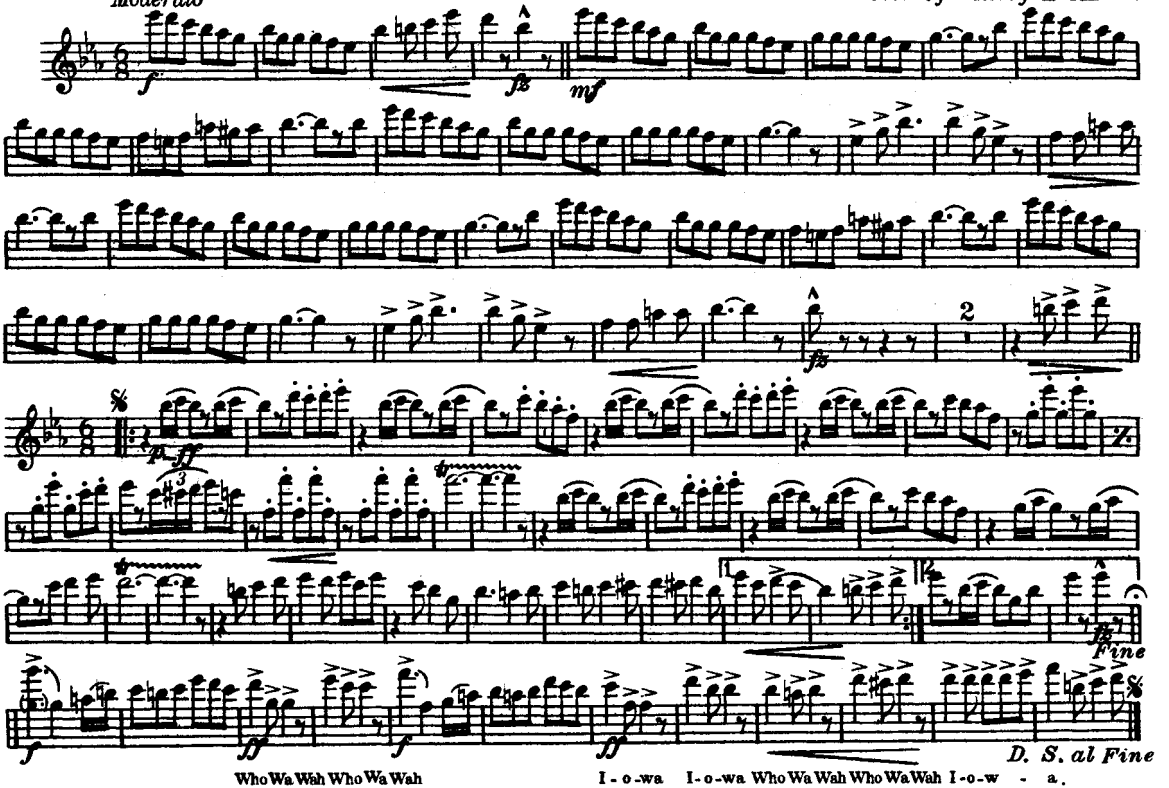
Solo or 1st B♭ Clarinet

On! Iowa!

By W. R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford



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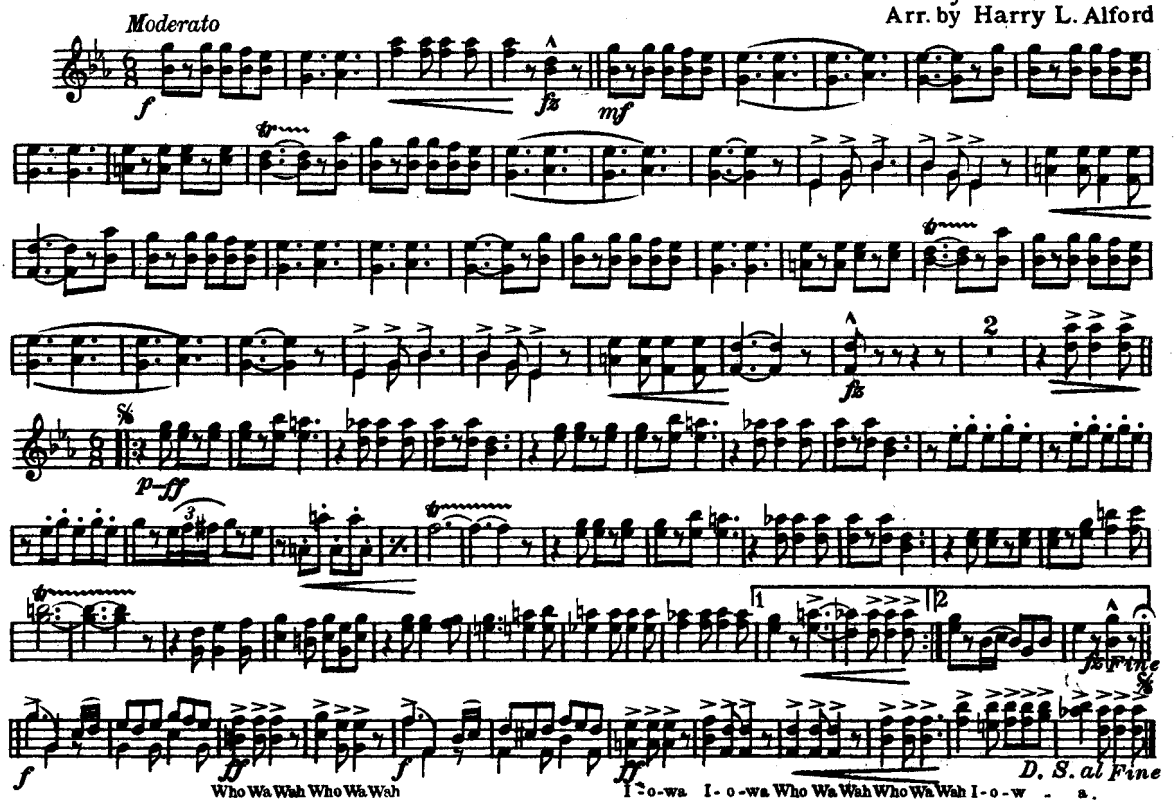
2nd & 3rd B♭ Clarinets

On! Iowa!

By W. R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford



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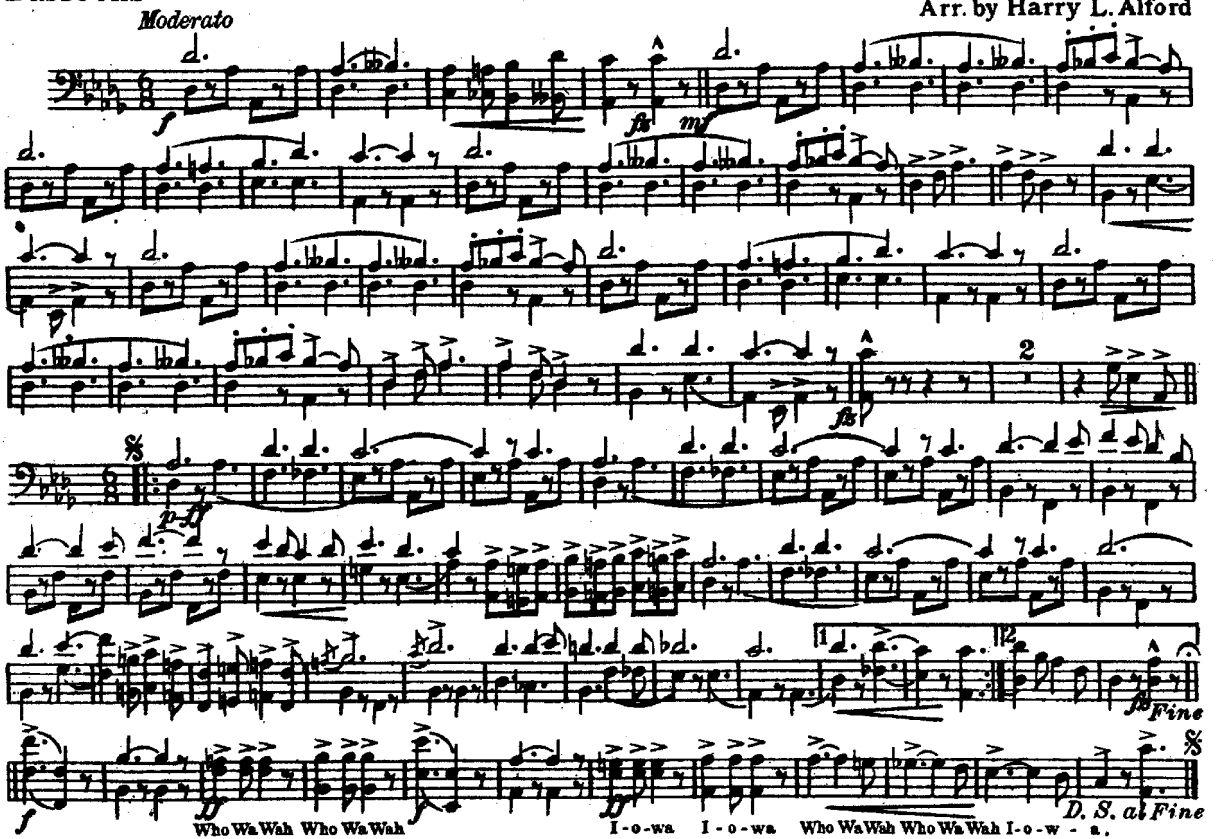
Bassoons

On! Iowa!

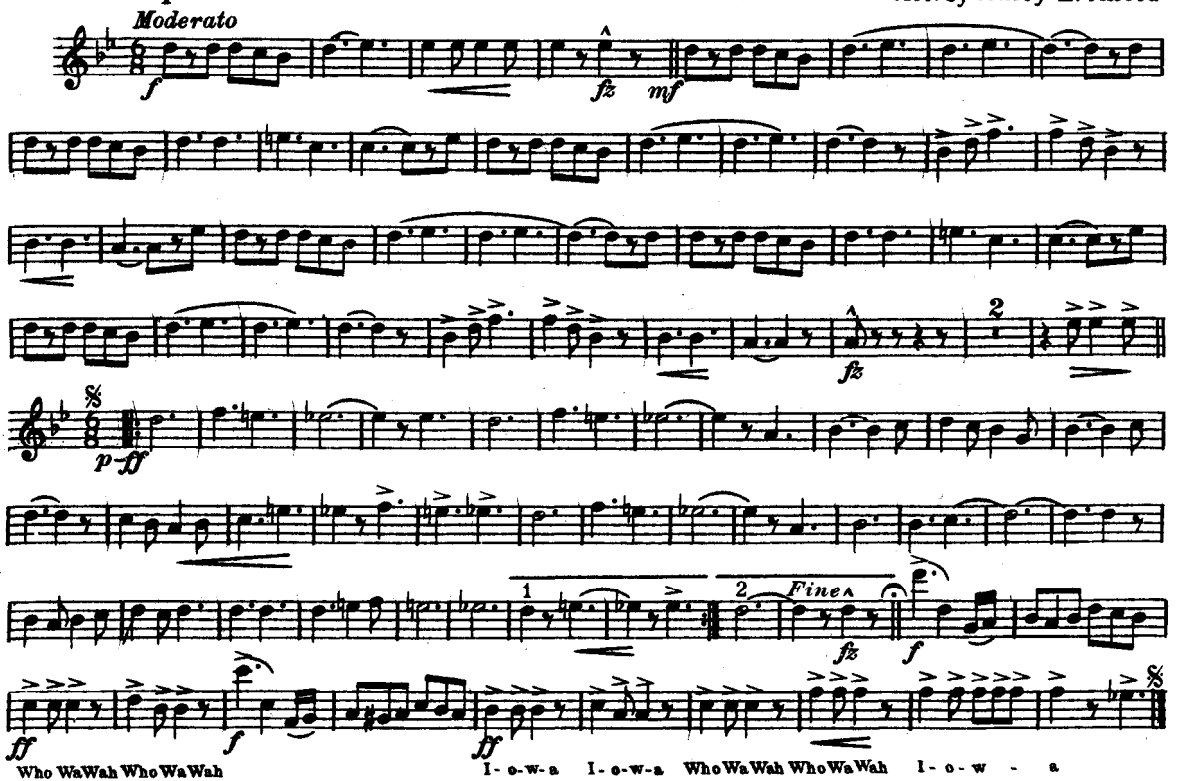
By W. R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford



On! Iowa!

Alto Saxophone

By W.R.LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford



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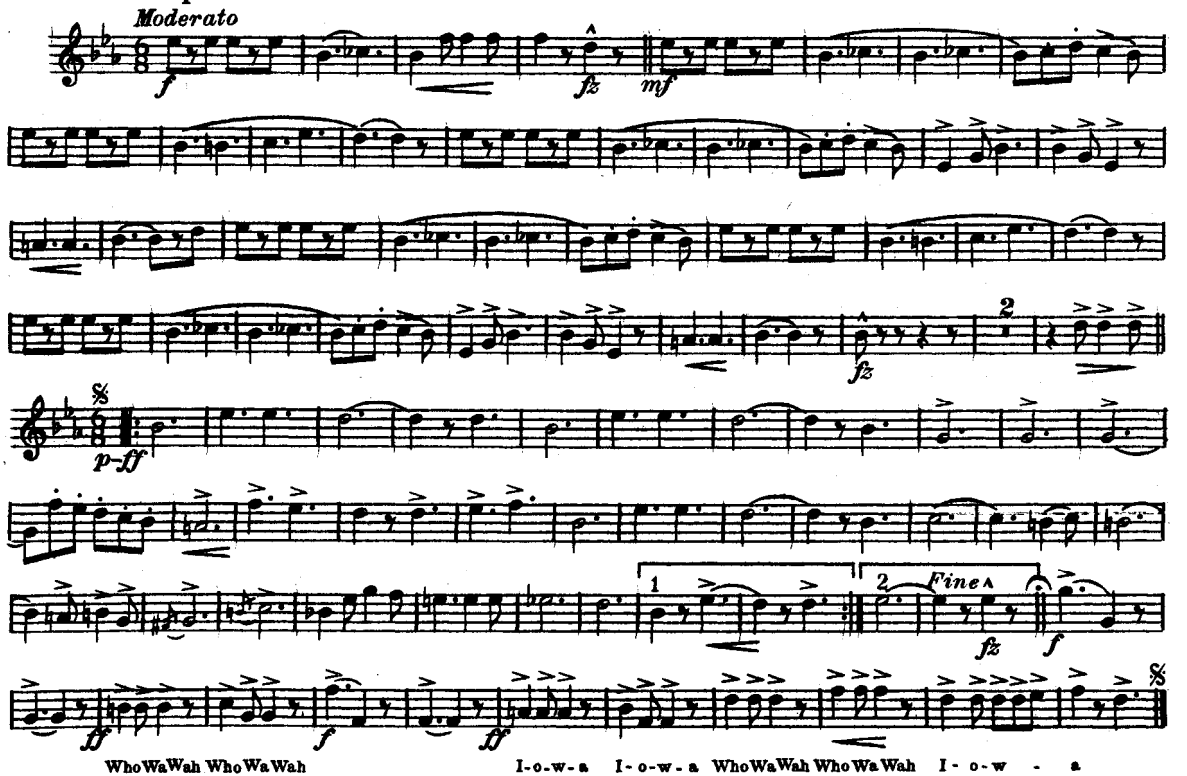
On! Iowa!

By W. R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford

Tenor Saxophone



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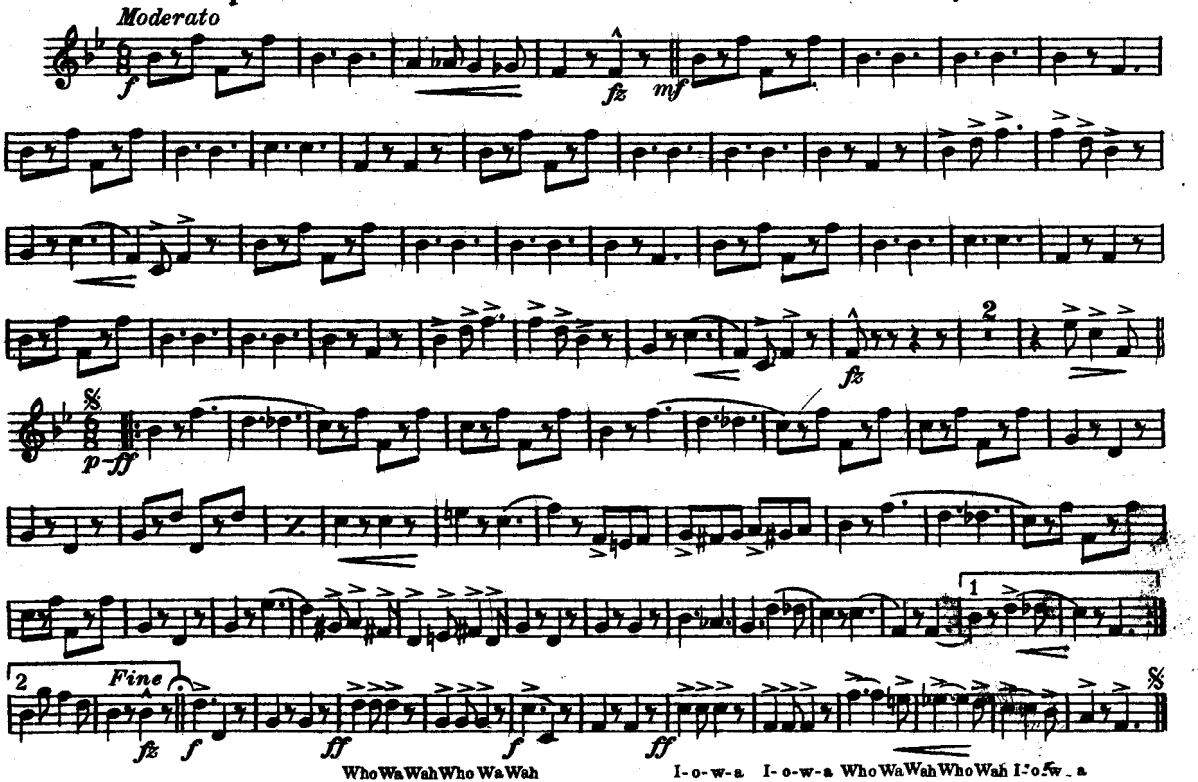
On! Iowa!

By W.R.LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford

Baritone Saxophone



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Solo B♭ Cornet

On! Iowa!

By W. R. LAW
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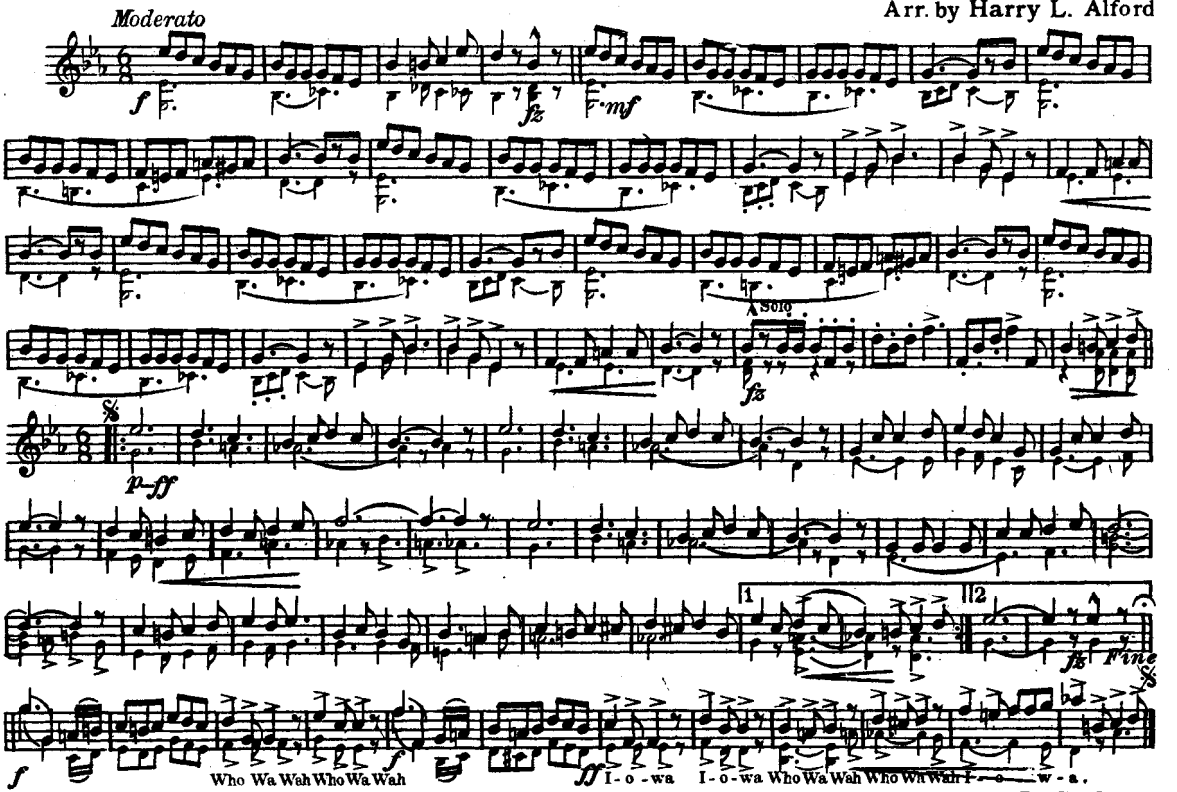

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1st B♭ Cornet

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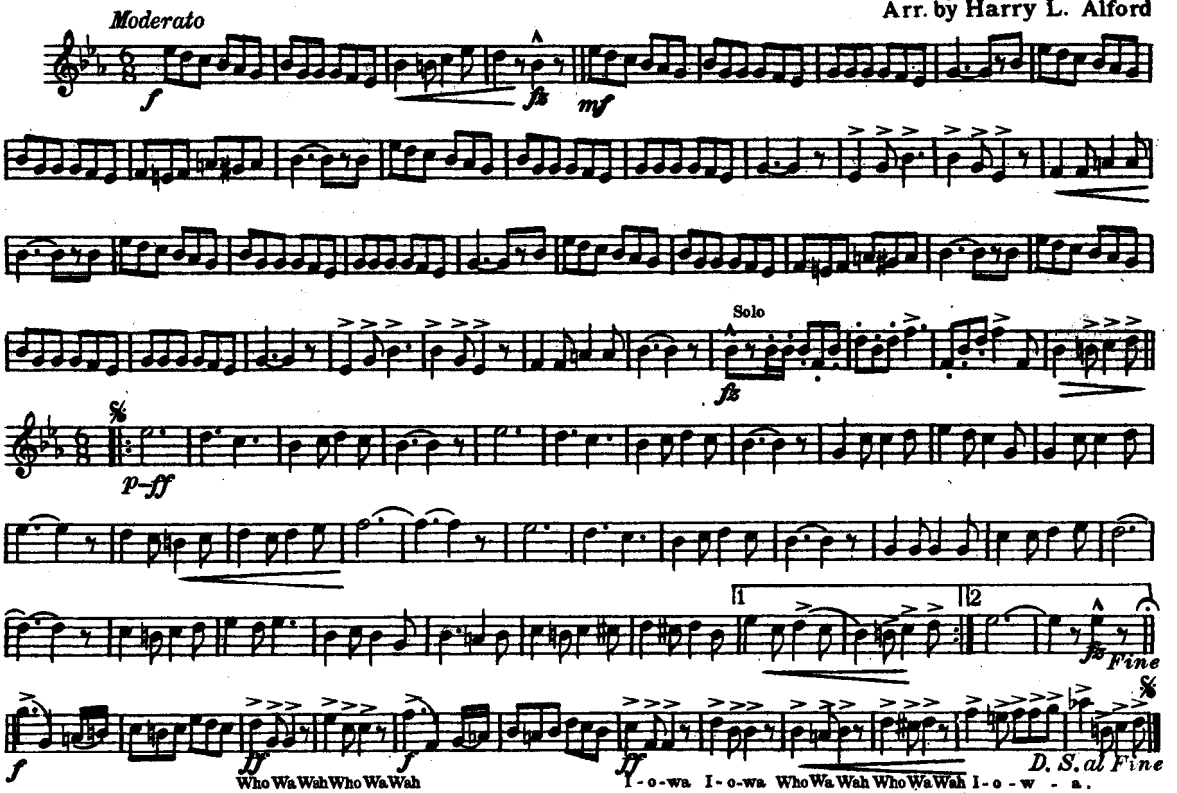

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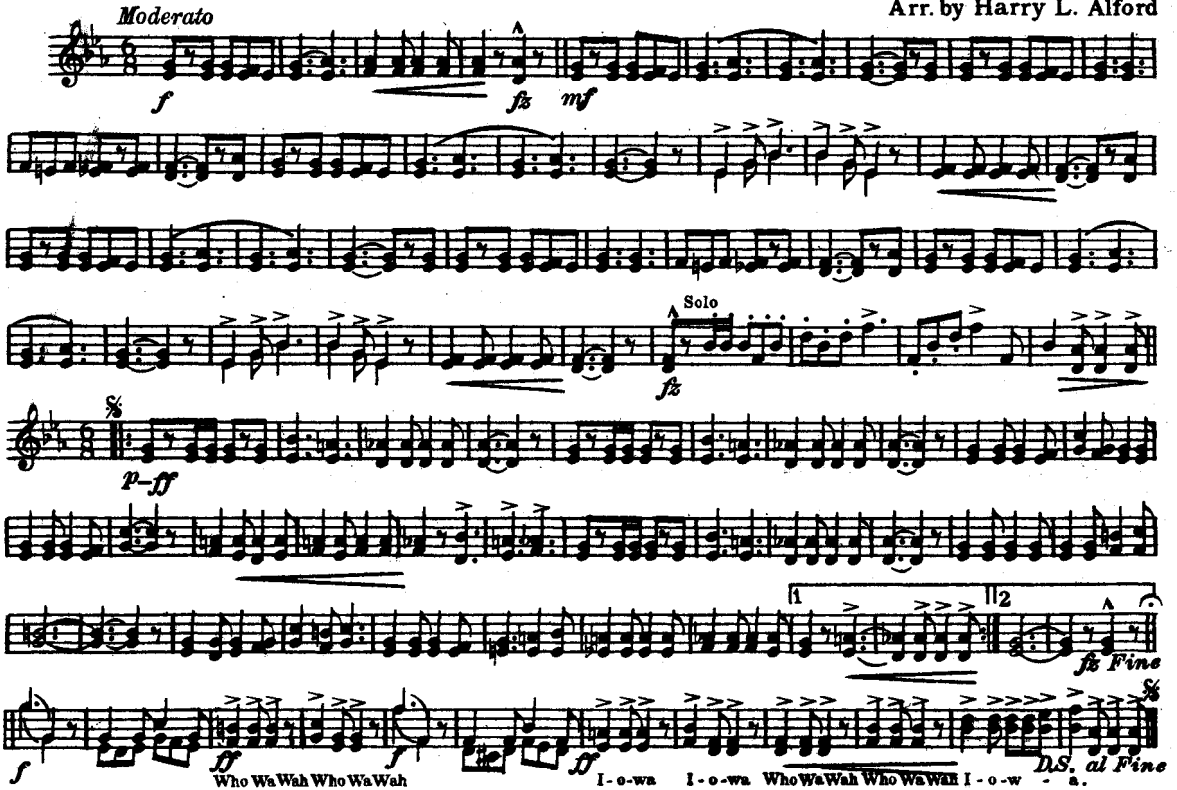
2nd & 3rd B♭ Cornets

On! Iowa!

By W. R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford



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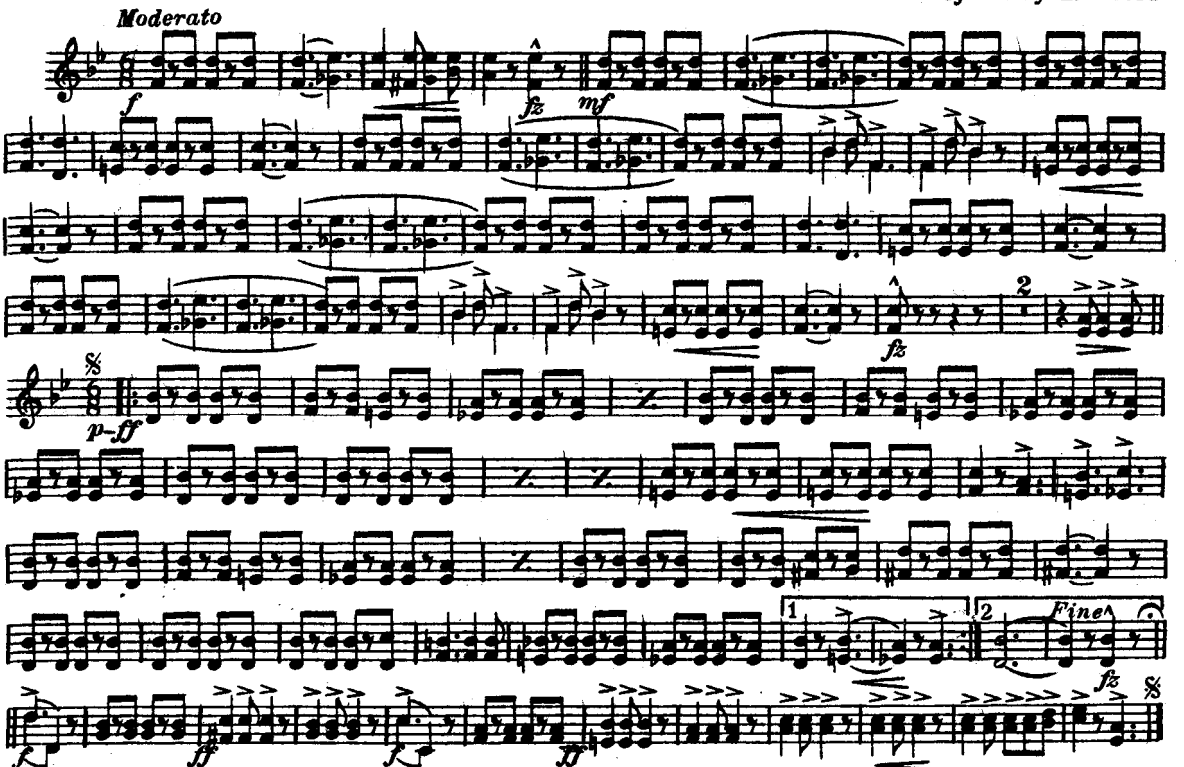
On! Iowa!

1st & 2nd E♭ Horns or Altos

By W. R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford



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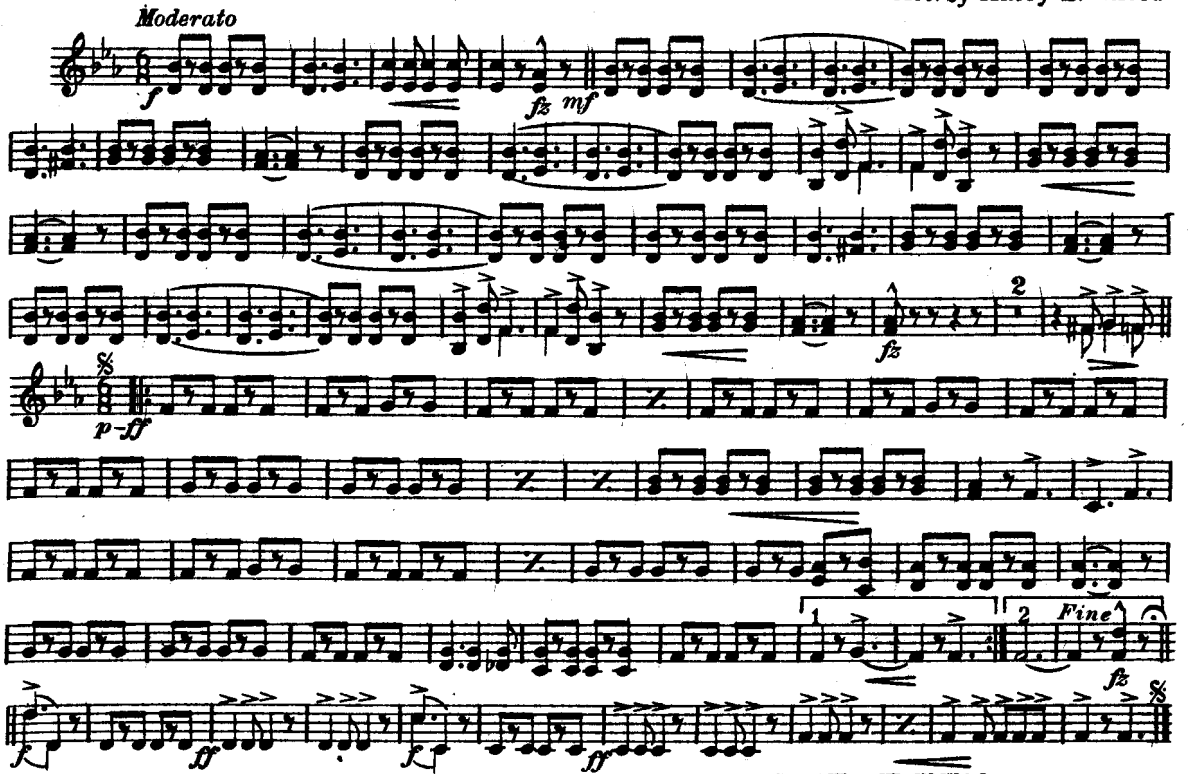
On! Iowa!

3rd & 4th Eb Horns or Altos

By W. R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford



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On! Iowa!

By W. R. LAW
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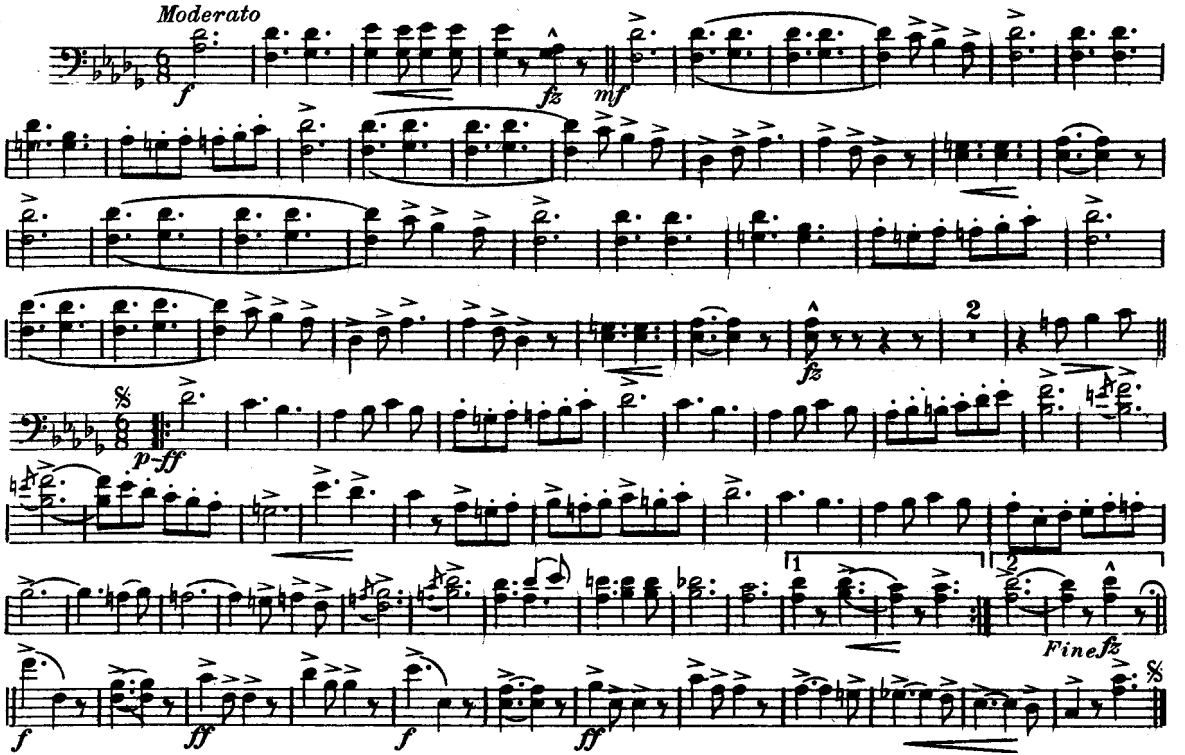
Trombones 9:



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On! Iowa!

Baritone

By W.R. LAW
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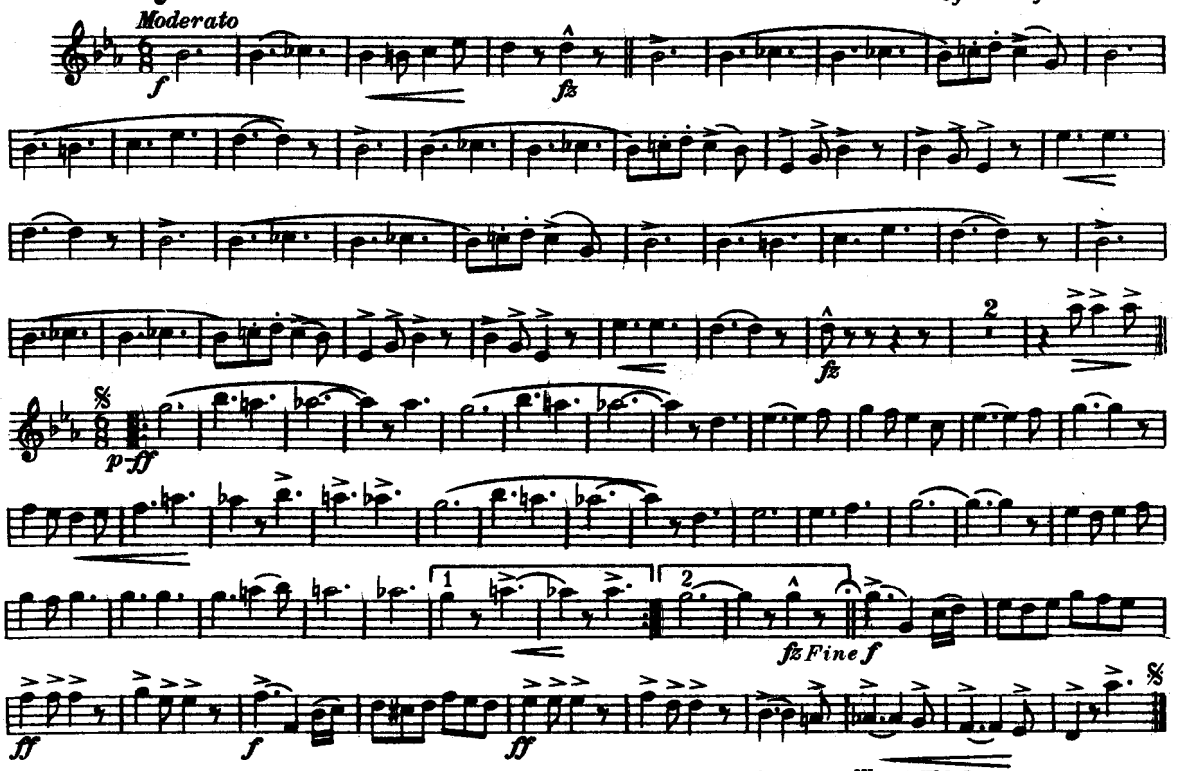

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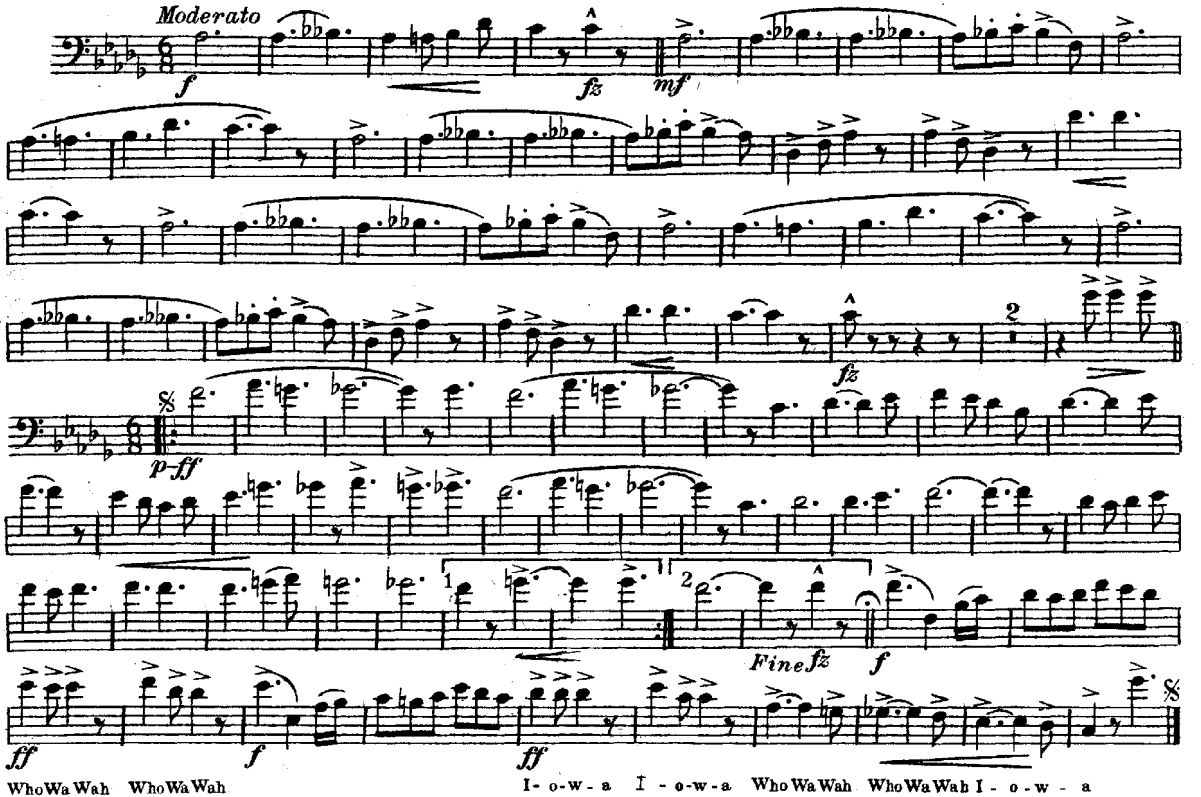
Baritone 9:



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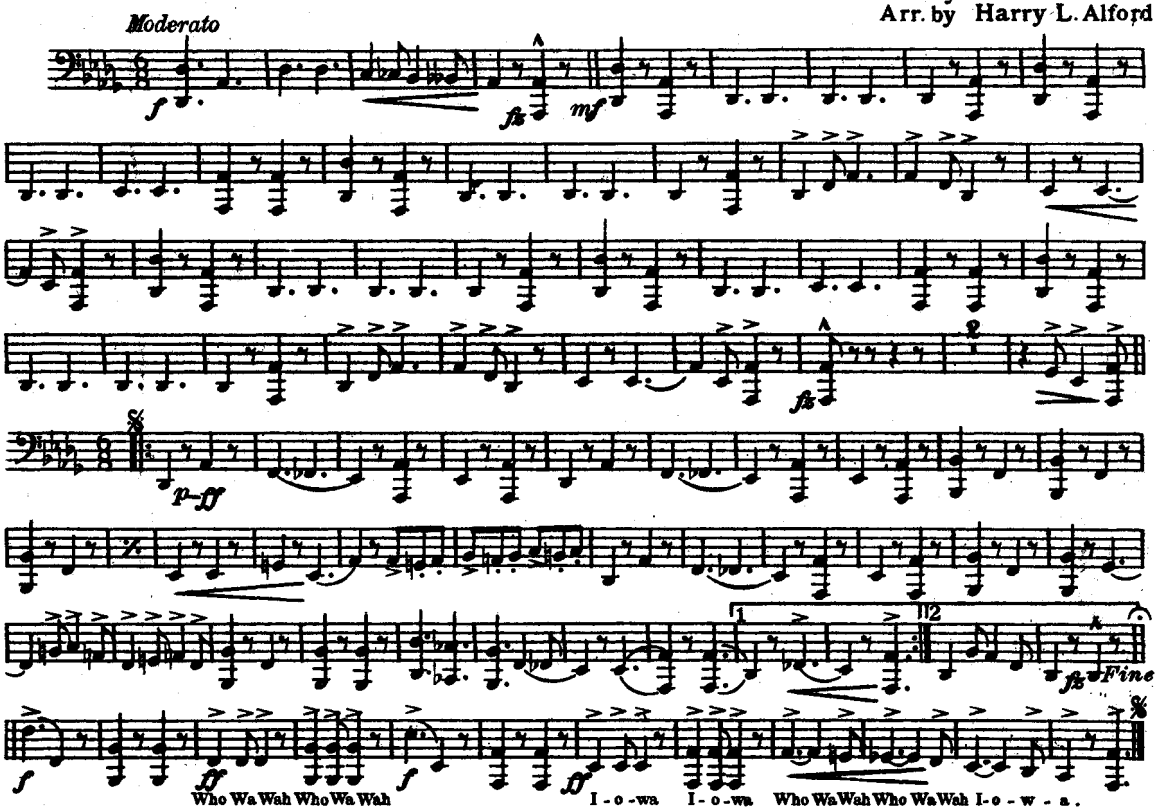
Basses

On! Iowa!

By W. R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford



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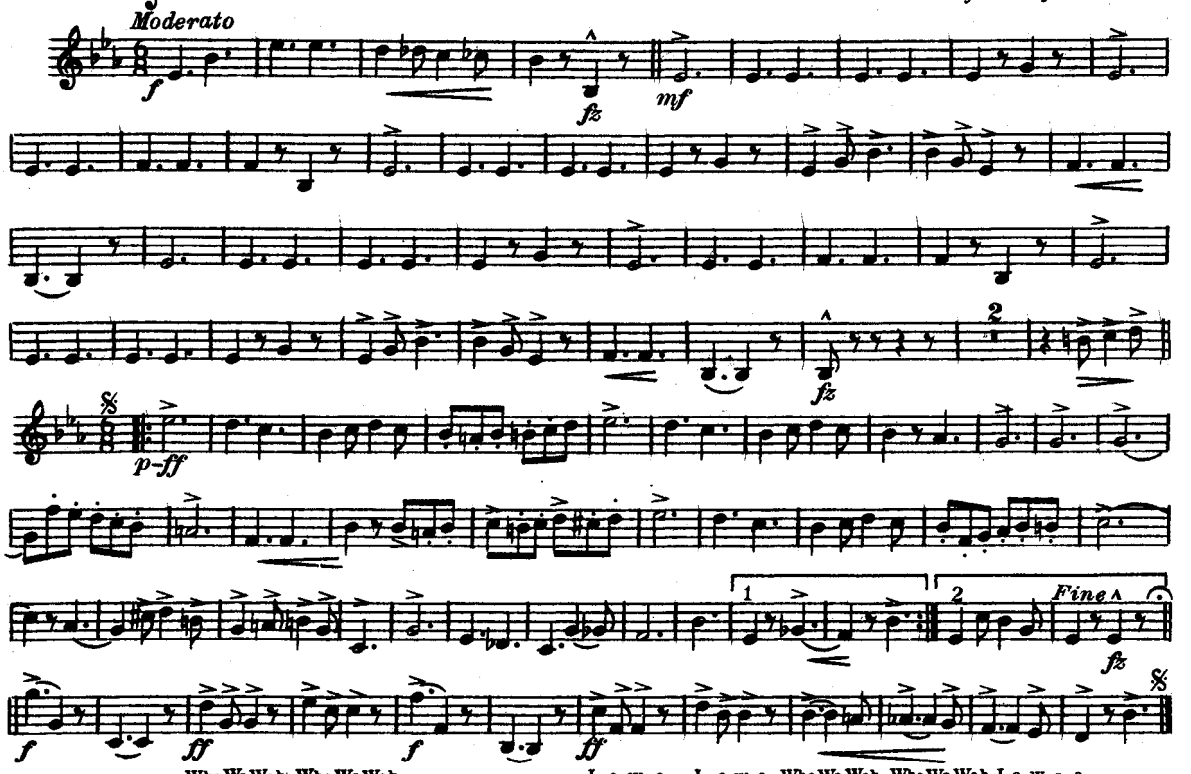
On! Iowa!

By W.R. LAW
Arr. by Harry L. Alford

B♭ Bass



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Drums

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Arr. by Harry L. Alford

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