

The Southerner March (Pub = BA, 1908-54. Gr = 4. T = 2:40. Rec = CR-ABA-75-1, LA St. Un., Swor)

This is one of Russell Alexander's most popular marches. A strong introduction, interesting melodies and countermelodies, dynamic changes that lift the listener out of his seat, and challenging parts for everybody in the band—these are the features of *The Southerner March*. The dedication on the original conductor's part was short and sweet: "To my wife."

HAROLD L. ALFORD

(Born in Blissfield, Michigan, 1883 — Died in Chicago, Illinois, 1939)

Harry Alford studied music at Dana's Musical Institute in Warren, Ohio. He then progressed from church organist to trouper to director of musical comedies, and was best known for his professional arranging bureau in the Chicago area. In the days of vaudeville, his pit orchestra music for *Eva Taguay* made him so famous that every act wanted their music scored by him. He also published many of his own works including an edition of the *Hungry Five* books for German band.

When A.A. Harding was director of the University of Illinois Bands, he commissioned Alford to score some of his first big football band extravaganzas, including *My Hero* and *The World is Waiting for the Sunrise*. He was thus an important pioneer in this still-flourishing area of school band development during the three decades preceding World War II. Although the Chatfield, Minnesota Free Lending Library lists nearly 100 of his compositions and arrangements in its holdings, Alford is best remembered for his *Glory of the Gridiron March* and the *Purple Carnival March*. (Robert Hoe, Jr., Poughkeepsie, New York)

Purple Carnival March (Ed = Erickson. Pub = GS, 1933-69. Gr = 4. T = 3:50. Rec = CR-ABA-75-4, Un. of New Orleans, Bush)

Harold Alford wrote this stirring march in 1933, and its popularity is still as great as ever. The brass fanfare and idiomatic use of the woodwinds show Alford's knowledge of instrumental color and technique. The march was originally dedicated to Glenn Cliffe Bainum and the Northwestern University Band. Frank Erickson edited and revised the work for concert band in 1969.

KENNETH J. ALFORD

(Born in London, 1881 — Died in London, 1945)

Alford's actual name was Fred J. Ricketts. He studied both piano and organ as a child and by the age of fourteen was playing cornet in the Royal Irish Regiment Band. He completed the bandmaster's course at the Royal Military School of Music at Kneller Hall in 1908 and wrote many of his marches during the next two decades while he was bandmaster of the Second Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. In 1928 Alford became director of music for the Royal Marines at Deal, near the English Channel, and in 1930 he was transferred to Plymouth where he remained until his retirement in 1944. Although he wrote several instrumental duets and suites, Alford is best remembered for his restrained and dignified "poetic" marches. He was as famous in England for his marches as Sousa was in the United States.