The Stars and Stripes Forever! was made the official march of the U.S. in 1987. John Philip Sousa, the famous American composer who wrote the march, became the director of the U.S. Marine Band when he was just 25. He remained there until 1892, leaving to form his own group, called The Sousa Band. This concert band, the most celebrated one in history, lasted for forty years until Sousa’s death in 1932.