Imperial Echos

*Imperial Echoes* (1913) is the title a piece for solo piano by Arnold Safroni that was adapted as a military march and became well known through its frequent use on BBC radio during the Second World War and beyond.

**Original Composition**

*Imperial Echoes* was published by Boosey and Hawkes of London in 1913. Its composer, George Arnold Haynes Safroni-Middleton (1873–1950), used the name Arnold Safroni for professional purposes and also composed as W.H. Myddleton.

**HMV recording and Radio Newsreel**

In 1928 the tune was adapted as a march by James Ord Hume (1864–1932) and recorded for His Master's Voice by the Band of the Royal Air Force, conducted by Squadron Leader R.P. O'Donnell, M.V.O. In 1940 the opening and closing parts of this recording were chosen to introduce and close the BBC's daily news programme *Radio Newsreel* (initially, *Radio News Reel*), which was broadcast on both the Home Service in Britain and the Overseas Service (later the World Service). As such it became one of a group of tunes, including *Lillbuler* and Eric Coates' *Calling All Workers*, that became inextricably associated with the BBC's output during the war. *Radio Newsreel*, with its theme, continued until 1970 in Britain and 1988 on the World Service. In 1997 the BBC issued the 1928 recording on compact disc as part of a compilation of television and radio themes.

**Other Versions**

*Imperial Echoes* became a regular part of the repertoire of military bands and was adopted by the Royal Army Pay Corps as its regimental quick march. As such, the tune has been recorded by a number of bands. Other versions have included a jazz interpretation by Acker Bilk and a recording on the organ of the Blackpool Tower Ballroom by Reginald Dixon. It is currently the official march past in quick time for the 3rd Battalion, Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

**Biography**

Safroni-Middleton was born in Kent. He studied violin with Pablo de Sarasate and afterwards started performing as violinist. He played the violin in the Orchestra of "Her Majesty's Theatre" in Sydney, the *Orchestra of the Opera House* in Auckland, the *Providence Opera House* in Providence (Rhode Island), the Tokyo Orchestra, the *Government House (Sarawak) Orchestra* and the *Government House (Hayti) Mexico Orchestra*. As solo performer he toured around Australia, South America, Italy and Spain. Later he became bandmaster of the *Orchestra of the Carl Rosa Opera Company* in London.

He married on Alice Elizabetta St. John on 27 July 1910. Together they had five children: Alice Pauline, Gabrielle, Hugh, Joan and Mary M A. As a writer he wrote many novels, travel guides and poems. He explored Borneo, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia.

As a composer he is mainly known for his marches and dance music for the harmony orchestra. His best known piece is probably *Imperial Echoes* (1913), which for many years was the theme of *Radio Newsreel* on BBC radio.

He died in Streatham and was buried at West Norwood Cemetery on 10 November 1950, age 77.  
–Wikipedia

The score is intended to reflect the march cards from which it was derived, without editing. The writer has sought to present the music as it appears to the musicians, 'warts and all'. A Baritone Saxophone part has been added, a transposition of the Tuba part, with some 8va phrases to avoid the low Ab. The Alto Clarinet, Trumpet and Flugel parts have not been included in this score.
TEMPO DI MARCIA

IMPERIAL ECHOES

Composed by George Arnold Haynes Safroni-Middleton (1873-1950)
a.k.a. Count Safroni, Arnold Safroni and William H. Myddleton

Score Compiled from B & H March Cards by Phil Chapman
IMPERIAL ECHOES - CONCERT BAND SCORE
D.C. al Fine

IMPERIAL ECHOES - CONCERT BAND SCORE