

“Les Toreadors” from the Opera “Carmen” (Suite No. 1) (1875)  
Georges Bizet (1838 – 1875)

The outer sections of this excerpt present a swaggering march that evokes a vivid picture of egocentric toreadors making an entrance to the roar of expectant crowds at a bullfight. The contrasting quieter central section offers one of Bizet’s delightful melodies that is both charming and memorable. Inevitably, someone matched this lovely little tune with some frivolous words: “Toreador, oh don’t spit on the floor. Use the cuspidor; that’s what it’s for.” Is nothing sacred? – sigh!

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