

64.

Popeye the Sailor

Sammy Lerner

Scored for 3 mandolins, guitar



Popeye started life as a syndicated comic strip character in 1929 and immediately became very popular. In 1933, Paramount Pictures started producing Popeye cartoon shorts for screening before its feature films in theaters, and the theme song, *I'm Popeye the Sailor Man*, became ubiquitous. In 1960, King Features commissioned a new series for television, which is where I encountered Popeye. As in the original, this arrangement features a vocal chorus (performed by the Howitzers in unison) and a double-time reprise including quotations from the fiddle tune, *Sailor's Hornpipe*. Somebody should play a whistle of some sort at the right moments.

Mandolin 1

Popeye the Sailor

TV Theme

The musical score is written for a mandolin in 8/8 time, featuring a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is composed of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The second staff starts at measure 7, the third at measure 13, and the fourth at measure 19. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

I'm Popeye the Sailor Man,
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.
I'm strong to the finish,
'Cause I eats me spinach,
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.

Mandolin 2

Popeye the Sailor

TV Theme

7

12

17

I'm Popeye the Sailor Man,
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.
I'm strong to the finish,
'Cause I eats me spinach,
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.

Mandolin 3

Popeye the Sailor

TV Theme

7

13

19

I'm Popeye the Sailor Man,
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.
I'm strong to the finish,
'Cause I eats me spinach,
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.

Guitar

Popeye the Sailor

TV Theme



Guitar score for the Popeye the Sailor TV Theme. The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 6/8 time signature. The music is divided into four systems, each with a measure number (1, 7, 13, 19) at the beginning. The notes are mostly eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests. Chord symbols (A, D, F#m, E, B7) are placed above the staff to indicate the harmony. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 A D A D

7 A F#m A E A A

13 D A A D A

19 B7 E A

I'm Popeye the Sailor Man,
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.
I'm strong to the finish,
'Cause I eats me spinach,
I'm Popeye the Sailor Man.