

Key of B \flat

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Words by Katharine Lee Bates

Music by Samuel Augustus Ward

Broadly

Piano introduction in B \flat major, 4/4 time. The music is marked *f* (forte). It begins with a whole rest in the treble clef and a series of chords in the right hand and single notes in the left hand.

3

F7

B \flat

F7

Bdim7

F7/C

F7

1. Oh, beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of
 2. Oh, beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, whose stern im - pas - sioned
 3. Oh, beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing
 4. Oh, beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the

mf

6

B \flat

Bdim7

F7/C

B \flat

Bdim7

F/C

grain, stress, strife, years, For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties, a -
 A thor - ough - fare for free dom beat, a -
 Who more than self their coun - try loved, and
 Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam un -

Key of C

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Words by Katharine Lee Bates

Music by Samuel Augustus Ward

Broadly

Piano introduction in 4/4 time, marked *f*. The music consists of a series of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

3

G7 C G7 C#dim7 G7/D G7

1. Oh, beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of
 2. Oh, beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, whose stern im - pas - sioned
 3. Oh, beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - at - ing
 4. Oh, beau - ti - ful for pa - triot dream that sees be - yond the

Vocal line with four verses of lyrics. Piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. Chords are indicated above the vocal line.

6

C C#dim7 G7/D C C#dim7 G/D

grain, For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties, a -
 stress, A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat, a -
 strife, Who more than self their coun - try loved, and
 years, Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam un -

Vocal line with lyrics. Piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, marked *mf*. Chords are indicated above the vocal line.

The origins of the melody are obscure. In mid-eighteenth-century London, there was a club of bon vivants called The Anacreontic Society named after the ancient Greek poet, Anacreon, who had a philosophy that today might be called “let the good times roll.” The Society often featured musical entertainment, and in about 1750, the tune, then called “To Anacreon in Heaven,” made its appearance as a drinking song. The earliest printing lists John Stafford Smith as the arranger, but it is unclear whether he actually composed the melody or, as some musicologists have alleged, adapted an old hunting call.

Since the first phrase can be played on a horn without using valves, this supposition is entirely possible. The printed arrangement was for a choral group with the melody divided between low and high voices. This explains why the vocal range of the song is so large (an octave plus a perfect fifth), something which has caused major problems for many a singer.

Nevertheless, Key’s song achieved immediate and lasting success. Finally, by an act of Congress in 1931, “The Star-Spangled Banner” was declared the official national anthem of the United States of America.

Key of $A\flat$

THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Words by Francis Scott Key

Music by John Stafford Smith

Moderato

N.C. $A\flat$ $E\flat/G$ Fm $C7/E$ Fm $B\flat7$

Oh, — say can you see by the dawn's ear - ly
On the shore dim - ly seen through the mist of the
And — where is that band who so vaunt - ing - ly
Oh! — thus be it ev - er, when free - men shall

mf

4 $E\flat$ $A\flat$ $E\flat$ $E\flat/D\flat$ $A\flat/C$ $N.C.$

light, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last
deep, Where the foe's haugh - ty host in dread si - lence re -
swore, 'Mid the hav - oc of war and the bat - tle's con -
stand Be - tween their loved homes and the war's des - o -

Key of B \flat
THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

Words by Francis Scott Key

Music by John Stafford Smith

Moderato

N.C. B \flat F/A Gm D7/F \sharp Gm C7

Oh, — say can you see by the dawn's ear - ly
 On the shore dim - ly seen through the mist of the
 And — where is that band who so vaunt - ing - ly
 Oh, — thus be it ev - er, when free - men shall

mf

4 F B \flat F F/E \flat B \flat /D N.C.

light deep, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last
 stood, Where the foe's haugh - ty host in dread si - lence re -
 and the 'Mid the hav - oc of war and the bat - tle's con -
 stand Be - tween their loved homes and the war's des - o -