

Arrangement IV

America The Dream

Intermediate Choir

Three parts with piano
accompaniment, includes Bridge



"I have a dream..."

A new "America the Beautiful"
inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

“From every mountainside, let freedom ring.”

–Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On a summer day in 1893, Katharine Lee Bates jotted down words for “America the Beautiful” while looking out from the 14,000–foot summit of Pikes Peak. She had no way of knowing her poem would one day become famous as a song. At the time, she wrote: *“Near the top we had to leave the wagon and go the rest of the way on mules. I was very tired. But when I saw the view, I felt great joy. All the wonder of America seemed displayed there, with the sea-like expanse.”*

Since then many people have loved the song. It’s even been regarded by some as our “unofficial” national anthem. Along the way, the original lyrics changed with different musical settings. A hymn melody by Samuel A. Ward eventually became the “America the Beautiful” most people know today, with “purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain.” But there still was no actual chorus. These days the later verses are rarely even sung. Language changes with time. So does awareness of inclusion and diversity.

More than a century later, mountains remain a powerful image in Dr. King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. *“From every mountain side... let freedom ring!”* This past year, for our town’s MLK Day celebration, my friend Mike Bradley and I wondered: What if we had an anthem everyone could sing together? A song for all ages, colors, religions and beliefs. What if we could weave together the vision of “America the Beautiful” with Dr. King’s dream for all America?

And so these new lyrics were born, first sung by our children’s chorus. By the last verse, there was not a dry eye in the crowd. At a time when our country feels increasingly fractured, songs like this help bring us together. They remind us of the dreams we share in common: the promise of an America that is more than any one of us alone.

Available free sheet music and music videos for this song include:

- Simple Lead Sheet (with piano and guitar chords)
- Adult Chorus and Children’s Chorus arrangements (two and three parts with piano accompaniment)
- SATB Choir (a capella intermediate and advanced versions)

If you have additional verses or a performance you’d like to share, please email a copy or link to us at the web site: AmericaTheDream.org

Keep Singing,

Steve Schuch

America the Dream

"America the Beautiful" lyrics by Katharine Lee Bates • Melody by Samuel A. Ward

New lyrics by Steve Schuch and Mike Bradley • Arr. © 2020 Steve Schuch / Night Heron Music (ASCAP)

Oh beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain
 For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain
 Oh beautiful for freedom's hope, although at times unseen
 The promise one day we will see the long awaited dream

*America, America, God grant that we may see
 True brotherhood and sisterhood from sea to shining sea*

Oh beautiful when worth is found in every single face
 When content of our character eclipses rank and race

*America, America, God grant that we may see
 True brotherhood and sisterhood from sea to shining sea*

For the spacious skies	<i>(For the waves of grain)</i>
Every single face	<i>(Every rank and race)</i>
For the hope unseen	<i>(Till it's seen)</i>
The long awaited dream	

Oh beautiful when children sing... free from hate and fear
 Now hear their laughter pure and sweet, young voices ringing clear

*America, America, God grant that we may see
 True brotherhood and sisterhood from sea to shining sea
 True brotherhood and sisterhood
 From sea__ to__ shin__ing__ sea_____*
A-mer-i-ca!

*ALT. CHORUS OPTIONS America, America, Oh grant that we may/will be
 United as one family, from sea to shining sea*

America the Dream

Version IV: Intermediate Choir (three voices + bridge)

melody by Samuel A. Ward
original lyrics by Katharine Lee Bates
new lyrics by Steve Schuch and Mike Bradley
arr. by William Fletcher and Steve Schuch

Andante

♩ = 90

(optional solo verse 1)

E♭ Cm B♭/D B♭ Cm⁷ F/A F B♭ F^{7(sus4)} *mp*

1. Oh

mf *p*

Detailed description: This system contains the first five measures of the piece. It features three vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) and a piano accompaniment. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and includes a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand. The first vocal staff has a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking at the end of the system. The lyrics '1. Oh' are written below the first vocal staff.

5 B♭/D B♭ F/A F Cm F(sus4) F B♭ F

beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain. For

Detailed description: This system contains measures 5 through 9. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The piano part continues with a melodic line in the right hand and a supporting bass line in the left hand. The lyrics 'beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain. For' are written below the first vocal staff.

9 $B\flat$ Gm F/A F G G^7 C F (*tutti*)

pur - ple moun-tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain. 2. Oh
mp

2. Oh

13 $B\flat$ Gm Cm $F(\text{add}9)$ Cm^7 Dm $E\flat$ F^7 $B\flat$ $B\flat/F$ F

beau - ti - ful for free - dom's hope, al - though at times un - seen. The
beau - ti - ful for free - dom's hope, al-though at times un - seen_____ The

17 $B\flat$ Gm F G C F

pro - mise one day we will see the long a - wait - ed dream. *f* A -
pro - mise one day we will see the long a - wait - ed dream_____ *f* A -

21 $B\flat$ $B\flat/D$ $E\flat(9)$ $F(9)$ $Cm/E\flat$ Cm^7/F $B\flat(sus4)$ $B\flat$

mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God grant that we may see true

mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God grant that we may see true

25 $E\flat(9)$ $B\flat(9)/D$ Cm^7 F^9 $B\flat$

bro - ther - hood and sis - ter - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

optional alto divisi
sea to shin - ing sea.

bro - ther - hood and sis - ter - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

29 $E\flat(9)$ Cm $B\flat/D$ $B\flat$ Cm F/A

32 $B\flat$ $F7(sus4)$ *mf* $B\flat(add9)$ Gm $Cm7$ $F(add9)/A$ $E\flat$ F $Cm7$ F $B\flat$ $F(sus4)$ F

3. Oh beau - ti - ful when worth is found, in ev - 'ry sin - gle face. When

3. Oh beau - ti - ful when worth is found, in ev - 'ry sin - gle face_____ When

p

C F
f

A -

$B\flat(add9)$ $Gm7$ $F(add9)$ $Dm7$ G $Am7$ G/B $G7$ *f*

con - tent of our char - ac - ter e - clip - ses rank and race. A -

con - tent of our char - ac - ter e - clip - ses rank_ and_ race_____ A

41 B \flat B \flat /D E \flat (add9) F(add9) Cm/E \flat F B \flat (sus4) B \flat

mer - ic - ca, A - mer - i - ca grant we may see true

mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God grant that we may see true

mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God grant that we may see true

45 E \flat (add9) B \flat /D Cm 7 F B \flat

bro - ther-hood sis - ter-hood sea to shin - ing sea.

bro - ther - hood and sis - ter-hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

bro - ther - hood and sis - ter - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

Bridge

49 $E_b^{(add9)}$ Gm^7/D $Cm^7(add9)$ $F^9(sus4)$

mp

For the spa - cious skies _____ Ev-'ry sin - gle face _____

mp

For the waves of grain _____ Ev-'ry rank and race _____

mp

hmmm _____ ahh _____

pp

53 Cm^7 Gm^7 Bb E_b Cm^7 F

For the hope un-seen _____ the long a-wait-ed dream _____

Till it's seen, the long a-wait-ed dream _____ 4. Oh

ohh _____ the long a-wait-ed dream _____ 4. Oh

58 Bb/F F Cm^7/F $Bb(9)/F$ F

Beau - ti - ful chil - dren sing free from fear.

beau - ti - ful when chil - dren sing free from hate and fear. Now

beau - ti - ful when chil - dren sing free from hate and fear. Now

62 Bb/F F G^7/F $C^7(sus^4)$ *ff*

Hear pure and sweet, young voi - ces ring - ing clear A -

hear their laugh - ter pure and sweet, young voi - ces ring - ing clear. A -

hear their laugh - ter pure and sweet voi - ces ring - ing clear A -

66 $B\flat$ F/A $E\flat(\text{add}9)$ F Cm^7 F $B\flat^9(\text{sus}4)$ $B\flat$ $B\flat\text{maj}^7$
(note A natural)

mer - ic - ca, A - mer - i - ca grant we may see True

mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God grant that we may see True

mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God grant that we may see True

ff

70 $E\flat(\text{add}9)$ $B\flat/D$ $Cm^7/E\flat$ Cm^7/F Gm

bro - ther hood sis - ter - hood sea to shin - ing sea. True

bro - ther - hood and sis - ter - hood from sea to shin - ing sea. True

bro - ther - hood and sis - ter - hood from sea to shin - ing sea. True

mf

74 Cm7 Eb Bb/D Gm Cm7/F F

bro - ther - hood sis - ter - hood sea to shin - ing

bro - ther - hood and sis - ter - hood from sea to shin - ing

bro - ther - hood_ and sis - ter - hood_ from sea to shin - ing

ff

78 Eb(add9) Bb/D Cm7 F(sus4) F Bb

rit.

sea A - mer - i - ca!

sea

sea

rit.



America The Dream

This project is the work of many hands.
Thank you to all of them, and for your interest, too.

AmericaTheDream.org

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