

Arrangement V

America The Dream

Mixed Choir
Intermediate a capella



"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)

INTRO Every mountainside *(Let freedom ring)*
 Every voice that sings *(Let freedom ring)*
 For the hope unseen
 The long awaited dream...

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 *(For the waves of grain)*
 Every single face *(Every rank and race)*
 For the hope unseen *(Till it's seen)*
 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_____*

*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 V: Intermediate SATB (with optional Intro)

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

Freely
♩ = 90

The musical score is arranged for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Freely' with a quarter note equal to 90 beats per minute. The score includes lyrics and dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). The Soprano part has two optional solo sections. The Alto and Tenor parts feature long, sustained notes. The Bass part includes the lyrics 'Ah', 'Let free-dom ring', and 'Let free-dom ring'. The Piano part is marked 'Piano (for rehearsal only)' and includes chord symbols: Bm7, A(sus4), Bm7, and E.

Soprano *mf* (optional solo) Ev-'ry moun-tain-side Ev-'ry voice that sings—

Alto *p* Ah Ah

Tenor *p* Ah Oh

Bass *p* *mf* (optional solo) (optional solo) Ah Let free-dom ring Let free-dom ring

Piano (for rehearsal only) *mf* Bm7 A(sus4) Bm7 E

2

Tutti *f* *rit.* *mf*

S. For the hope un - seen the long a - wait - ed dream Oh

A. For the hope un - seen the long a - wait - ed dream 1. Oh

T. the hope un - seen, the long a - wait - ed dream

B. the long a - wait - ed dream

Pno. *Bm*⁷ *F#m* *D* *Bm* *rit.* *E* *mf*

$\text{♩} = 88$

Andante

10

S. beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain. For pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a -

A. beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain. For pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a -

T. *mp* For pur - ple ma - jes - ties a -

B. *mp* For pur - ple ma - jes - ties a -

Pno. *A* *E* *Bm* *E* *A* *E* *A* *E/G#*

S. *p* bove the fruit-ed plain. Oo

A. *p* bove the fruit-ed plain. Oo Oo Oo doo doo

T. *p* bove the fruit-ed plain. Oo Oo Oo Oo

B. *mf* bove the fruit-ed plain. 2. Oh beau-ti-ful for free-dom's hope, al-though at times un - seen. The

Pno. *mf* *p* F# F#/A# B7 E A A(add9) Bm/A E Bm A/C# D E A E

S. *f* Oo A - mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God

A. *f* Oo doo doo doo doo doo doo A - mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca,

T. *mf* *f* Oo Oo the long a - wait - ed dream A - mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God

B. *f* pro-mise one day we will see the long a - wait - ed dream. A - mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca

Pno. *f* A E F# B7 E A D E

S. *mp*
grant that we may see true bro-ther-hood and sis-ter-hood from sea to shin-ing sea. 3. Oh

A. *mp*
grant that we may see true bro-ther-hood and sis-ter-hood from sea to shin-ing sea. 3. Oh

T. *mp*
grant that we may see true bro-ther-hood, sis-ter-hood sea to shin-ing sea.

B. *mp*
grant that we may see _____ bro-ther-hood, sis-ter-hood from sea to shin-ing sea.

Pno. *mp*
Bm E A A7 D A/C# Bm7 E A

S. *mp*
beau-ti-ful worth is found, in ev-'ry sin-gle face, ev-'ry face. When con-tent of our char-ac-ter e-

A. *mp*
beau-ti-ful when worth is found, in ev-'ry sin-gle face. _____ When con-tent of our char-ac-ter e-

T. *mp*
beau-ti-ful worth is found, in ev-'ry sin-gle face. When con-tent of our char-ac-ter e-

B. *mp*
in ev-'ry sin-gle face. _____ e-

Pno. *mp*
A Bm D C#m Bm7 E A(sus4) E A E

40 5

S. *f*
clip-ses rank and race. A - mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God grant that we may see true

A. *f*
clip-ses rank and race. A - mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, grant that we may see true

T. *f*
clip-ses rank and race. A - mer - i - ca A - mer - i - ca, God grant that we may see true

B. *f*
clip-ses rank and race. A - mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, grant that we may see

Pno. *f*
F# B7 E A D(add9) E Bm D/E A A7

46

S. *mf*
bro - ther-hood and sis - ter-hood from sea to shin - ing sea. For the spa - cious skies

A. *pp*
bro - ther-hood and sis - ter-hood from sea to shin - ing sea. Ah

T. *pp*
bro - ther-hood, sis - ter-hood sea to shin - ing sea. Ah

B. *p*
bro - ther-hood, sis - ter-hood from sea to shin - ing sea.

Pno. *p*
D A/C# A Bm7 E A D

6 51

S. Ev-'ry sin-gle face__ For the hope un-seen__ the *f*

A. Ah__ Oh Till it's seen, the *f*

T. Ah Oh__ Till it's seen, the *f*

B. *mf* For the waves of grain__ Ev-'ry rank and race__ Till it's seen, the *f*

Pno. *F#m Bm E Bm F#m*

56 *rall.* *Andante Maestoso*

S. long a-wait-ed dream__ *mp* 4. Oh beau-ti-ful, when chil-dren sing,

A. long a-wait-ed dream__ *mp* Beau-ti-ful, when chil-dren sing,

T. long a-wait-ed dream__ *mp* Beau-ti-ful, when chil-dren sing,

B. long a-wait-ed dream__ *mp* Oo__

Pno. *D Bm E A(add9) E*

S. free from hate and fear. young

A. free from hate and fear. Now hear their laugh ter pure and sweet, young

T. free from hate and fear. Now hear their laugh - ter pure and sweet, young

B. free from hate and fear hear their laugh - ter pure and sweet, young

Pno. Bm A D⁹ E⁷ A(sus4) E(sus4) A E

S. *ff* voic - es ring - ing clear. A - mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God grant that we may

A. *ff* voic - es ring - ing clear. A mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, God grant that we may

T. *ff* voic - es ring - ing clear. A - mer - i - ca, A mer - i ca, grant that we may

B. *ff* voic - es ring ing clear A mer - i - ca, A - mer - i - ca, grant that we may

Pno. F# B⁷ E A D E/C# Bm D/E

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

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

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

B. see bro - ther-hood, sis - ter-hood from sea to shin - ing sea. True

Pno. A A7 D A Bm7 A E F#m

molto rall.

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

A. bro - ther-hood and sis - ter-hood from sea to shin - ing sea. *optional ending note*

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

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

Pno. D A/C# Bm7 E D A(add9)

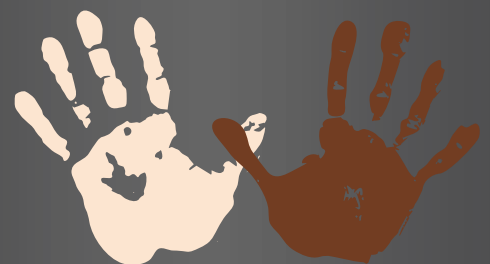


America The Dream

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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