

Arrangement II

America The Dream

Simple Choir
with Piano Accompaniment,
optional Bridge and divisi



"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 spacious skies)</i>
Every single face	<i>(Every single face)</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_____
 Shining 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 II: Simple Choir (with optional bridge)

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

♩ = 90

Andante

(optional solo verse 1)

D A/C# Bm⁷ E A E

1. Oh
mf

5 A(add9) F#m Bm E D/F# E Bm E⁷ A E

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

9 A(add9) F#m Bm E F# F#/A# B(sus4) B⁷ E E⁷(add9)

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

13 A(add9) F#m Bm E D/F# E Bm E7 A E A(add9) F#m

beau - ti - ful for free - dom's hope, al - though at times un - seen. The pro - mise one day
beau - ti - ful when worth is found, in ev - 'ry sin - gle face. When con - tent of our

18 Bm E F# E F#/A# B(sus4) B7 E E7

we will see the long a - wait - ed dream. } A -
char - ac - ter e - clip - ses rank and race.

Chorus suggestion

1st x Unison; 2nd x Harmony

21 A A/C# D E Bm E7(sus4) A A7

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

25 D A/C# Bm7 D E A A7

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

29 D (E) A F#m Bm Bm/A E 3

1. 3. Oh

Optional Bridge & Divisi

33 2. D F#m Bm

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

mf For the spa - cious skies _____

2.

p

37 E Bm F#m D Bm E **poco rall. .**

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

f

Ev' - ry sin - gle face _____ Till it's seen the long a - wait - ed dream _____

f **poco rall. .**

meno mosso

42 *mp* A E(sus4) E Bm A D(add9) E7 A E

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

meno mosso

p

47 A(add9) E/G# E F# F#/A# B(sus4) B E E7

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

Optional Divisi

51 A A/C# D E Bm E7 A A7

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

f

55 *note changes in harmony*

D A/C# Bm7 D E F#m *Unison*⁵

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

59 D(add9) A/C# Bm7 E

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

molto rall.

Optional Divisi

ff A - mer - i - ca!

A A/C# D Bm7 D E E7 A

sea. Shin - ing sea.

molto rall.



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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