

*Arranged by Tim Sharp*

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# THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

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Words by Francis Scott Key

Music by John Stafford Smith

The National Anthem  
for SATB Divisi Voices



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# THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER

for S.A.T.B. divisi voices, a cappella\*

Words by  
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY

Music by  
JOHN STAFFORD SMITH  
Arranged by TIM SHARP

With confidence ( $\text{♩} = 90$ )

*mf*

1 2 3

SOPRANO  
ALTO

O say can you see by the dawn's ear - ly

TENOR  
BASS

O say can you see

4 5 6 7

light, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last

8 9 10 11

gleam - ing, Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the per - i - lous

12 13 14 15

fight, O'er the ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly

watched, were so gal - lant - ly

\*Also available for SATB (JG2451), SSAA (JG2452), TTBB Male Choir (JG2453), TTBB Barbershop (JG2466), 3-Part [SAB] (JG2454), 2-Part (JG2455). All voicings may be sung together, a cappella or accompanied. A piano solo, improvised by Sergei Rachmaninoff in 1918, is available separately from National Music Publishers, NMK1011, and can serve as an accompaniment to all the vocal editions listed here. Band Accompaniment, JG2450B and Orchestra Accompaniment, JG2450S, available separately.

JG2450

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16 *f* *S1* *S2* 17 18 19

stream-ing? And the rock - ets' red glare, the bombs burst - ing in  
rock-et's red glare, burst - ing in,

20 21 22 23

air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still  
burst-ing in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still

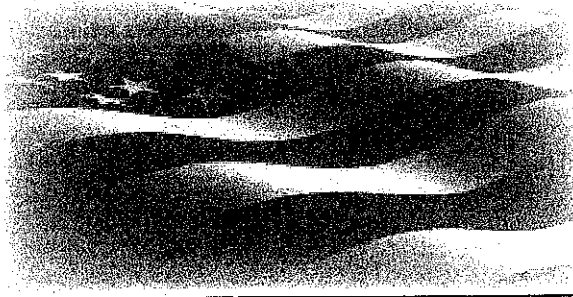
24 *S1* *S2* *A.* *T.B.* *cresc. al fine* 25 26 27

there. (ah) there. O say does that star - span - gled ban - ner yet  
there. O say does that star - span - gled ban - ner yet  
there. O

28 *no breath* 29 *rit. al fine* 30 31 32

wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?  
wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

\*One soprano or select voices.



The story of *The Star-Spangled Banner*, with its several dozen antecedents and offshoots, is the history of the United States of America itself. This history traces not only important events and national heroes but political conflict, philosophical debates, immigration, war, changing social mores, protests, and calls for civil rights—all embedded in a dynamic musical account of democracy.

The tale begins in London around 1775 with the writing of *The Anacreontic Song*, the club anthem of an amateur musicians' society and supper club. Set to music by John Stafford Smith, the popular lyric escaped the confines of club ritual and came to be printed in collections and parodied in London's many theaters. The tune arrived in the new United States by 1790, where it served as a core melody in an active broadside ballad tradition. Poets responded to momentous happenings or political controversy in verses set to popular tunes. *Anacreon*, as it was known, became the vehicle for more than eighty-five different lyrics before 1820.

These songs celebrated America's Independence Day (July 4), praised George Washington, and articulated early partisan conflicts. Best known was *Adams and Liberty* (1798), mustered in defense of the nation's second president, John Adams, during the so-called Quasi-War with France. For Francis Scott Key, the tune was definitively American, not British, and with its energetic, arching melody, it made a natural choice as a melodic vehicle to celebrate the nation's unlikely victory at Baltimore in *Defense of Fort McHenry*, (the original title of his song that would soon become known as *The Star-Spangled Banner*).

Key's *Banner* quickly became popular and entered the repertory of American patriotic song, alongside *Yankee Doodle*, *America*, *Chester*, and the nation's default anthem, *Hail, Columbia!* Each subsequent performance of Key's future anthem inscribed words and melody more and more deeply into the collective national consciousness. Galvanized by the US Civil War, *The Star-Spangled Banner* came to represent not only the flag but the nation itself. Most significantly, the song inspired Secretary of the Navy Theodore Roosevelt in 1889 and President Woodrow Wilson in 1917 to revise military regulations to name *The Star-Spangled Banner* the official anthem of the US military. It would take Congress another fourteen years to officially recognize what had already become obvious to the general public. On March 3, 1931, *The Star-Spangled Banner* became the national anthem of the United States of America.

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