

God Bless the U.S.A.

9 10 7

thank my luck - y stars — to be liv - ing here to - day, — 'cause the

oo

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of music. The treble clef staff has a key signature of two flats (Bb, Eb) and a 3/4 time signature. It features a melodic line starting on a whole note G4, followed by quarter notes F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, and a quarter rest. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with a bass line of G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, and a quarter rest. The lyrics are positioned between the staves.

11 12

flag still stands for free - dom, and they can't take that a - way.

Detailed description: This system contains the next two staves of music. The treble clef staff continues the melody with quarter notes G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, and a quarter rest. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with quarter notes G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, and a quarter rest. The lyrics are positioned between the staves.

Chorus 1

13 14

And I'm proud to be an A - mer - i - can, where at

Detailed description: This system contains the first two staves of the chorus. The treble clef staff begins with a dotted quarter note G3, followed by quarter notes F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, and a quarter rest. The bass clef staff begins with a dotted quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, and a quarter rest. The lyrics are positioned between the staves.

15 16

least I know I'm free. And I won't for - get the men who died, — who

Detailed description: This system contains the final two staves of the chorus. The treble clef staff continues with quarter notes G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2, and a quarter rest. The bass clef staff continues with quarter notes G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1, G1, and a quarter rest. The lyrics are positioned between the staves.

17 18

gave that right to me. — And I'd glad - ly stand up next to you — and de -

next to you —

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation, spanning measures 17 and 18. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The melody in the treble clef includes a fermata over measure 18. The lyrics are positioned below the staffs.

19 20

fend her still to - day. — 'Cause there ain't no doubt — I — love this land. —

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation, spanning measures 19 and 20. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 8/8. The melody in the treble clef includes a fermata over measure 20. The lyrics are positioned below the staffs.

21 22 23

God bless the U. S. A. — do do do do —

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of musical notation, spanning measures 21, 22, and 23. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 8/8. Measure 22 contains a whole note chord with a fermata. The lyrics are positioned below the staffs.

Interlude

Oo —

24 25

Do do do do do do do do do do — From the

Oo —

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of musical notation, spanning measures 24 and 25. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 8/8. Measure 24 contains a whole note chord with a fermata. The lyrics are positioned below the staffs.

God Bless the U.S.A.

Verse 2

oo Min-ne - so - ta, hills, Ten-nes - see, —

26 27 7 7

lakes of Min - ne - so - ta — to the hills of Ten-nes - see, — a -

oo Min-ne - so - ta, hills, Ten-nes - see, —

Tex - as, my Tex - as, oo ah

28 29 7 7

cross the plains — of Tex - as, — from sea to shin - ing sea, —

Tex - as, my Tex - as, oo ah —

oo

30 31 7 7

De-troit down to Hous - ton and New York to — L. A., — well, there's

oo

32 33 34 7 7 7

pride in ev - 'ry A-mer-i-can heart, and it's time we stand and say: — That I'm

Chorus 2

35 proud to be an A-mer-i-can, where at 36 least I know I'm free. And I

Musical notation for measures 35 and 36, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "proud to be an A-mer-i-can, where at least I know I'm free. And I".

37 won't for-get the men who died,— who 38 gave that right to me.— And I'd glad-ly

Musical notation for measures 37 and 38, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "won't for-get the men who died,— who gave that right to me.— And I'd glad-ly".

39 stand up next to you— and de - fend her still to-day.— 'Cause there
next to you—

Musical notation for measures 39 and 40, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "stand up next to you— and de - fend her still to-day.— 'Cause there next to you—".

41 ain't no doubt— I— love this land.— 42 God bless the U. S.

Musical notation for measures 41 and 42, featuring a treble and bass staff with lyrics: "ain't no doubt— I— love this land.— God bless the U. S.". The final measure (42) ends with a double bar line.

43 44

A. _____

And I'm

Chorus 3

45 46

proud to be an A-mer-i-can, where at least I know I'm free. And I

47 48

won't for-get the men who died, — who gave that right to me. — And I'd glad-ly

49 50

stand up next to you — and de - fend her still to - day. — 'Cause there

next to you.

God Bless the U.S.A.

7

Musical notation for the first system of the song. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody in the treble staff starts at measure 51 with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, C5, and D5. Measure 52 features a half note G4. The bass line in the bass staff follows a similar pattern, starting with a quarter note G2 and moving up stepwise. The lyrics "ain't no doubt I love this land. God bless the U. S." are written below the staves.

Musical notation for the second system, labeled "Tag". It consists of two staves. The treble staff begins at measure 53 with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4. Measure 54 contains a half note B4. Measure 55 has a half note C5, and measure 56 has a half note D5. The bass staff provides accompaniment with quarter notes. The lyrics "A. God bless the U. S." are written below the staves.

Musical notation for the third system. It consists of two staves. The treble staff starts at measure 57 with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4. Measure 58 has a half note B4, and measure 59 has a half note C5. Measure 60 has a half note D5. The bass staff continues the accompaniment. The lyrics "A! God bless the U. S. A!" are written below the staves.

Performance Notes

Like many great careers, Lee Greenwood's had humble beginnings, on a farm near Sacramento, California. By the time he was 14, he could play most of the instruments in the junior high school orchestra and formed his first band while still in junior high. By the time he had graduated from high school, he was already a seasoned performer, skipping his own high school graduation because he was booked to perform a standing engagement at the Golden Hotel & Casino (now Harrah's), in Reno, Nevada.

His first three albums achieved gold status, and his *Greatest Hits* quickly went to platinum. In 1985 the Country Music Association awarded him Song of the Year honors for penning words and music to *God Bless the USA*. Since the tragedies of September 11, Lee has seen his signature hit take on yet another incarnation, skyrocketing back into the Top 20.

Brian Beck, supreme musician, barbershop singer, professional jingle singer, arranger and coach, is also a gold medal winner in two international champion quartets: 1973 *Dealer's Choice* (baritone) and 1983 *Side Street Ramblers* (lead). Remarkably, he has performed each of the four parts in top ten finalist quartets. Memorable songs he has written include *A Song Like Daddy Used to Play* and *I'm Sorry I Made You Cry*, which finishes with the now famous "Cry" tag. His arrangement of *God Bless the USA* has become a classic.

Maintaining a steady, smooth-flowing beat will help you give an inspirational performance. Find the tempo that seems to express a feeling of patriotism. A chorus may wish to experiment with using a few select voices or a soloist to sing the lead solo parts. If you choose this option, have the chorus leads sing a neutral vowel. The rhythms, although challenging, fall into a natural expression of the lyrics. Optional bass notes can be used if your basses cannot sing the lower notes.

As a final note: Questions about the contest suitability of this or any other song/arrangement should be directed to the judging community and measured against current contest rules. Ask *before* you sing.