

Side Notes: I've started arrangements of this many times, so it seems fitting that the final version of this was finally finished on July 4th. The beginnings of this song started 130 years ago in the summer of 1893 when Katharine Lee Bates, Professor of Literature in Massachusetts, set out for Colorado to teach summer courses at Colorado College. Along the way she stopped in Chicago to visit the world's fair. At that time there was a worry among some that the industrialization and growth of cities would isolate people from nature and make them not appreciate the people around them. After arriving in Colorado Springs, Colorado to teach, she took a wagon to Pike's Peak and the views inspired her to write a poem she titled "America". It was first published on the Fourth of July in 1895, but in subsequent years she added additional lines to the poem. The poem was later set to Samuel Ward's tune "Materna" and the modern day version of this song was born. It's been what some people have called "the national hymn" ever since. If 'The Star-Spangled Banner' boldly proclaims the country's greatness as fact, 'America the Beautiful' is more aspirational. The message in the lyrics "America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good with brotherhood, from sea to shining sea" are needed even more today than ever!

# America the Beautiful

Samuel A Ward

Arr. JASON TONIOLI

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It begins with a piano introduction in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major, marked *mp*. The melody is in the right hand, and the bass line is in the left hand. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score is divided into four systems, with measures 6, 11, and 15 marked at the beginning of each system. The tempo is marked *rit.* (ritardando) at measure 11. The lyrics are: "Beau - ti - ful for spa - cious skies, for am - ber waves of grain, For pur - ple moun - tain ma - jes - ties a - bove the fruit - ed plain! A - mer - i - ca A - mer - i - ca! God shed his grace on thee, And crown thy good with bro - ther - hood from".

20  
 sea to shi - ning sea. Oh,

25  
 beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern im - pas - sioned stress, A

29  
 thor - ough-fare of free - dom beat a - cross the wil - der - ness! A -

33  
 mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev' - ry flaw, Con -

37  
 firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy li - ber - ty in law.