

M2: Patriotic Songs: The Star-Spangled Banner (official national anthem)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyGseT2Fiqo> (with pictures) or https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqxJ_iuBPCs (long version)



Oh, say can you see, by the dawn's¹ early light,
What so proudly we hailed² at the twilight³'s last gleaming⁴?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous⁵ fight,
O'er the ramparts⁶ we watched were so gallantly⁷ streaming?
5 And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.
Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
On the shore, dimly seen through the mists of the deep,
10 Where the foe's⁸ haughty host in dread silence reposes⁹,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep¹⁰,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals¹¹, half discloses¹²?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam¹³,
In full glory reflected now shines in the stream:
15 'Tis the star-spangled banner! Oh long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!
And where is that band who so vauntingly¹⁴ swore
That the havoc¹⁵ of war and the battle's confusion,
A home and a country should leave us no more!
20 Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom¹⁶ of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!
25 Oh! thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand
Between their loved home and the war's desolation.¹⁷
Blest with victory and peace, may the heav'n rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
30 And this be our motto: "In God is our trust."
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

¹ first light of the day
² to greet ³ opposite of "dawn"
⁴ to shine ⁵ dangerous
⁶ barricade ⁷ brave



⁸ enemy ⁹ to rest
¹⁰ steil
¹¹ to cover ¹² to uncover
¹³ light

¹⁴ in an arrogant way
¹⁵ chaos

¹⁶ misery

¹⁷ greyness

M2: Patriotic Songs: The Star-Spangled Banner (official national anthem):

Background information:

- Official national anthem since 1931; usually only the first part (ll.1-8) is sung.
- Originally a poem entitled "The Defense of Fort McHenry".
- Written by Francis Scott Key in 1814 during the War of 1812.
- The verses tell of the Battle of Baltimore, a days-long siege between British and American forces
 - ➔ Message: celebration of patriotism; America = land of the free and the brave
 - ➔ However: controversial for various reasons
 - Francis Scott Key used to be a slaveholder
 - Lyrics very martial: for example l. 5, l. 10, ll.20ff., ll.28f. (reference to the War of 1812, references to slavery; l. 5 can be misunderstood as an acceptance of rockets etc., also compare ll.28f.)
- There are very specific rules (the "Flag Code"):
 - Everyone is expected to stand and face the flag; military personnel or veterans have to salute, all other people have to stand with the right hand over heart.
 - Singing is not obligatory, but it is highly encouraged.
 - In the past, changing (even embellishing) the anthem in a performance could be punished.
 - In most schools, students do not have to sing the national anthem every day, but are required to say the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of every day
 - The anthem has to be played before all important sports events, some associations like the NFL or NBA explicitly require certain forms of "respect" (In 2016, Colin Kaepernick was the first (NFL) player who was expelled for kneeling down as a form of protest (BLM) while the anthem was played.

Sources:

<https://edition.cnn.com/interactive/2018/07/us/national-anthem-annotated/> (last accessed March 19, 2023);

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-37208404> (last accessed March 19, 2023);

<https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/2148/national-anthem-government-regulation#:~:text=Most%20controversies%20centering%20on%20%E2%80%9Cthe anthem%20in%20silent%20protest%20against> (19/02/2023); <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/04/sports/football/anthem-kneeling-sports.html> (last accessed March 19, 2023);

<https://www.republicworld.com/sports-news/other-sports/was-colin-kaepernick-fired-from-the-49ers-nfl-star-cut-ties-with-team.html> (last accessed March 19, 2023)

M2: Patriotic Songs: America the Beautiful (“unofficial” national anthem):

- Very patriotic song, praising the beauty of America; many people consider it the unofficial anthem
- It was first a poem written in 1893 by Lee Bates.
- At least 70 tunes had been composed until Samuel A. Ward’s music was chosen in 1910.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLyAyuf1I1Q> (with patriotic pictures)



Oh beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife¹
Who more than self, their country loved
And mercy more than life
5 America, America may God thy gold refine
'Til all success be nobleness
And every gain divined
And you know when I was in school
We used to sing it something like this, listen here
10 Oh beautiful, for spacious skies
For amber waves of grain
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain
But now wait a minute, I'm talking about
15 America, sweet America
You know, God done shed his grace on thee
He crowned thy good, yes he did, in brotherhood
From sea to shining sea
You know, I wish I had somebody to help me sing this
20 (America, America, God shed his grace on thee)
America, I love you America, you see
My God he done shed his grace on thee
And you oughta love him for it
'Cause he, he, he, he crowned thy good
25 He told me he would, with brotherhood
(From sea to shining Sea)
Oh Lord, oh Lord, I thank you Lord
(Shining sea)

¹ conflict

M2: Patriotic Songs: God Bless America (“unofficial” national anthem):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= kGAN-rl-OI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kGAN-rl-OI) (with lyrics)

God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above
From the mountains to the prairies
5 To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, land that I love
Stand beside her and guide her
Through the night with the light from above
10 From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
God bless America, my home sweet home
From the mountains to the prairies
To the oceans white with foam
15 God bless America, my home sweet home
God bless America, my home sweet home



Background information:

Today, for many Americans it is their unofficial national anthem of the US: “This simple one-verse song became an overnight hit, and a hopeful song as war threatened. “It’s not a patriotic song,” composer Irving Berlin said in a 1940 interview, “but an expression of gratitude for what this country has done for its citizens, of what home really means.”” <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/music/story-behind-the-song/the-story-behind-the-song/god-bless-america/> (last accessed March 19, 2023)