

oo

9 thank my luck-y stars — 10 to be liv-ing here to-day, — 'cause the

oo

11 flag still stands for free - dom, 12 and they can't take that a-way.

Chorus 1

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

14

15 least I know I'm free. 16 And I won't for - get the men who died, — who

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

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

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

Interlude

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

God Bless the U.S.A.

Verse 2

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

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

Tex - as, my Tex - as, oo ah —

29

oo

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

oo —

31

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

33

34

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, including treble and bass staves with lyrics.

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, including treble and bass staves with lyrics.

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, including treble and bass staves with lyrics.

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

Musical notation for measures 41 and 42, including treble and bass staves with lyrics.

43 44

A. _____

And I'm

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 43 and 44. It features a vocal line in the upper staff and a piano accompaniment in the lower staff. Measure 43 begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature. The vocal line starts with a whole note chord (F3, B-flat3, D4) and a fermata. Measure 44 continues with a half note chord (F3, B-flat3, D4) and a fermata. The piano accompaniment consists of a steady eighth-note bass line in the left hand and a chordal accompaniment in the right hand. The lyrics 'And I'm' are positioned below the vocal line.

Chorus 3

45 46

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

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 45 and 46 of Chorus 3. The key signature changes to three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The vocal line starts with a quarter note 'proud' and continues with eighth-note chords. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the left hand and chords in the right hand. The lyrics 'proud to be an A-mer-i-can, where at least I know I'm free. And I' are written below the vocal line.

47 48

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

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 47 and 48. The vocal line continues with eighth-note chords and a fermata over the word 'died'. The piano accompaniment maintains the eighth-note bass line and chordal accompaniment. The lyrics 'won't for-get the men who died, — who gave that right to me. — And I'd glad-ly' are written below the vocal line.

49 50

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

next to you _____

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 49 and 50. The vocal line starts with a quarter note 'stand' and continues with eighth-note chords. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. The lyrics 'stand up next to you — and de - fend her still to-day. — 'Cause there' are written below the vocal line, with 'next to you' on a separate line below the piano part.

God Bless the U.S.A.

7

Musical notation for the first system of the song. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of G major (one sharp). The treble staff has a treble clef and a 'g' below it. The bass staff has a bass clef and a 'g' below it. The melody in the treble staff starts at measure 51 with a quarter note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. Measure 52 has a half note G4. The bass line in the bass staff starts at measure 51 with a quarter note G2, followed by quarter notes A2, B2, and C3. Measure 52 has a half note G2. The lyrics are: "ain't no doubt — I — love this land. ————— God bless the U. S."

Musical notation for the second system, labeled "Tag". It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a treble clef and a 'g' below it. The bass staff has a bass clef and a 'g' below it. The melody in the treble staff starts at measure 53 with a whole note G4. Measure 54 has a whole note A4. Measure 55 has a whole note B4. Measure 56 has a whole note C5. The bass line in the bass staff starts at measure 53 with a whole note G2. Measure 54 has a whole note A2. Measure 55 has a whole note B2. Measure 56 has a whole note C3. The lyrics are: "A. ————— God bless the U. S."

Musical notation for the third system. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff has a treble clef and a 'g' below it. The bass staff has a bass clef and a 'g' below it. The melody in the treble staff starts at measure 57 with a quarter note G4. Measure 58 has a quarter note A4. Measure 59 has a quarter note B4. Measure 60 has a quarter note C5. The bass line in the bass staff starts at measure 57 with a quarter note G2. Measure 58 has a quarter note A2. Measure 59 has a quarter note B2. Measure 60 has a quarter note C3. The lyrics are: "God bless the U. S. A.! ————— A.! ————— God bless the U. S. A.! —————"

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.