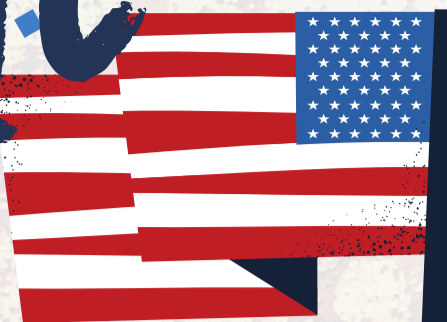
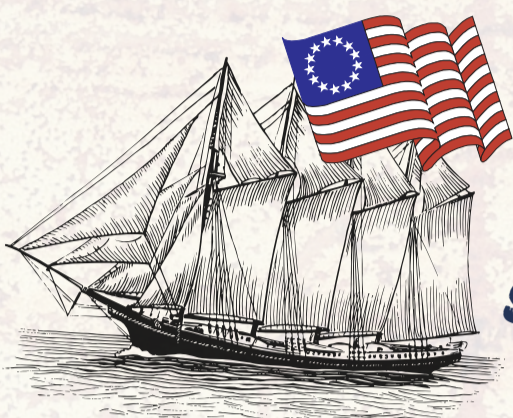


VOS PATRIOTIC CONCERT



STORIES FROM AMERICAN MUSIC HISTORY



1814 THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Written during the Civil War by the abolitionist Julia Ward Howe, the lyrics include many allusions to biblical passages such as Isaiah 63:1–6, Revelation 19 and Revelation 14:14–19 in order to link the Union cause with God's vengeance and the righteousness of abolition.

1896 THE STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER

Written by famous composer Irving Berlin, himself an immigrant, while he was serving in the US Army during WWI, this song wasn't performed publicly until the beginning of WWII. The song, a literal prayer for peace, was first performed on a radio broadcast in 1938. Irving Berlin, a Jewish man, decided to release it then in response to Adolf Hitler's rise to power in Germany,



1940 THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Clare Grundman was a prolific composer who created music for bands of all ages. This is the first of four medleys he arranged using popular US folk tunes from the 20th Century. Of this piece, Grundman wrote: "[it] consists of 'My Little Mohee,' 'Shantyman's Life,' 'Sourwood Mountain,' and 'Sweet Betsy from Pike' - all excellent songs of American folklore, and which have not received the attention they justly deserve."



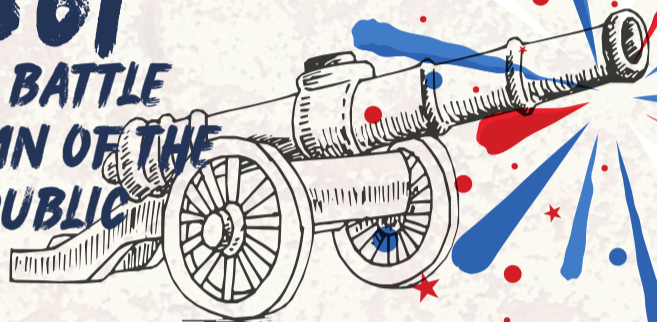
1972 ARMED FORCES MEDLEY

Written by American composer John Williams for NBC's coverage of the Seoul Olympics that year. Williams also wrote a piece, Summon the Heroes, for the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. He also wrote the soundtracks for E.T., Star Wars, and basically every Steven Spielberg Blockbuster since 1980, including the incredible and moving score of Schindler's List.

1999 SMOOTH

The lyrics come from the 1814 poem Defence of Fort M'Henry by the colonial lawyer Francis Scott Key. Key witnessed the Battle of Baltimore (War of 1812). During the bombardment by the British Navy, Key was inspired by the large U.S. flag, with 15 stars and 15 stripes, which remained after the battle, still flying triumphantly above the fort.

1861 THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC



This John Philip Sousa march was declared the "official march of the United States" by a 1987 act of congress!

1918 GOD BLESS AMERICA



Woody Guthrie wrote this, America's most enduring folk anthem, as a (critical) response to Berlin's God Bless America. Coming at the tail end of the Great Depression, Guthrie scoffed at Berlin's rosy picture of the country. He wrote his song for what he saw as the "real" America, including several rarely sung verses that describe hardships faced by poor and disenfranchised Americans.

1947 AMERICAN FOLK Rhapsody No. 1



US Coast Guard: "Semper Paratus" (Always Faithful), 1928
US Air Force: "Wild Blue Yonder" 1940s
US Navy: Naval Academy fight song, Anchors Aweigh, 1908
US Marine Corps: "Marines' Hymn", 1867
US Army: adapted from "The Caisons Go Rolling Along", 1908, called "The Army Song"

1988 OLYMPIC SPIRIT



Originally written and performed by the American rock band Santana, this orchestral arrangement is written by Jerry Brubaker. Brubaker played in the US Navy Band for 30 years, eventually leading the band, until his retirement from the military in 1998!