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# GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

*as sung by the Side Street Ramblers*

Words and Music by LEE GREENWOOD

Arrangement by BRIAN BECK

## Intro

Oo —————

1 2 3 4

Do do do do do do do do do do — do do do do do do do do do — If to-

Oo —————

oo —————

## Verse 1

oo —————

5 6 7

mor - row all — the things — were gone — I'd worked for all — my life, — and I

oo —————

oo ————— ah —

7 8

had to start a - gain — with just — my chil - dren and — my — wife, — I'd

oo ————— ah —

God Bless the U.S.A.

oo

9 10

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

oo

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of musical notation. It features a treble clef staff with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The melody begins at measure 9 with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B-flat4, and C5. Measure 10 continues with quarter notes D5, E-flat5, and F5. The lyrics are written below the staff. A bass clef staff is positioned below the treble staff, showing a simple accompaniment of quarter notes G2, B-flat2, and D3. There are some handwritten annotations, including a 'y' above measure 10 and a '7' above measure 11.

11 12

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

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of musical notation. The treble clef staff continues the melody from measure 11 with quarter notes G4, A4, B-flat4, and C5. Measure 12 continues with quarter notes D5, E-flat5, and F5. The lyrics are written below the staff. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with quarter notes G2, B-flat2, and D3. There are some handwritten annotations, including a 'y' above measure 12 and a '7' above measure 13.

Chorus 1

13 14

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

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of musical notation, labeled 'Chorus 1'. The treble clef staff begins at measure 13 with a half note G4. Measure 14 continues with quarter notes A4, B-flat4, and C5. The lyrics are written below the staff. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with quarter notes G2, B-flat2, and D3. There are some handwritten annotations, including a 'y' above measure 14 and a '7' above measure 15.

15 16

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

Detailed description: This block contains the fourth system of musical notation. The treble clef staff begins at measure 15 with a half note G4. Measure 16 continues with quarter notes A4, B-flat4, and C5. The lyrics are written below the staff. The bass clef staff continues the accompaniment with quarter notes G2, B-flat2, and D3. There are some handwritten annotations, including a 'y' above measure 16 and a '7' above measure 17.

God Bless the U.S.A.

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

19 fend her still to - day. — 'Cause there ain't no doubt — I — love this land. —  
20

21 God bless the U. S. A. —  
22 do do do do —  
23

Interlude

Oo —  
24 Do do do do do do do do do do — From the  
25  
Oo —

God Bless the U.S.A.

Verse 2

oo Min-ne - so - ta, hill Tenn - e - see\_

26 27 21

lakes of Min - ne - so - ta\_ to the hills of Tenn - e - see\_ - a -

oo Min-ne - so - ta, hill Tenn - e - see\_

Tex - as of Tex - as\_ oo ah

8 7 29

cross th' plains of Tex - as\_ from sea to shin - ing sea,

Tex - as of Tex as - oo ah

oo 30 31

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

oo

32 33 34

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

God Bless the U.S.A.

Chorus 2

35 proud to be an A-mer-i-can, 36 where at 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 <sup>ones</sup> 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 40 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. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 3/8. Measure 43 shows a vocal line with a long note and a piano accompaniment with a similar long note. Measure 44 continues this pattern. The lyrics 'And I'm' are written 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#), and the time signature remains 3/8. The vocal line and piano accompaniment are shown. The lyrics are '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 <sup>ones</sup> ~~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 key signature remains three sharps. The vocal line and piano accompaniment are shown. The lyrics are 'won't for-get the <sup>ones</sup> ~~men~~ who died, — who gave that right to me. — And I'd glad - ly'. A handwritten correction 'ones' is visible above the word 'men'.

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 key signature remains three sharps. The vocal line and piano accompaniment are shown. The lyrics are 'stand up next to you — and de - fend her still to - day. — 'Cause there' and 'next to you \_\_\_\_\_'.

God Bless the U.S.A.

7

51 ain't no doubt I love this land. 52 God bless the U. S.

Musical notation for measures 51 and 52, featuring a treble and bass clef staff with lyrics: "ain't no doubt I love this land. God bless the U. S."

53 54 55 56 Tag  
A. God bless the U. S.  
God bless the U. S. A.!

Musical notation for measures 53 through 56, labeled "Tag". It includes a treble and bass clef staff with lyrics: "A. God bless the U. S. God bless the U. S. A.!"

57 58 59 60  
A. out of f  
God bless the U. S. A.!

Musical notation for measures 57 through 60, including a treble and bass clef staff with lyrics: "A. out of f 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.