

# National Anthems Online

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: The Star-Spangled Banner

This song was made the official anthem of the United States by a Bill which passed the Senate on 3 March 1931. Before then, no official anthem existed, although for a long time this song had been the official anthem of the US Army and Navy. The words date from 1814 and were set to the melody of *Anacreon in Heaven*, a song composed in the early 1780s by the young English composer John Stafford Smith, who later became well known as a conductor, singer, organist and composer. The song was specially written for an exclusive society founded in London in 1771, The Anacreontic Society. (Incidentally, the Anacreontic Society was a popular gentlemen's club of amateur musicians, named in honour of Anacreon, a sixth century B.C. Greek lyric poet.) The opening measures of the melody were used by Puccini in his opera *Madama Butterfly*, first produced in Milan in 1904.

A *ritenuto* is often placed in measure 19 and the last four measures of the anthem are often played at a broader pace. In symphonic band use, trumpets and trombones may be omitted in the *piano* section between the last beat of measure 17 and the *anacrusis* before measure 26 if the woodwind section is large enough.

John Stafford Smith (1750-1836)  
Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

♩ = c.88

Part 1  
Part 2  
Part 3  
Part 4  
Part 5  
Part 6  
Timpani  
Cymbals  
Snare drum  
Bass drum

In Bb and F.

You may download the score and the instrumental parts free of charge, making as many copies as you need. However, these may not be subsequently sold. Feedback from users is always welcomed. If you would like to report any mistakes in the music, make comments or suggestions (in English) please contact Colin Kirkpatrick at [doctorcolin@csloxinfo.com](mailto:doctorcolin@csloxinfo.com).

If you perform, record or broadcast this arrangement, please notify the Performing Rights Society (in the UK) or the equivalent performance rights organisation in your own country (e.g. ASCAP in the USA; SOCAN in Canada), listing the name of the anthem and the arranger.

Musical score for measures 7-13. The score includes six string staves (1-6), Timp., Cym., S.D., and B.D. The key signature is B-flat major. Dynamics range from *f* to *mf*. A crescendo hairpin is present in each string part, and a *mf* dynamic is marked at the end of the section.

Musical score for measures 14-20. The score includes six string staves (1-6), Timp., Cym., S.D., and B.D. The key signature is B-flat major. Dynamics range from *f* to *p*. A crescendo hairpin is present in each string part, and a *p* dynamic is marked at the end of the section.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
Timp.  
Cym.  
S.D.  
B.D.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
Timp.  
Cym.  
S.D.  
B.D.

*Slower*