



published by  
**The Barbershop Harmony Society**

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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 ————— oo —————

1                                  2                                  3                                  4

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 —————

7                                  8                                  9

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

oo —————

ah —————

ah —————

9 10 7

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

11 12

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

Chorus 1

13 14

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

15 16

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

17 gave that right to me. — And I'd glad - ly stand up next to you — and de -  
18 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. — do do do do —  
22 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, hills, Ten-nes - see, —

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

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

Tex - as, my Tex - as, oo ah —

oo

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

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, featuring a treble and bass clef with lyrics: "proud to be an A-mer-i-can, where at least I know I'm free. And I".

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, featuring a treble and bass clef with lyrics: "won't for-get the men who died, who gave that right to me. And I'd glad-ly".

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, featuring a treble and bass clef with lyrics: "stand up next to you and de-fend her still to-day. 'Cause there next to you".

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

Musical notation for measures 41 and 42, featuring a treble and bass clef with lyrics: "ain't no doubt I love this land. God bless the U. S.". Measure 42 includes a fermata over the final note.

43 8 A. And I'm

## Chorus 3

45 8 proud to be an A-mer-i-can, where at least I know I'm free. And I

47 8 won't for-get the men who died, — who gave that right to me. — And I'd glad-ly

49 8 stand up next to you — and de-fend her still to-day. — 'Cause there  
next to you —

Musical score for the first system of "God Bless the U.S.A." in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The system consists of two staves: a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with measure 51 and contains the melody. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics "ain't no doubt— I— love this land. God bless the U. S." are written below the treble staff.

Musical score for the second system of "God Bless the U.S.A." in G major and 4/4 time. The system consists of two staves. The treble staff begins with measure 53 and contains the melody. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics "A. God bless the U. S." are written below the treble staff. The word "Tag" is centered above the treble staff.

Musical score for the third system of "God Bless the U.S.A." in G major and 4/4 time. The system consists of two staves. The treble staff begins with measure 57 and contains the melody. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics "A! God bless the U. S. A!" are written below the treble staff.

## 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.