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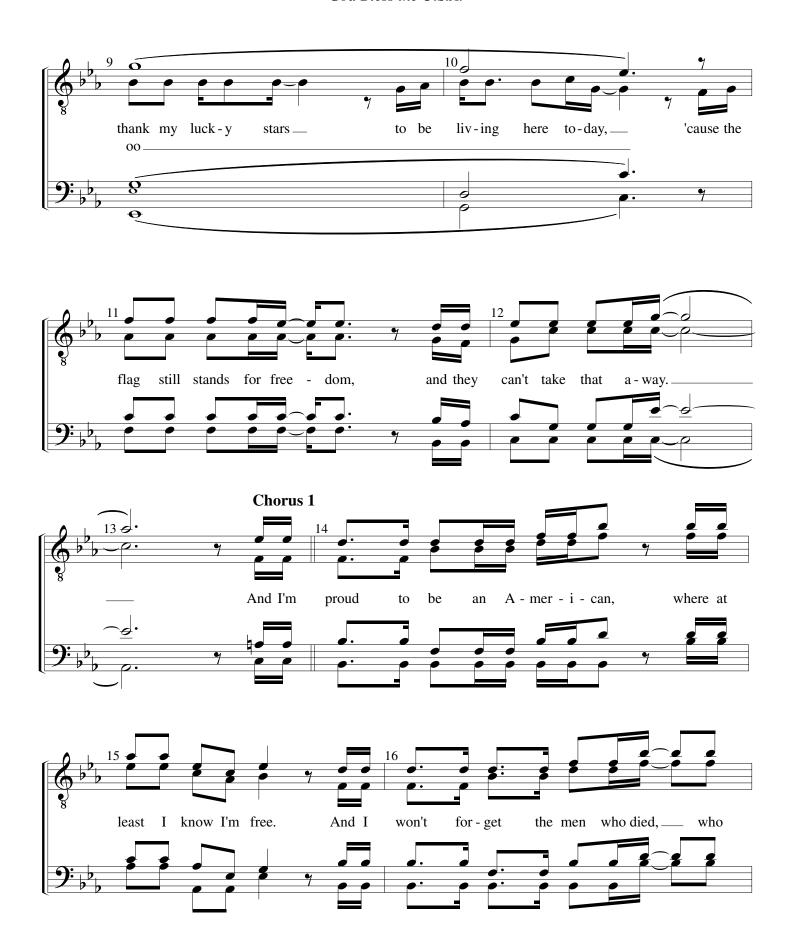
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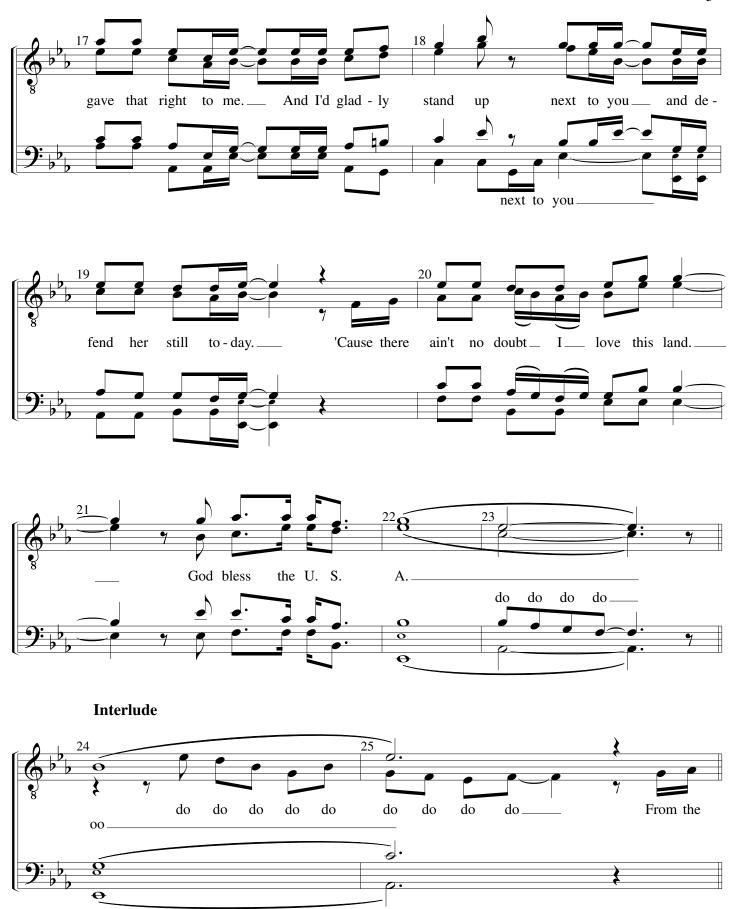
GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

as sung by the Side Street Ramblers



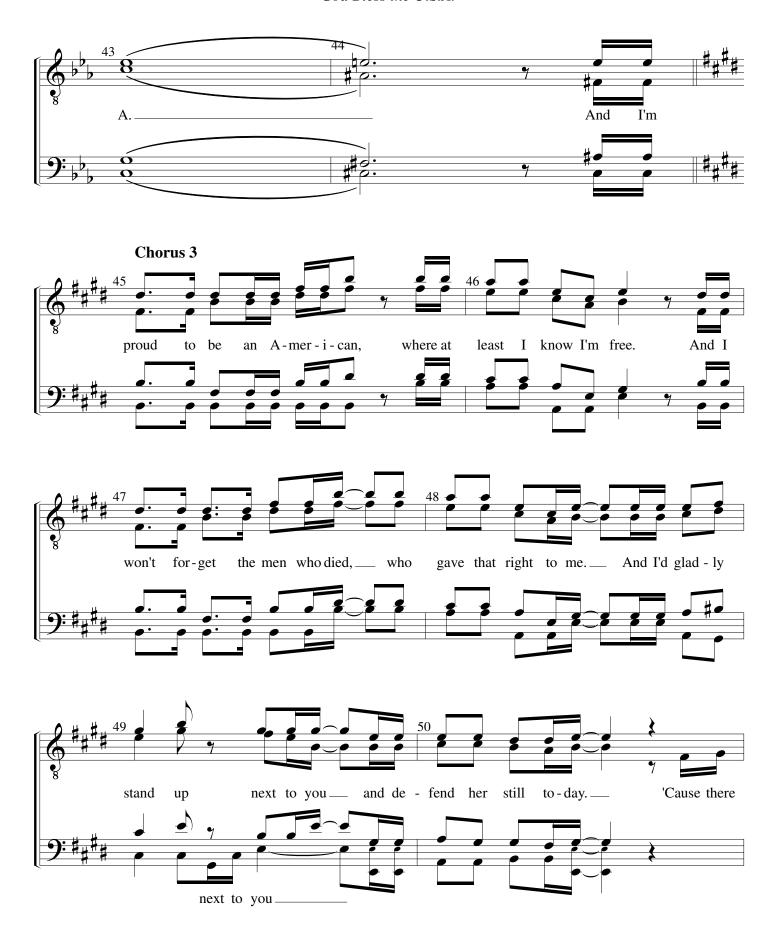
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Performance Notes

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.