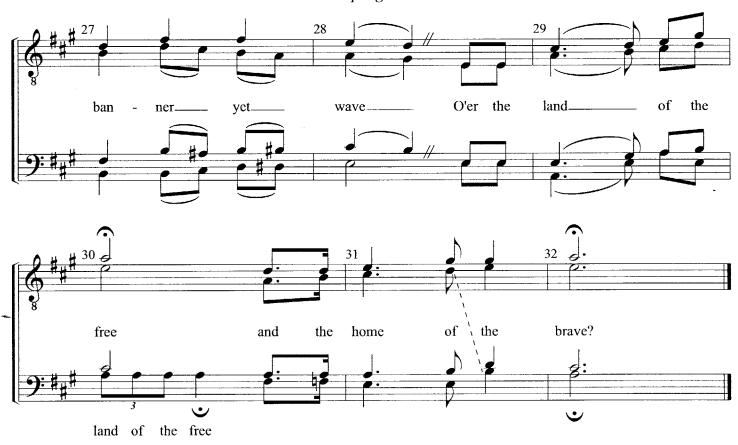
## THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER



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## Performance Notes

The Star Spangled Banner is the national anthem of the United States of America. The song's lyrics were written in 1814 by the lawyer and amateur poet Francis Scott Key, who wrote the poem Defence of Fort M'Henry after witnessing the British bombardment of Fort McHenry during the War of 1812. The poem actually contains four stanzas, though only the first is known to most people.

The poem was set to the tune of *To Anacreon in Heaven*, a popular British song written by John Stafford Smith for the Anacreontic Society, a men's social club in London. *The Star Spangled Banner* was made the national anthem in 1931 by a congressional resolution that was signed by President Herbert Hoover.

Prolific arranger Val Hicks received his doctorate in music from the University of Utah. He arranged for and coached the young **Osmond Brothers** quartet, and also assisted singing groups on *The Lawrence Welk Show*. Over 30 of Val's charts have been published by the Barbershop Harmony Society. Another of his major contributions was writing and editing the book *Heritage of Harmony*, a history of SPEBSQSA's first 50 years (1938-88).

This definitive arrangement by Val has been sung at countless sporting events large—the Super Bowl!—and small, as well as in many other settings. Just as we raise the banner high, raise your voices and sing this song with the pride and gusto it deserves.

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.