## PROGRAM NOTES

The origin of the melody *My Country 'Tis of Thee* is not known but assumed to generate from Europe. The melody is also used for the national anthem of the United Kingdom, God Save the Queen. The text for *My Country 'Tis of Thee* was written by Samuel Francis Smith and was given its first public performance on July 4th, 1831 at an Independence Day celebration in Boston. It was published a year later under the title *America*.

The SATB arrangement was performed at the Capitol for the Inauguration of Donald Trump, 45th President of the United States on 20th January 2017. Required to be an unaccompanied arrangement, it follows a theme and variations structure where the melody is passed throughout the choir. Due to the nature of the event this arrangement is deliberately "ceremonial" in feel.

-Michael McCarthy

## **TEXT**

My country, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of liberty, Of thee I sing; Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims' pride, From ey'ry mountainside Let freedom ring!

My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.

Let music swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees Sweet freedom's song; Let mortal tongues awake; Let all that breathe partake; Let rocks their silence break, The sound prolong.

Our fathers' God to Thee, Author of liberty, To Thee we sing. Long may our land be bright, With freedom's holy light, Protect us by Thy might, Great God our King.

—Samuel Francis Smith (1808–1895)

Performed at the re-opening of the Washington Monument following the earthquake damage.

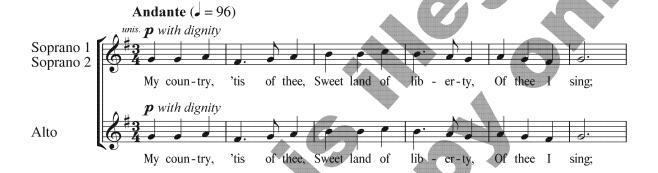
Monday May 12, 2014

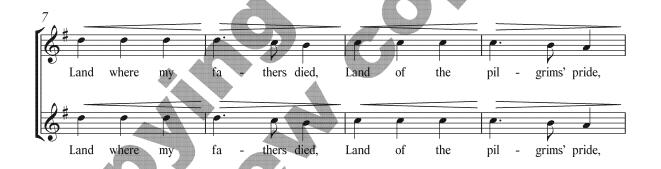
## My Country 'Tis of Thee

## for SSA Chorus unaccompanied

Samuel Francis Smith (1808–1895)

America Michael McCarthy, arr.







Also available for SSATB Chorus unaccompanied —1.3560

















