

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 ev'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)

Catalog No. 1.3561

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.

Andante (♩ = 96)
unis. p with dignity

Soprano 1
Soprano 2

My coun-try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of lib - er - ty, Of thee I sing;

p with dignity

Alto

My coun-try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of lib - er - ty, Of thee I sing;

7

Land where my fa - thers died, Land of the pil - grims' pride,

Land where my fa - thers died, Land of the pil - grims' pride,

11

From ev - 'ry moun - tain - side Let free - dom ring.

From ev - 'ry moun - tain - side Let free - dom ring.

Also available for SSATB Chorus unaccompanied —1.3560

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S 1 *mp*
My na-tive coun-try, thee, Land of the nob - le free, Thy name I love;

S 2 *mp*
My na-tive coun-try, thee, Land of the no-ble free, Thy name I love, thy name, I

A *mp*
My na-tive coun-try, thee, Land of the no-ble free Thy name I love, thy name, I

21 *mf*
I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and tem - pled hills;

mf
love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and tem - pled hills;

mf
love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and tem - pled hills;

25

f

My heart with rap - ture thrills, Like that a - bove.

f

My heart with rap - ture thrills, Like that a - bove.

f

My heart with rap - ture thrills, Like that a - bove.

S 1

pp

oo

S 2

pp

oo

A

mf

Let mu - sic swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees Sweet free - dom's song;

35 *mf*

Let mor - tal tounge a - wake; Let all that breathe par - take;

pp

pp

39

Let rocks_ their_ sil - ence break, The_ sound pro - long.

43

f

Our fa - thers' God to Thee, Au - thor of lib - er - ty,

Our fa - thers' God to Thee, Au - thor of lib - er - ty,

Our fa - thers' God to Thee, Au - thor of lib - er - ty,

47

To thee we sing. ah

To thee we sing, sing. Long may our land be bright,

To thee we sing. Long may our land be bright,

51

Pro - tect us by Thy might,
 With free - dom's ho - ly light, Pro - tect us by Thy might,
 With free - dom's ho - ly light, Pro - tect us by Thy might,
 With free - dom's ho - ly light, Pro - tect us by Thy might,

55

Allargando
ff

Great God our King. Let free - dom ring.
 Great God our King. Let free - dom ring.
 Great God our King. Let free - dom ring.
 Great God our King. Let free - dom ring.

Allargando

arr. 2014 | 2:15