

The Star-Spangled Banner
SATB, optional keyboard
AB-108-C1

Abbie Betinis, arr.

pdf download – US \$1.95
printed – US \$3.25

ABBIE BETINIS

PERUSAL ONLY
(PERFORMANCE PROHIBITED)

The Star-Spangled Banner

a protest anthem for SATB voices

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key

with abolitionist verse by
Oliver Wendell Holmes (1861)



abbiebetinis.com

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The Star-Spangled Banner

or "The Star-Spangled Banner Takes a Knee"

Lyrics: Verse 1, Francis Scott Key (1814)
Verse 2, Oliver Wendell Holmes Sr. (1861)

Music: John Stafford Smith (c.1773)
arr. Abbie Betinis (2020)

With reverence and heart

mp

Soprano
Oh _____ 1. O say can you see, by the
land is il - lu - mined with

Alto
Oh _____ Oo _____ by the
2. Oo _____ with

Tenor
Oh _____ Oo _____ by the
2. Oo _____ with

Bass
Oh _____ Oo _____ by the
2. Oo _____ with

opt'l B2

With reverence and heart

opt'l keyboard reduction (or improvise)

B \flat (no 3) E \flat 6 Gm7 Cm7 Gm Gmadd9 Daug

Program Note: The upside-down American flag, originally used by sailors to signal that their ship was in trouble, has since become a form of political protest to signify that the country is in "dire distress."

Dedicated to victims of oppression and violence, this arrangement flips the US National Anthem's melody upside-down with the same intention.

A testament to the strong framework of the original tune, the anthem remains quite stunning (I think) with the melody inverted. It also reminds us that it's possible to look at something we're used to — like a melody, a custom, or even long-standing systemic injustice — in different ways. In this case, flipping things around gives other voices new opportunities to be heard. And, of course, our flag is still there. ~Abbie

Verse 2:

When our land is illumined by Liberty's smile,
If a foe from within strikes a blow at her glory,
Down, down with the traitor who dares to defile
The flag of her stars and the page of her story!
By the millions unchained when our birthright was gained,
We will keep her bright blazon forever unstained!
And the Star-Spangled Banner in triumph shall wave
While the land of the free is the home of the brave!

- Oliver Wendell Holmes, Sr (1861)

Written just as the American Civil War begins, poet Oliver Wendell Holmes anticipates emancipation for the nation's enslaved people, believing that only through their full rights as citizens will the country have earned its claim to everything the flag represents. During the Civil War, this verse was printed in songbooks throughout the northern US alongside Key's lyrics.

7

S
dawn's ear - ly light, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last
Lib - er - ty's smile, If a foe from with - in strike a blow at her

A
dawn's ear - ly light, — What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last
Lib - er - ty's smile, — If a foe from with - in strike a blow at her

T
dawn's ear - ly light, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last
Lib - er - ty's smile, If a foe from with - in strike a blow at her

B
dawn's ear - ly light, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last
Lib - er - ty's smile, If a foe from with - in strike a blow at her

B \flat B \flat 7 E \flat add9 E \flat Gm F B \flat M7 Cm7 Cdim7 Gm

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of the musical score, starting at measure 7. It features four vocal staves (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'dawn's ear - ly light, What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last Lib - er - ty's smile, If a foe from with - in strike a blow at her'. The piano part includes a series of chords: B \flat , B \flat 7, E \flat add9, E \flat , Gm, F, B \flat M7, Cm7, Cdim7, and Gm. A large red watermark 'PERUSAL ONLY (PERFORMANCE PROHIBITED)' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

12

S
gleam - ing, Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the per - i - lous
glo - ry, Down, down with the trai - tor that dares to de -

A
gleam - ing, Oh Oo through the per - i - lous
glo - ry, Oh ...trai - tor that dares to de -

T
gleam - ing, Oh Oo through the per - i - lous
glo - ry, Oh ...trai - tor that dares to de -

B
gleam - ing, Oh Oo through the per - i - lous
glo - ry, Oh ...trai - tor that dares to de -

B \flat /F B \flat E \flat 6 Gm Gmadd9 Gm D \flat aug B \flat B \flat 7

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of the musical score, starting at measure 12. It features four vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'gleam - ing, Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the per - i - lous glo - ry, Down, down with the trai - tor that dares to de -'. The piano part includes a series of chords: B \flat /F, B \flat , E \flat 6, Gm, Gmadd9, Gm, D \flat aug, B \flat , and B \flat 7. A large red watermark 'PERUSAL ONLY (PERFORMANCE PROHIBITED)' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

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16

S
fight, O'er the ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly stream - ing?
file The flag of her stars and the page of her sto - ry!

A
fight, O'er the ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly stream - ing?
file The flag of her stars and the page of her sto - ry! *mf mel.*

T
fight, O'er the ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly stream - ing? And the
file The flag of her stars and the page of her sto - ry! By the

B
fight, O'er the ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly stream - ing?
file The flag of her stars and the page of her sto - ry!

E♭add9 E♭ Gm F B♭M7 Cm7 Cdim7 Gm B♭/F B♭

21

S
mp
 Oo Oh ...in air, Gave proof through the
 Oh ...have gained, We will keep our bright *mf mel. cresc.*

A
mp
 Oo the bombs burst - ing in air, Gave proof through the
 when our birth - right was gained, We will keep our bright

T
 8 rock - ets' red glare, the bombs burst - ing in air, Gave proof through the
 mil - lions un - chained when our birth - right was gained, We will keep our bright *mp*

B
mp
 Oo Oh Gave proof through the
 We will keep our bright

Gm Cm7 F F7 B♭

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26 *cresc.* *f* mel.(to the end)

S
 night that our flag was still there. O say does that star span - gled
 bla - zon for - ev - er un - stained! And the Star - Span - gled Ban - ner in

A
 night that our flag was still there. O say does that star span - gled
 bla - zon for - ev - er un - stained! And the Star - Span - gled Ban - ner in

T
cresc. *f*
 night that our flag was still there. O say does that star span - gled
 bla - zon for - ev - er un - stained! And the Star - Span - gled Ban - ner in

B
cresc. *f*
 night that our flag was still there. O say does that star span - gled
 bla - zon for - ev - er un - stained! And the Star - Span - gled Ban - ner in

E \flat add9 F7 B \flat E9(#11) Cm7/F F9sus4 B \flat Cm7 B \flat /D B \flat add9 Dm

31 *ff* *broaden* *mp* *f*

S
 ban - ner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the
 tri - umph shall wave While the land of the free is the

A
ff *broaden* *mp* *f*
 ban - ner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the
 tri - umph shall wave While the land of the free is the

T
ff *broaden* *mp* *f*
 ban - ner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the
 tri - umph shall wave While the land of the free is the

B
ff *broaden* *mp*
 ban - ner yet wave O'er the land of the free
 tri - umph shall wave While the land of the free

E \flat 6 Cm6 B \flat /D Cm/E \flat C9 B \flat /F F7 F9 B \flat B \flat M7/F E \flat add9 C7

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35

S 1. *mp*
home of the brave? 2. When our

A 1. *mp*
home of the brave? Oh

T 1. *mp*
home of the brave? Oh

B 1. *f* *mp*
home of the brave? Oh

Bb/F F7 Bb Cm Gm7 Cm7

40

S 2. *ff*
home of the brave.

A 2. *ff*
home of the brave.

T 2. *ff*
home of the brave.

B 2. *f* *ff*
home of the brave.

Bb/F F7 G

Additional verse (1844):

Shall we ne'er hail the day when as freemen shall stand
 The millions who groan under matchless oppression?
 Shall Liberty's shouts, in our heav'n-rescued land,
 Ne'er be shared by the slave in our blood-guilty nation?
 Oh, let us be just, ere in God we dare trust;
 Else the day will o'er take us when perish we must;
 And our star-spangled banner at half mast shall wave
 O'er the death-bed of Freedom — the home of the slave.

- Edwin Augustus Atlee (1776-1852), physician and abolitionist

Thank you:

- * The Star Spangled Music Foundation
- * The First Amendment to the US Constitution
- * Former NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who by taking a knee during the national anthem protested racial injustice and police brutality, and who reminds us that "love is at the root of our resistance."

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Abbie is the grand-niece of composer Alfred Burt, and carries on the tradition of writing a new carol every year.

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Composer Abbie Betinis creates “inventive” (*The New York Times*), “joyful... incandescent” (*Boston Globe*) music that “expands into ethereal realms” (*Cambridge University Press*). With performances from Carnegie Hall to Disney Hall, state prisons to capitol buildings, international cathedrals to intimate summer campfires, her music transports performers and audiences alike through storytelling, relevance, and craft. Her vast catalog, grown from her love for the human voice, includes commissions for the American Choral Directors Association, Cantus, Conspirare, Dale Warland Singers, Friends of the Minnesota Orchestra, James Sewell Ballet, LyricFest, Minnesota Music Educators Association, MUSE Cincinnati Women's Choir, St Olaf Choir, and Young New Yorkers' Chorus.

A two-time McKnight Artist Fellow, and recognized by *Musical America* for her “ability to use her talents to effect social change,” Abbie is co-editor of the Justice Choir Songbook – a resource for community transformation and mobile advocacy through singing – now used in schools, streets, prisons, faith communities, and protest movements nationwide.

A frequent guest clinician, she has held residencies with the New York State School Music Association, The Singers-Minnesota Choral Artists, and The Schubert Club, and was adjunct professor of composition at Concordia University-St Paul for over a decade. She has since taught composition at St. Olaf College and at the European American Musical Alliance's Summer Institute in Paris, France. She lives with her family in St. Paul, Minnesota.

