

Catalog No: RWS-1714-01

America (My Country 'Tis Of Thee)

S. F. Smith Arranged by Susan L. Smith and Robert W. Smith

Beginning Band Series



RWS BEGINNING BAND SERIES – MELODY MINE

America

(My Country 'Tis Of Thee)

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1	B♭ Trumpet	
-lute		F Horn	
Dboe	2	Trombone	6
3 ^j Clarinet		Baritone B.C	2
∄ Bass Clarinet			2
Bassoon	2	Tuba	
탄 Alto Saxophone	8	Mallet Percussion: Bells, Vibraphone	4
₿ Tenor Saxophone			
		Percussion 2: Suspended Cymbal	

PROGRAM NOTE

Written in 1831, Samuel Francis Smith set his patriotic lyrics to the United Kingdom national anthem "God Save The Queen." "America (My Country "Tis Of Thee)" served as one of the United States' de facto national anthems until the adoption of "The Star Spangled Banner" in 1931. Smith gave his friend Lowell Mason the lyrics he had written and the song was first performed in public on July 4, 1831, at a children's Independence Day celebration at Park Street Church in Boston. The first publication of "America" was in 1832.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

The RWS Beginning Band Melody Mine Series includes arrangements for concert performance as well as a **Melody Mine** for additional classroom teaching. This setting of "America" includes a full band arrangement. In addition, the **Melody Mine** setting allows all students to play the melodic line both in and out of the classroom.

Please note the following teaching and performance opportunities:

- 1. Use the **Melody Mine** to teach phrasing, dynamic shaping, breathing and other very important music concepts. All students performing the melody insures the lesson is powerful for each musician. In addition, the lyrics are included to provide an invaluable singing experience for your instrumental musicians.
- 2. In this arrangement, you may wish to direct instrumental choirs to play the melody while the remainder of the band plays the accompaniment in the full band arrangement. As an example, direct the woodwinds to play the **Melody Mine** and the brass/percussion to play the full arrangement. You may also wish to feature soloists using a blending of the **Melody Mine** and full arrangement.
- 3. Direct the students to play the Melody Mine at home for their family providing additional solo performance opportunities.
- 4. Create your own unique performance arrangement using vocals, selected soloist(s) and instrumental families followed by the full band arrangement. A suggested arrangement for your next concert performance would include a soloist followed by the woodwind choir and full ensemble. The audience can be invited to sing with the band during the full ensemble statement.

We hope that you and the band find "America (My Country 'Tis Of Thee)" to be a valuable part of your standard band repertoire. Best wishes for a wonderful performance!



ABOUT THE ARRANGERS

Susan L. Smith, B.M.Ed, M.A.Ed., has taught general, choral, and instrumental music at the elementary through collegiate level in Florida, Virginia and Alabama and has served as an author, clinician, conductor, and adjudicator across the United States. She is currently Director of Bands at the Saint James School in Montgomery AL. Mrs. Smith is responsible for teaching the Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Bands as well as Guitar, Jazz Band, and Music Technology. The Saint James Band consistently receives Superior ratings in Concert, Jazz and Marching band events including the Alabama Music Performance Assessment, Smokey Mountain Music Festival and Bands of America Super Regionals and Grand National Championships. She is currently the President of the Alabama Music Educators Association.

She was a Coordinating Author for Warner Bros. Publications' Expressions Music Curriculum, a vision for a vertical, conceptual approach to teaching music. She consulted on the Elementary Music Curriculum Music Expressions and served as an author for Band Expressions, a secondary component of the curriculum. Smith has presented clinics at many state conventions including AMEA, TMEA, FMEA, IMEA, VMEA, GMEA and National and Regional NAfME conferences. She is on the Middle School Clinician team for the Music for All Summer Symposium, presenting clinics each summer to directors and pre-service college students. In addition, Mrs. Smith serves as an educational consultant for Music for All. She is responsible for the Chamber Music portion of the Music for All National Concert Band Festival.



Robert W. Smith (b. 1958) is one of the most popular and prolific composers in America today. He has over 600 publications in print with the majority composed and arranged through his long association with Warner Bros. Publications and the Belwin catalog.

Mr. Smith's credits include many compositions and productions in all areas of the music field. His original works for winds and percussion have been programmed by countless military, university, high school, and middle school bands throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Australia, South America and Asia. His Symphony #1 (The Divine Comedy), Symphony #2 (The Odyssey), Symphony #3 (Don Quixote), Inchon and Africa: Ceremony, Song and Ritual have received worldwide critical acclaim. His educational compositions such as The Tempest, Encanto, and The Great Locomotive Chase have become standards for developing bands throughout the world.

Mr. Smith's music has received extensive airplay on major network television as well as inclusion in multiple motion pictures. From professional ensembles such as the United States Navy Band, United States Air Force Band, Boston Pops and the Atlanta Symphony to school bands and orchestras throughout the world, his music speaks to audiences in any concert setting. As a conductor, clinician and keynote speaker, Mr. Smith has performed throughout North America, Asia, South America, Europe and Australia. His music has been recorded by various ensembles and is available on CD and download through Walking Frog Records, iTunes, Amazon, and other recorded music outlets.

Mr. Smith is the President/CEO of RWS Music Company, exclusively distributed through C. L. Barnhouse. In addition, he is currently teaching in the Music Industry program at Troy University in Troy, Alabama. His teaching responsibilities are focused in music composition, production, publishing and business.

IERICA A (My Country, 'Tis of Thee - Melody Mine)

Conductor Score

RWS-1714-00

by S. F. Smith arr. by Susan L. Smith & Robert W. Smith (ASCAP)



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