



55 SONGS AND CHORUSES

FOR COMMUNITY SINGING

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

This pamphlet appears in response to the demand for more Community Singing material. Since the appearance of the original collection of "18 Songs for Community Singing" which was issued by the National Conference of Music Supervisors in 1913, there has been such a remarkable development of group or community singing that the original eighteen songs are no longer adequate.

In making this expanded list, advice and criticism were sought principally from the officers and state representatives of the National Conference of Music Supervisors. Upwards of eighty persons representing all sections of the country and actively interested in the promotion of music as an educational and social force in American life have had a voice in the selection of the material here included. The final decision both as to selection and arrangement of material has rested with the committee named below.

To insure the widest use of this material, the Conference through the aid of the publishers, has arranged to have it appear in several convenient and low-priced forms, namely, (1) the pamphlet containing the vocal score only; (2) a pamphlet containing complete score for voice and piano; (3) lantern slides giving the vocal scores; (4) orchestra and (5) band parts in arrangements conforming to the vocal scores and suitable both for accompaniments and for independent playing.

The versions here printed have been prepared from a study of the most authentic scores, and also from the consideration of the effects possible with large groups of people whose singing is guided mainly by natural musical feeling and the endeavor to interpret the texts in a large way.

A systematic plan for the teaching of these songs should be in operation in every locality, not only at community gatherings but also in the schools, especially in upper grades and high schools.

Correspondence regarding the use of this material may be addressed to the several members of the committee or to the officers of the Music Supervisors' National Conference.

PETER W. DYKEMA, CHAIRMAN,
University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.

WILL EARHART,
Public Schools, Pittsburgh, Pa.

OSBOURNE McCONATHY,
Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill.

HOLLIS E. DANN,
Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Several nations have used this splendid dignified tune, either as a national anthem, or as a composition of the utmost importance. Parts of the melody have been traced back as far as Dr. John Bull (1563-1628), but the composer of the melody in its final form is still unknown, though many continue to credit it to Henry Carey, an Englishman (1390-1743). The words were written in 1832, by Rev. S. F. Smith, an American clergyman. The song was first sung publicly at the children's celebration of American Independence in the Park Street Church, Boston, July 4, of that year.

Numerous other verses have been written to this melody. Two of the best are the ones below by Henry Van Dyke.

1. America

(My Country, 'Tis of Thee)

S. F. Smith

Henry Carey (?)

mf Andante con moto

1. My coun - try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of lib - er - ty,
2. My na - tive coun - try, thee, Land of the no - ble free,
3. Let mu - sic swell the breeze, And ring from all the trees
4. Our fa - thers' God, to Thee, Au - thor of lib - er - ty,

f

Of thee I sing: Land where my fa - thers died! Land of the
Thy name I love: I love thy rocks and rills, Thy woods and
Sweet free - dom's song: Let mor - tal tongues a - wake; Let all that
To Thee we sing: Long may our land be bright With free - dom's

ff

Pil - grims' pride! From ev - 'ry moun - tain - side Let free - dom ring!
tem - pled hills; My heart with rap - ture thrills Like that a - bove.
breathe par - take; Let rocks their si - lence break, — The sound pro - long.
ho - ly light; Pro - tect us by Thy might, Great God, our King!

1 We love thine inland seas,
Thy groves and giant trees,
Thy rolling plains;
Thy rivers' mighty sweep,
Thy mystic canyons deep,
Thy mountains wild and steep, —
All thy domains.

2 Thy silver Eastern strands,
Thy Golden Gate that stands
Fronting the West;
Thy flowery Southland fair,
Thy North's sweet, crystal air:
O Land beyond compare,
We love thee best!