

Music May 18th-22nd

Patriotic Theme for upcoming Memorial Day



Music of America is music by Americans. It tells the stories of the birth of our nation, its struggles, its triumphs and most importantly its values. According to Dictionary.com patriotic music expresses or is inspired by patriotism, and a patriot is someone who "loves, supports, and defends his or her country and its interests with devotion."

We often hear the National Anthem "The Star-Spangled Banner" at sports events and the Olympics, but we rarely hear or learn other great American patriotic songs. I've chosen a few patriotic songs to listen and sing along with them as well!

Most of the songs are also associated with a particular war that America fought in. You may want to study a little about each of those wars when you listen to the song.

"The Star Spangled Banner"

"The Star-Spangled Banner" is the national anthem of the United States. The lyrics come from the Defence of Fort M'Henry, a poem written on September 14, 1814, by 35-year-old lawyer and amateur poet Francis Scott Key after witnessing the bombardment of Fort McHenry by British ships of the Royal Navy in Baltimore Harbor during the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812.

The story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Umg8v6DLZjs>

The song:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPKp29Luryc>

"Semper Fidelis" by J. Ph. Sousa.

John Philip Sousa was an American entertainer and composer. He is best remembered for his marches, his band, and his patriotism. Known as the "March King," he wrote 136 marches, including The Stars and Stripes Forever, the national march of the United States, "Semper Fidelis", which became the official march of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Performing: **"The President's Own"** US Marine Band.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qgABUZ4i9co&feature=emb_logo

"America the Beautiful" was written by Katherine Lee Bates and Samuel A. Wood in the late 1800s. Bates had traveled to Colorado and the words of the poem came to her while standing at the top of Pikes Peak. The lyrics and music were joined together and published in 1910.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgvkpNjDmg4&feature=emb_logo

"This Land is Your Land" is a folk song written by Woody Guthrie in 1940. World War II had already begun, and the United States would be entering it the following year after the attack on Pearl Harbor. This video includes both lyrics and photos of places mentioned in a song.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeMLaQTWlgU&feature=emb_logo

"The Battle Hymn of the Republic" was written by Julia Ward Howe in 1861 during the American Civil War. The arrangement you hear here of the song is one of the most popular choral arrangements, meaning it's sung by a group of singers called a choir.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5mmFPyDK_8&feature=emb_logo

"Yankee Doodle" is a classic patriotic song that dates back to before the Revolutionary War (around 1755). There are many different versions of lyrics. It was sung by the British to mock the American patriots and by the Americans to encourage them to fight on.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-diQQ6xCMM&feature=emb_logo

"When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again". This song was written by Irish-born American composer and bandleader Patrick Gilmore and published in 1863. It looks forward to the celebrations that will take place when the soldiers return safely from the American Civil War.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3k8H_9SjoM

"God Bless America" was written by Irving Berlin and made famous by the singer Kate Smith in 1938 on the anniversary of Armistice Day, the day that World War I ended with Germany. Armistice Day would have its name changed to Veterans Day to give a special day for remembering all veterans in 1954.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TnQDW-NMaRs&feature=emb_logo

Question:

Which song makes you feel the most patriotic? Why?