

**Memorial Day**

**Music**

**Take-Home**

**Packet**



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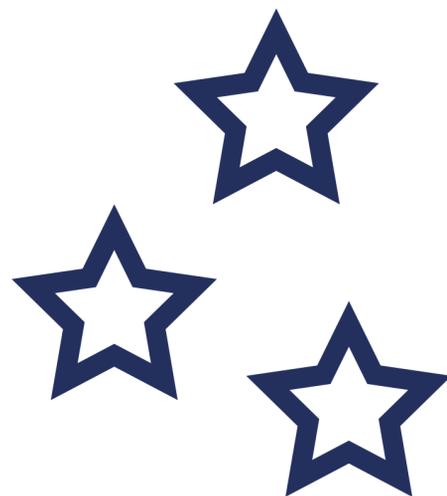
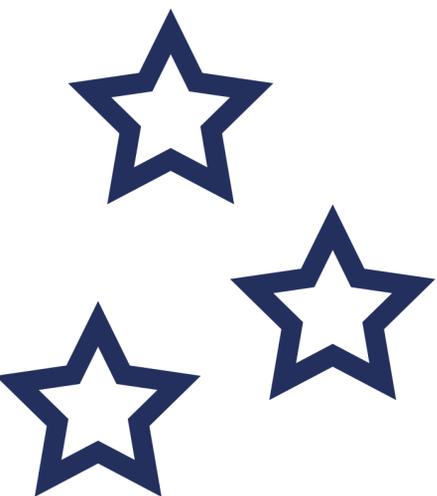
**YouTube Playlist  
Memorial Day Songs**



**This packet was created by Board-Certified  
Music Therapist, Allegra Hein (MT-BC)  
who consults with the Perfect Harmony program.**

# MEMORIAL DAY

**Memorial Day is a United States federal holiday, commemorating those who have died in military service to their country. It is observed annually on the last Monday of May. Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day - an occasion to decorate the graves of the war dead - and was created in the aftermath of the American Civil War. Observances are held at military graveyards, cemeteries and memorials, and military themed parades are held across the country. The holiday is also associated with the Indianapolis 500 car race which is held on the Sunday preceding Memorial Day.**



# THE INDY 500

The Indianapolis 500-Mile Race is the world's oldest currently operational automobile race. Better known as the Indy 500 or the Indianapolis 500, it is held annually at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (IMS) in Speedway, Indiana. The event is traditionally held over Memorial Day weekend in late May. It is contested as part of the IndyCar Series, the top level of American Championship Car racing, an open-wheel open-cockpit formula colloquially known as "Indy Car Racing". The name of the race is often shortened to Indy 500, and the track itself is nicknamed the "Brickyard", as the racing surface was paved in brick in the fall of 1909, with a yard of brick remaining exposed at the start/finish line.

The inaugural race was held in 1911 and was won by Ray Harroun. The event celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2011, and the 100th running was held in 2016. The event was put on hiatus twice, from 1917 to 1918 due to World War I and from 1942 to 1945 due to World War II. Simon Pagenaud is the current champion.

The event is steeped in tradition, in pre-race ceremonies, post-race celebrations, and race procedure. The most noteworthy and most popular traditions are the 33-car field lining up three-wide for the start, the annual singing of "Back Home Again in Indiana," and the victory lane bottle of milk.

This year, the race has been postponed until August 23rd.



# SONG FACTS

## 1. BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA

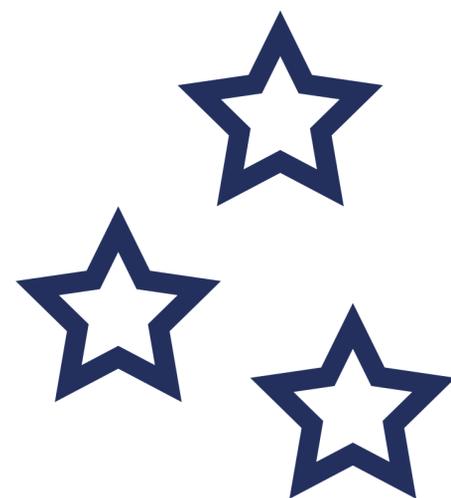
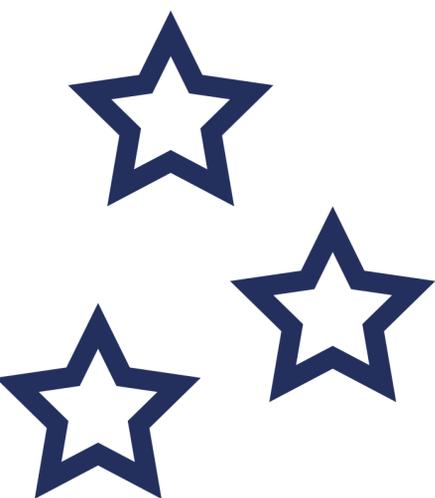
- **"(Back Home Again in) Indiana" is a song composed by James F. Hanley with lyrics by Ballard MacDonald that was published in January 1917**
- **Although it is not the state song of Indiana (which is "On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away"), it is perhaps the best-known song that pays tribute to the Hoosier state**
- **Since 1946, "Back Home Again in Indiana" has been performed during pre-race ceremonies before the Indianapolis 500**
- **From 1972 to 2014, the song was performed most often by Jim Nabors. He admitted to having the song's lyrics written on his hand during his inaugural performance, and occasionally his versions altered several of the words**
- **In 2014, Nabors performed the song for the final time after announcing his retirement earlier that year, saying: "You know, there's a time in life when you have to move on. I'll be 84 this year. I just figured it was time ... This is really the highlight of my year to come here. It's very sad for me, but nevertheless there's something inside of me that tells me when it's time to go."**



# SONG LYRICS

## 1. BACK HOME AGAIN IN INDIANA

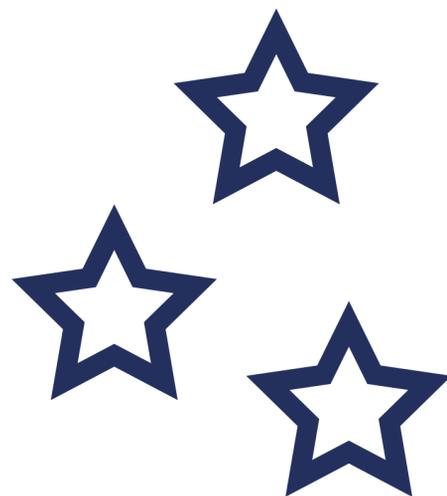
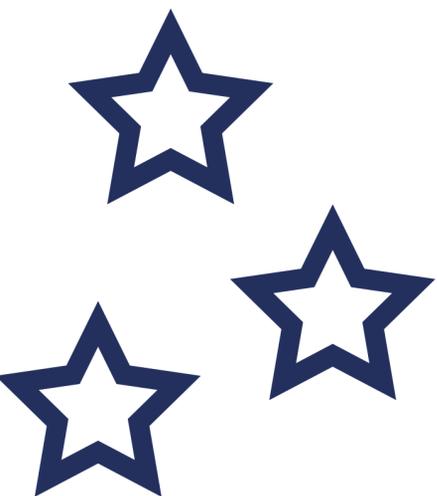
**Back home again in Indiana  
And it seems that I can see  
The gleaming candlelight  
still shining bright  
From the sycamores for me  
The new mown hay  
sends all its fragrance  
From fields I used to roam  
When I dream  
About the moonlight  
on the Wabash  
Then I long  
for my Indiana home**



# SONG FACTS

## 2. God Bless America

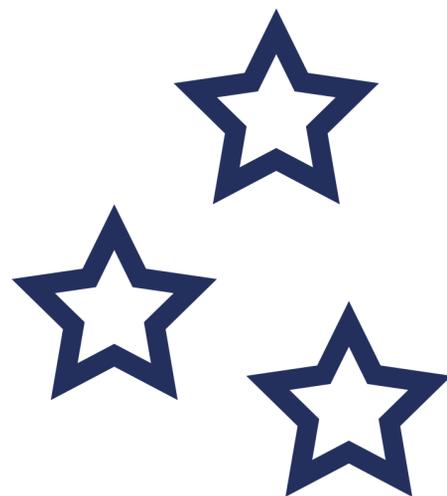
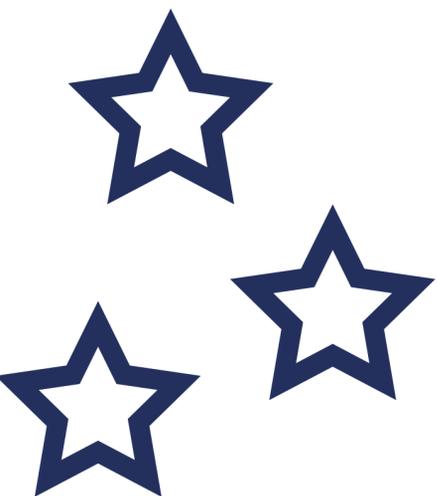
- **"God Bless America" is an American patriotic song written by Irving Berlin during World War I in 1918 and revised by him in the run up to World War II in 1938**
- **The later version has notably been recorded by Kate Smith, becoming her signature song**
- **"God Bless America" takes the form of a prayer (intro lyrics "as we raise our voices, in a solemn prayer") for God's blessing and peace for the nation ("...stand beside her and guide her through the night)**



# SONG LYRICS

## 2. God Bless America

**God bless America,  
land that I love  
Stand beside her  
and guide her  
Through the night  
with the light from above  
From the mountains  
to the prairies  
To the oceans  
white with foam  
God bless America,  
my home sweet home**



# SONG FACTS

## 3. 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**
- **Key was inspired by the large U.S. flag, with 15 stars and 15 stripes, known as the Star-Spangled Banner, flying triumphantly above the fort during the U.S. victory**
- **"The Star-Spangled Banner" was recognized for official use by the United States Navy in 1889, and by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in 1916, and was made the national anthem by a congressional resolution on March 3, 1931 which was signed by President Herbert Hoover**
- **Before 1931, other songs served as the hymns of U.S. officialdom. "Hail, Columbia" served this purpose at official functions for most of the 19th century. "My Country, 'Tis of Thee", whose melody is identical to "God Save the Queen", the United Kingdom's national anthem, also served as a de facto national anthem**
- **Following the War of 1812 and subsequent U.S. wars, other songs emerged to compete for popularity at public events, among them "America the Beautiful," which itself was being considered before 1931, as a candidate to become the national anthem of the United States**

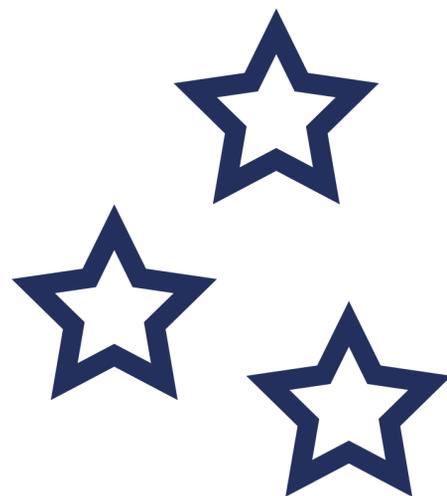
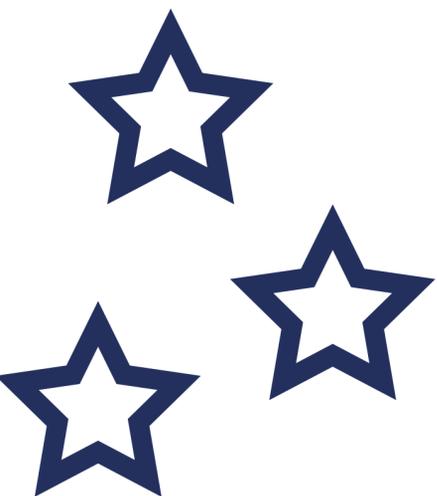


# SONG LYRICS

## 3. The Star-Spangled Banner

Oh, say can you see  
by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hailed  
at the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars  
through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched  
were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare,  
the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night  
that our flag was still there.

Oh, say does that  
star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free  
and the home of the brave?



# COMPOSER FEATURE: JOHN PHILIP SOUSA

John Philip Sousa (November 6, 1854 – March 6, 1932) was an American composer and conductor of the late Romantic era known primarily for American military marches. He is known as "The March King." Among his best-known marches are "The Stars and Stripes Forever" (National March of the United States of America), "Semper Fidelis" (official march of the United States Marine Corps), "The Liberty Bell", "The Thunderer", and "The Washington Post".

## MUSIC LISTENING

Enjoy listening to the President's Own U.S. Marine Band play a Sousa march, "The Liberty Bell" (**Track 4**)

## MUSIC & MOVEMENT

March along (**Track 5**) to Semper Fidelis performed by the President's Own U.S. Marine Band.

# **MUSIC LISTENING**

## **6. America the Beautiful**

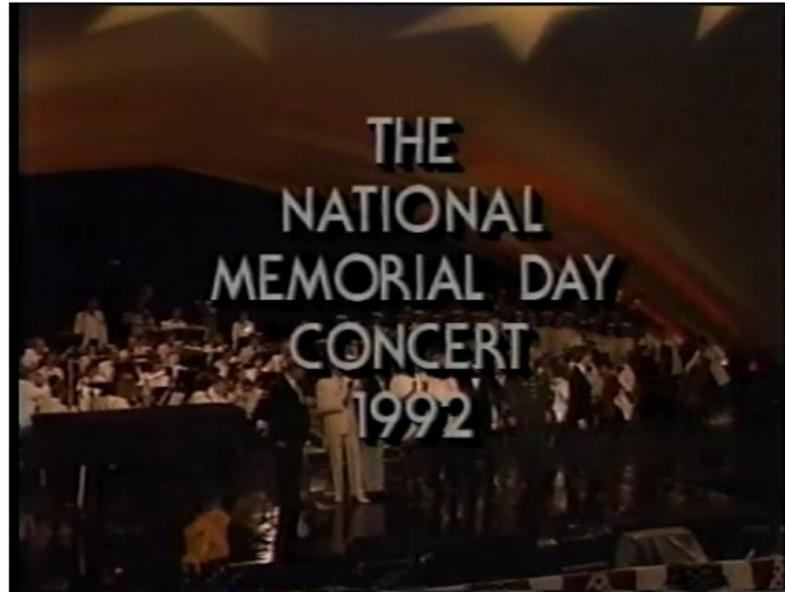
**"America the Beautiful" is an American patriotic song. The lyrics were written by Katharine Lee Bates, and the music was composed by church organist and choirmaster Samuel A. Ward at Grace Episcopal Church in Newark, New Jersey. The two never met.**

**Bates originally wrote the words as a poem, "Pikes Peak", first published in the Fourth of July edition of the church periodical The Congregationalist in 1895. Ward's music combined with the Bates poem was first published in 1910 and titled "America the Beautiful". The song is one of the most popular of the many U.S. patriotic songs.**

**Enjoy listening to a fun arrangement performed by the United States Navy Band.**

# WATCH

## 7. The National Memorial Day Concert (1992)



**The National Memorial Day Concert is a free annual concert performed on the west lawn of the United States Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., in celebration of Memorial Day between 1989 and 2019; the concert became a streaming-only event in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is held on the last Sunday in May. It is broadcast live on PBS, NPR, and can also be seen overseas by U.S. military personnel in more than 175 countries and aboard more than 200 U.S. Navy ships at sea on American Forces Network.**

**The concert is viewed and heard by millions across the country and the world, as well as attended by more than half a million people at the United States Capitol. The concert, the national counterpart of The Royal British Legion's Festival of Remembrance, usually begins with the American national anthem by the National Symphony Orchestra, followed by music and dramatic readings commemorating the holiday and its importance.**

**Enjoy a special 'blast from the past' and view the National Memorial Day concert from 1992 – commemorating the 50th anniversary of World War II.**

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