

Let's Get Patriotic!

"You're a Grand Old Flag"

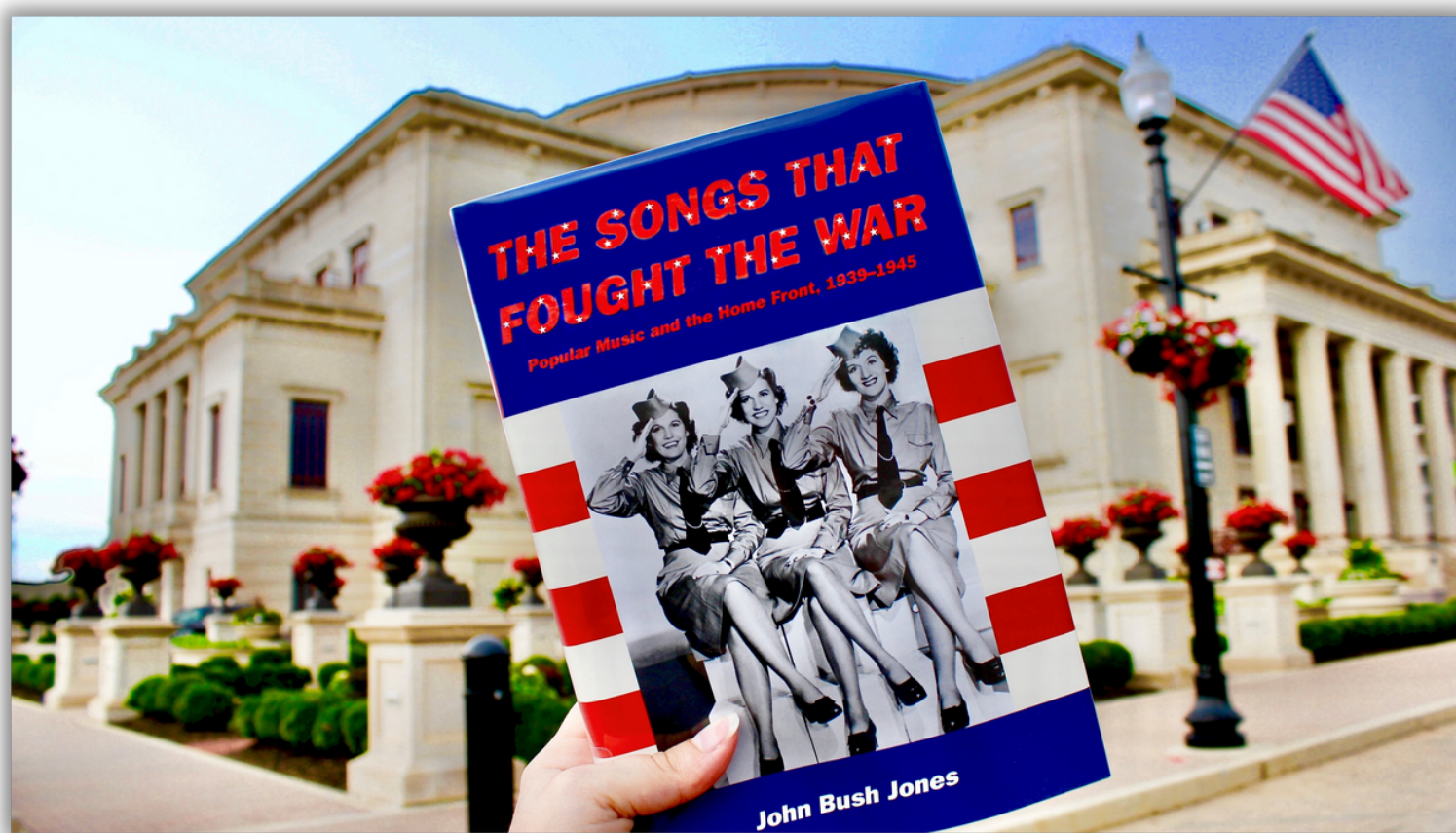
"America the Beautiful"

"Yankee Doodle Dandy"

"This Land is Your Land"

"Emblem of Unity"

Celebrating A Patriotic Sisterhood:



The Andrews Sisters. The name conjures indelible images: soldiers listening to a jukebox in the canteen; packed theaters with rabid fans jitterbugging in the aisles; and a brass-voiced trio of lanky women in chiffon dresses and bouffant hairdos. The Andrews Sisters also became a symbol of hope and patriotism during World War II and arguably, still to this day.

Their unique sound, a loud, brassy singing style to imitate and compete with the horns in a swing band, resonated with troops around the world. They toured the nation almost nonstop, appearing at bond rallies, recruiting centers, training camps, and military hospitals, and, of course, overseas as members of the United Service Organization. The sisters contributed to patriotic song folios including tunes like "When Johnny Comes Marching Home," "We're in the Navy," and their best-known song, "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," all in an effort to unify and inspire as "The Sweethearts of the Armed Forces Radio Service."

Let's get patriotic with The Andrews Sisters in [this online exhibit](#) exploring their life & legacy!



Song: "You're a Grand Old Flag" (1906)

Songwriter: George M. Cohan

Brief Context: American composer and entertainer George M. Cohan wrote "You're a Grand Old Flag" for his 1906 stage musical *George Washington, Jr.* Cohan was inspired by a chance meeting he had with a Civil War veteran who fought at Gettysburg. The veteran was holding a carefully folded but ragged flag and said to Cohan, "She's a grand old rag. " Cohan liked that line a lot, but changed the word "rag" to "flag."

Activity: Movement (upper body)

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "You're a Grand Old Flag" video
- Flag (or scarf as an alternative)

Seated Movement Suggestions

1. Wave flag above head 14 times and return to lap (repeat other side)
2. Paint a BIG rainbow with flag (twice)
3. Raise flag straight up and down 7 times (alternate hand each time)
4. Paint a BIG figure eight from side to side (4 times)
5. Reach flag straight out and back 4 times (alternate hand each time)
6. Paint a BIG rainbow with flag (twice)
7. Wave flag above head 7 times and return to lap (repeat other side)



Song: America the Beautiful
Songwriters: Katharine Lee Bates, Samuel A. Ward

Brief Context: "America The Beautiful" became a song in 1926 when the poem by Katharine Lee Bates was combined with the music of a hymn written by Samuel Ward called "Materna" for a contest by the National Federation of Music Clubs. It remained the most popular song about America until Kate Smith recorded Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" in 1938.

Activity: Singing & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "America the Beautiful" video**
- **Perfect Harmony "America the Beautiful" lyrics sheet**

Suggested Discussion Prompt

- **"America the Beautiful" is often sung alongside other popular patriotic songs, such as "The Star-Spangled Banner" or "God Bless America", at major sporting events or national celebrations. Do you have a favorite American patriotic song?**



America the Beautiful

**O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain Majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!**

**O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain Majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with sisterhood
From sea to shining sea!**

Song: Yankee Doodle Dandy (1904)

Songwriter: George M. Cohan

Brief Context: "Yankee Doodle Dandy" is a patriotic song from the Broadway musical *Little Johnny Jones* written by George M. Cohan. The play is about the life of a fictional American jockey, Johnny Jones, who rides a horse named Yankee Doodle in the English Derby. Cohan uses snippets of several popular traditional American songs in the lyrics of "Yankee Doodle Dandy," as he often did with his songs.

Activity: Movement (upper and lower body)

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Yankee Doodle Dandy" video

Suggested Seated Movement

1. March with alternating feet while swinging arms
2. Right foot side and back. Left foot side and back
3. Right knee up then down. Left knee up then down
4. March with alternating feet while swinging arms
5. Right foot forward and back. Left foot forward and back
6. Both hands tap/grasp legs going downward then upward
7. Clap hands while kicking out alternating feet



Song: This Land is Your Land (1940)
Songwriter: Woody Guthrie

Brief Context: In 1940, folk singer Woody Guthrie wrote "This Land is Your Land" in response to Irving Berlin's patriotic song "God Bless America. " Woody grew up poor in Oklahoma during the Great Depression and wanted to write a song that was for every American, not just the upper class. "This Land is Your Land" has been known as America's other national anthem.

Activity: Singing & Engaged Discussion

What do you need?

- "This Land is Your Land" Perfect Harmony video
- "This Land is Your Land" lyrics sheet

Suggested Discussion Prompts

- This song mentions famous landmarks from California to New York and everything in between. Have you ever been to the Redwood Forest or seen the Statue of Liberty?
- Where is your favorite travel destination?



This Land is Your Land

This land is your land

This land is my land

From California to the New York island

From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters

This land was made for you and me

When the sun was shining and I was strolling

The wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling

A voice was chanting as the fog was lifting

This land was made for you and me

This land is your land

This land is my land

From California to the New York island

From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters

This land was made for you and me

This land was made for you and me

Song: Emblem of Unity
Songwriter: J.J. Richards

Brief Context: This brilliant march, which became J.J. Richards' most popular composition, was written while he was living in Sterling, Illinois, conducting both the high school and community bands. A classic and exciting composition, this work is played year round by hundreds of school and professional bands like the Indiana Wind Symphony.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Emblem of Unity" video

Fun Fact: We Preserve Brass Band History in the Songbook Archives!

Speaking of brass bands, did you know that Meredith Willson, the creator of *The Music Man*, got his start in music playing flute and piccolo in the famed Sousa marching band in New York? He also joined the New York Philharmonic Orchestra as it blossomed under the batons of famed conductors Willem Mengelberg and Arturo Toscanini.

We are proud to preserve Meredith Willson's materials in the Songbook Library & Archives. Check out his Sousa band uniform on the next page!





***To the left:
Meredith Willson in a
Sousa Band uniform.
(May 1, 1921)***



***Other images from the
Meredith Willson Papers
(Songbook Library & Archives)***