

Sports Through Song

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game"

"God Bless America"

"Mr. Touchdown, U.S.A."

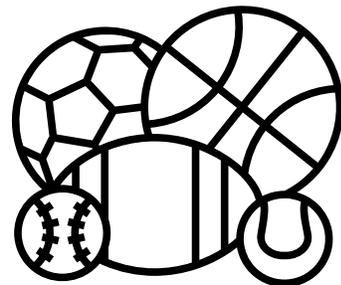
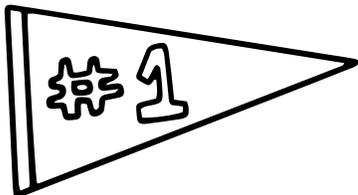
"Sweet Caroline"

"We Are the Champions"

The Soundtrack of Game Day

In music and in sports, some of the most memorable moments are shared. From the roar of a crowd to thousands of voices singing together in a stadium, music has long been part of the traditions that bring fans together.

As the excitement of March competition fills the air, this month's songs celebrate the connection between music and the world of sports. These familiar tunes capture the spirit of teamwork, celebration, and the shared joy of singing along, just like fans do on game day.



Song: "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" (1908)
Songwriters: Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer

Brief Context:

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game," written in 1908 by lyricist Jack Norworth and composer Albert Von Tilzer, has become the unofficial anthem of American baseball. Remarkably, neither writer had attended a game when they created the song. Today, its famous chorus is sung by fans during the seventh-inning stretch at ballparks across the country, inviting the entire crowd to join in. More than a century later, the song remains a joyful symbol of the traditions and shared experiences that make the ballpark so special. "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" is also one of the three most recognizable songs in the United States alongside "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Happy Birthday."

Activity: Singing and Discussion

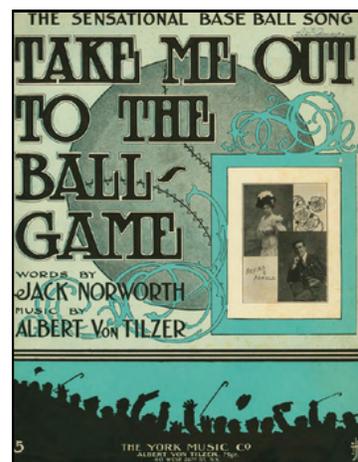
What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" lyrics

Suggested Discussion

Sports bring people together just like music does.

Tell someone about your favorite sport to play, or a team you love to root for!



Take Me Out to the Ball Game

**Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out with the crowd;
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
I don't care if I never get back.
Let me root, root, root for the home team
If they don't win, it's a shame.
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,
At the old ball game.**

**Take me out to the ball game,
Take me out with the crowd;
Buy me some peanuts and Cracker Jack,
I don't care if I never get back.
Let me root, root, root for the home team
If they don't win, it's a shame.
For it's one, two, three strikes, you're out,
At the old ball game.**

Song: "God Bless America" (1939)

Songwriter: Irving Berlin

Brief Context:

"God Bless America," written by Irving Berlin in 1918 and revised in 1938 before being published in 1939, is one of the most enduring patriotic songs in American history. Berlin originally set the song aside during World War I but revived it two decades later as a prayer for peace during a time of growing global conflict. The song was first introduced to a national audience by singer Kate Smith on an Armistice Day radio broadcast in 1938, and it quickly became her signature performance. Over time, it has been sung at public gatherings, national events, and sporting games, where its message of hope and unity continues to resonate.

Activity: Singing and Discussion

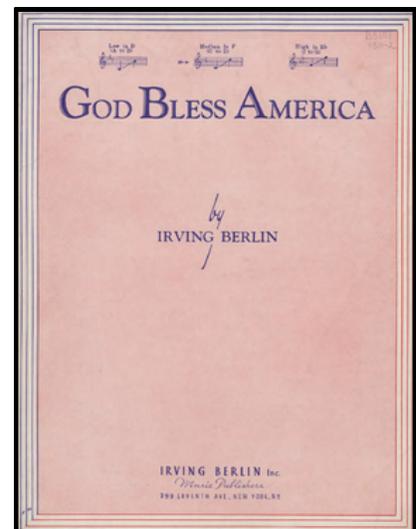
What do you need?

- **Perfect Harmony "God Bless America" video ([YOUTUBE](#))**
- **Perfect Harmony "God Bless America" lyrics**

Suggested Discussion

Singing patriotic songs at sporting events has become a time honored tradition.

Tell someone about how you feel connected when singing songs at sporting events with your family, friends, or people around you.



God Bless America

While the storm clouds gather far across the sea

Let us pledge allegiance to a land that's free

Let us all be grateful for a land so fair

As we raise our voices in a solemn prayer

God bless America, land that I love

Stand beside her and guide her

Through the night with a light from above

From the mountains to the prairies

To the oceans white with foam

God bless America, my home sweet home

God bless America, land that I love

Stand beside her and guide her

Through the night with a light from above

From the mountains to the prairies

To the oceans white with foam

God bless America, my home sweet home

God bless America, my home sweet home

Song: "Mr. Touchdown, U.S.A." (1950)

Songwriters: Ruth Roberts, Gene Piller, William Katz

Brief Context:

"Mr. Touchdown, U.S.A.," written in 1950 by songwriter Ruth Roberts with collaborators Gene Piller and William "Bill" Katz, is an energetic march celebrating the excitement of American football. First recorded by Hugo Winterhalter, the song quickly became one of the most frequently played tunes on radio during the 1950 college football season. With lively lyrics about a fictional football hero racing for the end zone, the song captures the spirit of school pride and game-day enthusiasm. Over the years, it has remained a favorite for marching bands and pregame celebrations, helping bring the excitement of football to fans and performers alike.

Activity: Movement

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Mr. Touchdown, U.S.A." video ([YOUTUBE](#))

Suggested Seated Movement

Follow Perfect Harmony leader Trey or create your own seated movement!

Use movements like . . .

- Marching and practicing your high knees
- Raising your fists like you just scored the winning point
- Kicking or throwing a pretend football



Song: "Sweet Caroline" (1969)

Songwriter: Neil Diamond

Brief Context:

"Sweet Caroline," written and recorded by Neil Diamond and released in 1969, quickly became one of the most recognizable pop songs of its era. The song reached the Top 5 on the Billboard Hot 100 and has remained popular with audiences for decades. Over time, "Sweet Caroline" has become a beloved sing-along favorite at sporting events, where fans enthusiastically join in on the song's famous chorus. Its upbeat spirit and crowd participation have made it a staple of stadiums and celebrations around the world.

Activity: Listening

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "Sweet Caroline" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "Sweet Caroline" lyrics

Fun Fact:

Over the years, "Sweet Caroline" has become a beloved sing-along at Boston Red Sox games at Fenway Park, where fans joyfully shout the famous "So good! So good! So good!" during the chorus. In 2010, Neil Diamond surprised the crowd by performing the song live at the ballpark, leading thousands of fans in the iconic sing-along.

When our Perfect Harmony leader Kristen reaches the chorus, join in and shout "So good! So good! So good!" just like the fans at the stadium!



Neil Diamond on stage in 1972 (Larry Bessel). [Los Angeles Times Photographic Collection](#) at the UCLA Library.



Song: "We Are the Champions" (1977)

Songwriters: Freddie Mercury

Brief Context:

"We Are the Champions," written by Freddie Mercury and recorded by the rock band Queen, was released in 1977 on the album *News of the World*. The powerful anthem quickly became one of the band's most recognizable songs, reaching the Top 10 in several countries and earning lasting popularity with audiences around the world. Written with crowd participation in mind, the song's triumphant chorus celebrates perseverance and victory. Today, "We Are the Champions" is widely played at sporting events and celebrations, often played after a big win.

Activity: Singing and Discussion

What do you need?

- Perfect Harmony "We Are the Champions" video ([YOUTUBE](#))
- Perfect Harmony "We Are the Champions" lyrics

Suggested Discussion

This song celebrates the joys of winning together.

Think about a moment, big or small, where you experienced a victory with community, friends, or your team.

Tell someone what a moment of victory felt like.



We Are the Champions

We are the champions, my friends

And we'll keep on fighting till the end

We are the champions

We are the champions

No time for losers

Cause we are the champions

Of the world

We are the champions, my friends

And we'll keep on fighting till the end

We are the champions

We are the champions

No time for losers

Cause we are the champions

Of the world