From Sea To Shining Sea

Whatever their ethnic or cultural backgrounds, Americans deserve to know something of their common musical heritage as citizens of our United States of America.

Winifred Hyson

PERFORMANCE NOTES

These songs are arranged to be played on a piano and a five-octave keyboard, but with only small adaptations, as suggested in the score, may be played on shorter keyboards. Voicing directions should be considered to be merely suggestions, as voice qualities vary considerably from one keyboard to another. In some cases, the chosen voice may be changed within the song for more musical contrast.

Performers are encouraged to be creative in their choices, always considering the suitability of the sound to the character and demands of the music. With most keyboards, it will be desirable to change the dynamic level within certain songs. With touch-sensitive keyboards, however, a more comprehensive dynamics plan should be worked out in advance. For maximum musical interest, performers should carefully observe staccato, legato, portato, and other touches.

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In the 1860s and '70s, small groups of cowboys drove herds of cattle, sometimes as many as three or four hundred head, from ranches in Texas to the railroad terminals in Kansas City, Missouri for shipment by train to cities in the East. It was lonely work, often keeping the cowboys away from family and friends for months at a time.

The Streets of Laredo

As I walked out in the streets of Laredo, As I walked out in Laredo one day, I spied a poor cowboy, all wrapped in white linen, All wrapped in white linen as cold as the clay.

"I see by your outfit that you are a cowboy,"
These words he did say as I calmly went by.
"Come sit down beside me and hear my sad story,
I'm shot in the breast and I know I must die."

- Traditional

THE STREETS OF LAREDO





