

The Spirit of America

*5 Patriotic Songs of Faith, Hope and Courage
Arranged for Late Intermediate to Early Advanced Pianists*

Sharon Aaronson

Patriotic music has long held a special place in the hearts and minds of the American people. In times of peace, the music is usually relegated to the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at schools and sporting events. In times of stress and war, however, we become aware of the richness of our musical history through the performance of other patriotic songs.

The music and lyrics of patriotic songs are uplifting, a reminder of past battles won, of troubles overcome; they give us courage and hope while they calm our fears. The association of these songs to past and present events is so strong that sometimes the musical quality of them goes unnoticed. With few exceptions, patriotic music is seldom programmed by virtuoso pianists at major concert halls.

In *The Spirit of America*, arranged for the late-intermediate to early-advanced pianist, I have tried to do more than a basic rendition of the melody. I have concentrated on bringing out the inherent musical quality of each song while showcasing the skills of the performer in a manner that makes the arrangement equally at home in a recital, at a sporting event or other venue.

I hope you find these solos attractive in their own right and stirring in what they represent, the indomitable spirit of the American people.

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Amazing Grace	8
America	14
America, the Beautiful	5
Battle Hymn of the Republic	12
Star-Spangled Banner, The	2



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The Star-Spangled Banner

Words by Francis Scott Key

Music by John Stafford Smith

Arr. by Sharon Aaronson

Maestoso

mf

The score is written for piano in 3/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a measure number in a box at the beginning (4, 8, 12, and 16). The first system is marked 'Maestoso' and 'mf'. The score includes fingerings, slurs, and dynamic markings. The key signature has one sharp (F#).

System 1 (Measures 1-4):
Measure 1: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 2: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 3: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 4: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.

System 2 (Measures 5-8):
Measure 5: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 6: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 7: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 8: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.

System 3 (Measures 9-12):
Measure 9: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 10: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 11: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 12: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.

System 4 (Measures 13-16):
Measure 13: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 14: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 15: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.
Measure 16: Treble clef, 3/4 time, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter, F#4 quarter. Bass clef, 3/4 time, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter, F#2 quarter.

America

Words by Samuel Francis Smith

Music by Henry Carey
Arr. by Sharon Aaronson

Slowly

mp

4

7

mf

10

1 5 1 4 5 2 1 5 2 1 3 2 1 4 2 1

1 3 5 1 3 2 1 4 2 1 5 2 1 4 2 1 1

5 2 1 2 1 5 3 5 3 1 2 2

1 2 1 1 1 1 2-1 1 3 2 5