

“We the People: A Celebration of America”

CFCArts Summer 2018

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Adapted from Randy Vader’s “Homeland”

### **The Star Spangled Banner - Orchestra Fanfare**

Choir: (growing in voices over time) “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Voice-over: “Ladies and gentlemen: Please stand for the singing of our national anthem.”

O 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, yeah, streaming?

And the rockets' red glare  
The bombs bursting in air  
Gave proof through the night  
That our flag was still there

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

### **This Land Is Your Land Underscore**

Yes, the star-spangled banner does wave over this land of the free and the home of the brave. America, the beautiful – from sea to shining sea – from vast plains to mountain vistas – from great lakes to mighty rivers – from barren deserts to primeval forests. We share this incredible mosaic of a land.

We too are a mosaic – we the people. Each colorful piece is a unique human being, and millions of us together create a work of art, a beautiful picture of freedom. It is a picture ever-growing, as this land remains a beacon of hope for all who come here, the tired, the poor, the huddled masses yearning to breathe free – who *do* breathe free, as long as this land serves as our source of strength.

We the people – immigrant and indigenous, all of us in this diverse collection that makes up America – we have a great responsibility to this land we call our own. We look around at the people we stand with, who inhabit this land, and we know it is our duty to take care of it all – my land, your land, this beautiful land.

### **This Land Is Your Land**

We gather together tonight to celebrate America, and the people who together create this nation. We are a nation of Native Americans and immigrants, of cultures from all corners of the Earth. We the people are joined by a shared dream of liberty, and a commitment to turn that dream into a living reality.

We share a history of brave ancestors who pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their honor in the pursuit of freedom and justice – and we, the people, continue that pursuit, as we take care of our great nation, the United States of America, from sea to shining sea.

### **Salute to the States (America the Beautiful)**

Several centuries ago, a nation dedicated to the principles that guided our founders was merely a dream – however, it was a dream whose time had come. And so, together, we the people arrived at the conclusion that all of us are created equal, and that certain truths are indeed self-evident: that all human beings have the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The action we took in the name of that truth brought a great wave of change upon the world. Once the bell of liberty sounded, it could never be silenced. We the people responded to that call, traveling by land, by ship, and by plane to a new land, *this land*, where together we created something unique – the United States of America.

This nation is a land of individuals for whom liberty and justice for all is not a cliché, but a creed. We the people created this nation, knowing that freedom requires work and courage, and that for freedom, the people must rise and not be afraid to take a stand.

### **Livin' in the Homeland**

#### **Salute to the Armed Forces Underscore**

America, so beautiful, for heroes proved in liberating strife, who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life. Staying united as a nation, though a triumphant goal, does not come without tragedy. Our people have endured wars both foreign and domestic. But this nation remains the home of the free because it remains the home of the brave.

Throughout history, we the people have answered the noble call to protect and defend those rights and freedoms we hold most dear. Some respondents to this call walk among us now in battlefield dress, ready to board the next flight to stand in our stead in harm's way. Some walk among us unnoticed, but they carry the satisfaction of memories of victories won and the scars of friends lost.

Some are not able to walk among us for they bear the wounds of battle, both physical and mental. And some are not able to walk among us because they are no longer with us – but these fallen patriots live on in the heart of a grateful nation.

Our debt to the heroes among us cannot be adequately paid – but our chance to honor them cannot happen often enough. As the song from your branch of the service is sung, would all of our active military and veterans rise so that we, we the people, can thank YOU.

### **Salute to the Armed Forces**

As we look back through the scrolls of history, we see that a way of life based on freedom and liberty is the life most sought by the people of the world. But still this path is seldom the road most travelled. The pursuit of true justice, more often than not, does not come easily, but requires the greatest sacrifice from the just.

We must never forget the sacrifices made, the promises kept, and the cost incurred by the people who made that justice possible. We must never lose the beauty and the harmony of the sacred song of freedom.

### **Count the Cost**

### **God Bless the USA**

Freedom, liberty, justice... these are central words in our lexicon of a free republic. There is another word we must remember, and teach it to our children and our children's children. The word is "trust."

We the people place our trust in ourselves, and in each other. As a part of the people, we trust the people to come together for freedom, to stand for liberty, to seek out justice. We trust each other to be the free and the brave, who never stumble or falter, and the dreamers who never cease to follow their dream.

### **Let Justice Roll On**

Through the most difficult of times – acts of war, natural disasters, unspeakable tragedies – Americans have always risen to the occasion of caring for each other. We the people know from experience that the closest bonds are not drawn by mutual strength, but by mutual need.

When those without strength lean on each other, we gain strength. When those without hope support each other, we gain hope. When we give with joy, we receive with joy, and so our dreams live on. This is a truth that pervades all the diverse beliefs held by the people of this great nation – those who believe in the Earth, those who believe in each other, and those who believe in a higher power from above. This mutual need is what holds all of us with these many beliefs together.

And as we the people continue our journey together, the sun will surely rise on a day that we shall overcome all that stands in the way of justice. As we walk hand in hand, we will find those simple gifts we all strive for most: freedom, unity, and delight.

### **Doxology / We Shall Overcome / Lean On Me / Simple Gifts**

We the people – honored beyond measure, and joined together by history, heritage and hope.

We are the heirs to those who gave their all “in order to form a more perfect union.”

We, the people, are the recipients and guardians of this land inhabited by the free and protected by the brave.

We pledge allegiance to the same flag, protect the same constitution, and share this portion of our planet – this great country we love, which we built and continue to build together – the United States of America.

### **We the People**

We the people are the keepers of the flame, entrusted with maintaining the light of freedom that shines on the greatness of America, and that also illuminates that which must be addressed and changed. There is much for us to celebrate, and there is much for us still to overcome.

Freedom is the foundation of our national heritage – but freedom can only survive if it is anchored in truth, justice, and trust. We pay homage to our ancient heritage – the many cultures and beliefs that gave birth to us – while we acknowledge our bond as Americans.

We the people are those who share a love for this nation, built by the dreamers, and secured by the brave and the free. And as the Statue of Liberty lifts her lamp beside the golden door, we too lift our hands in welcome to all who keep the dream of freedom alive – to all who are here today, to all who will be here tomorrow – to every piece of the wonderful work of art that is America – to we, the people.

### **Battle Hymn of the Republic**