



**MICHAEL FRANCIS SMITH**

**AMERICA,  
LAND THAT  
I LOVE**

**FOR STRING ORCHESTRA  
(OPTIONAL BAND & CHORUS)**

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## **About the Composition**

*America, Land That I Love* is a varied and refreshing combination of American songs including *This Is My Country*, *Simple Gifts*, and *This Land is Your Land*. It is lively, fun and easy to sing along with. It was written for Band and/or Chorus and/or Strings, and it can be played or sung by any ensemble alone with great success. This is the perfect concert finale for the whole music department.

## **About the Composer**

Michael Francis Smith is a composer, teacher, band and choir director, and church worship leader. He has taught instrumental music, from elementary bands up to community bands, ranging in ages from 9 to 90. He is a graduate of Ithaca College where he studied composition with Karel Husa. His Master of Education Degree is in School Administration from Lesley College; for 23 years he was a K-12 Music Department Chair in two Massachusetts school districts. He is one of the founders and conductors of the Abington Community Band.

After 26 years of public school teaching, he is focusing on composing, song and hymn writing, and leading church worship. His music tells a story, finding inspiration in hymns and spirituals, patriotic music, poetry and classic literature. He often combines instrumental and vocal scores to be used by any combination of band, chorus and orchestra, or to be played or sung successfully by any ensemble alone, providing versatility for ensembles and opportunities for concert finales.

Mr. Smith is the Director of Music at Christ Chapel in Centerville, Massachusetts. He will complete a Doctor of Ministry in Worship Studies in June 2016 from the Robert E. Webber Institute of Worship Studies in Orange Park, Florida. He lives on Cape Cod in Massachusetts with his wife, Janice, and their two children, Sean and Colleen. .

# America, the Land I Love

Including *This Is My Country*, *Simple Gifts*, and *This Land Is Your Land*

Michael Francis Smith

**Majestic** ♩ = 76

*f* **rit.**

Soprano Alto  
Tenor Bass

God bless A - mer - i - ca. It's the land that I love.

Piano

*f*

Violin 1

Violin 2

*f* *f*

Viola

*f* *f*

Cello

*f*

Double Bass

*f*

**A** **Faster** ♩ = 92  
*This Is My Country*

*mp* *tutti*  
This is my coun- try!

*mp* *tutti*  
This is my coun- try! Land of my choice!

**A** **Faster** ♩ = 92

*mp*

12

*mf* *f*

Hear my proud voice! I pledge thee my al - le - giance A - mer - i ca the bold. For

*mf* *f* tutti

I pledge al - le-giance A - mer - i - ca the bold. For

*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

*mf* *f*

18 *tutti*

this is my coun-try to have and to hold.

this is my count-ry to have and to hold.

*p*

*p*

**B** Slow and Lyrical ♩=64  
*Simple Gifts*

22

*p* tutti

'Tis the gift to be sim-ple, 'tis the gift to be free, 'tis the gift to come down  
Gift, the gift, the gift to come

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of vocal notation. It features a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for the first system. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The right hand plays a series of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a series of notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3. The music is in a simple, homophonic style.

**B** Slow and Lyrical ♩=64

*p*

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of vocal notation. It features a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The treble staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of eighth notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The bass staff begins with a whole rest, followed by a series of notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*p*

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for the second system. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The right hand plays a series of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a series of notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3. The music is in a simple, homophonic style.

*p*

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for the third system. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The right hand plays a series of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a series of notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3. The music is in a simple, homophonic style.

Detailed description: This block contains the piano accompaniment for the fourth system. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The right hand plays a series of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The left hand plays a series of notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, B3, A3, G3. The music is in a simple, homophonic style.

27

where you ought to be, And when we find our selves in the place just right, It will be in the val ley of love and de light.

down, 'Tis the Gift to be sim - ple 'tis the gift of love and de light.

This system contains the vocal melody and bass line. The vocal line is in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bass line is in a bass clef with the same key signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, consisting of a right-hand treble clef and a left-hand bass clef. The right hand features a melodic line with some grace notes and a left hand with a steady accompaniment.

*mp*

*mp*

This system continues the vocal melody and bass line. The dynamic marking *mp* (mezzo-piano) is placed below the first measure of both the vocal and bass lines.

*mp*

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the second system. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed below the first measure of the bass line.

*mp*

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the third system. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed below the first measure of the bass line.

*mp*

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the fourth system. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed below the first measure of the bass line.



32

*cresc.*

*mf*

When true sim - lic - i - ty is gained, To - bow and to bend we shan't be a - shamed. To

*mf*

To

Piano accompaniment for the first system, featuring a treble and bass clef with chords and moving lines.

Piano accompaniment for the second system, including a treble clef with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking and a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking.

Piano accompaniment for the third system, including a bass clef with a piano (*p*) dynamic marking and a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking.

Piano accompaniment for the fourth system, including a bass clef with a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking.

Piano accompaniment for the fifth system, including a bass clef with a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking.

C

36

turn, turn will be our de-light, 'Til by turn - ing turn - ing we come round right.

turn— turn, will be our de-light, 'Til by turn-ing turn-ing we come round right.

*mf*

C

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

**D** Faster ♩ = 100

*This Land Is Your Land*

41

rit.

The first system of music features a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The vocal line consists of whole rests. The piano accompaniment begins with a half rest, followed by a quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, and quarter note C5. This is followed by a half note G4-A4-B4-C5, a half note G4-A4-B4-C5, and a half note G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part is marked *mf*.

As I was walk - ing a rib-bon of high - way, I saw a -

The second system of music shows piano accompaniment for both the vocal line and the piano part. The vocal line has chords: G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part is marked *mf*.

rit.

**D** Faster ♩ = 100

The third system of music features piano accompaniment for both the vocal line and the piano part. The vocal line has chords: G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part is marked *mf*.

The fourth system of music features piano accompaniment for both the vocal line and the piano part. The vocal line has chords: G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part is marked *mf*.

The fifth system of music features piano accompaniment for both the vocal line and the piano part. The vocal line has chords: G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part is marked *mf*.

The sixth system of music features piano accompaniment for both the vocal line and the piano part. The vocal line has chords: G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5, G4-A4-B4-C5. The piano part is marked *mf*.

47 *mp*

I - saw be - low me a - gold - en  
bove me an end - less sky - way.

53

tutti

val - - ley. This land was made for you and me.

58 **E** *f*

— This is your land; this is my land Cal - i - for - nia,

*f*

This Land is your land, this land is my land from Cal - i for - nia to the New York

**E**

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

65

New York Is - land, From the red - wood to the gulf stream,

Is - land from the red-wood for - est to the Gulf Stream wa - ters

71 *tutti* *mf* Sop. **F** Majestic ♩ = 76

this land was made for you and me. \_\_\_\_\_ 'Tis the gift to be sim-ple 'tis the

This land was made for you and me. \_\_\_\_\_ A - mer - i - ca, A -

*mf* *tutti*

**F** Majestic ♩ = 76

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

The musical score is arranged in systems. The first system contains vocal staves with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The second system continues the piano accompaniment. The third system features a vocal line with lyrics and piano accompaniment. The fourth system contains piano accompaniment. The fifth system contains piano accompaniment. The sixth system contains piano accompaniment. The seventh system contains piano accompaniment. The eighth system contains piano accompaniment. The score includes performance markings such as 'tutti', 'mf', and 'Majestic'.



76

free, A - mer-i- ca

*f*

gift to be This land was made for you and me. And crown Thy good with bro-ther-hood from

mer - i - ca, God shed His grace on thee. This is my count-ry from

*f*

*f*

*f*

*mf* *f*

*f*

81

sea to — shin - ing sea, A - mer - i - ca, it's the land that I love.

sea to shin - ing God bless A - mer - i - ca, — it's the land that I love.

*rit.* *tutti*

*rit.*