

The Star-Spangled Banner

During the War of 1812, Francis Scott Key (1779–1843) witnessed the all-night bombardment of Ft. McHenry in Maryland. Despite the fierce assault, Key was elated to see in the morning that the American flag was still proudly waving over the fort, meaning that the fort was still manned. Inspired, he wrote this poem to celebrate the event. "The Star-Spangled Banner" was declared the national anthem in 1931.

Melody by John Stafford Smith

Lyrics by Francis Scott Key

With spirit (♩ = c. 104)

The musical score is arranged for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. It is in the key of B-flat major and 3/4 time. The tempo is marked 'With spirit' with a quarter note equal to approximately 104 beats per minute. The score is divided into three systems, each with vocal lines and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: 'Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming? And the'. The piano part includes dynamic markings such as *f* and *mf*.

Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Piano

Oh, say can you see by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we

6
S
A
hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars thro' the perilous

T
B

12
S
A
fight, O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming? And the

T
B

f *mf*

17

S
A

rock-et's red glare the bombs burst-ing in air, Gave proof thro' the night that our

T
B

23

S
A

flag was still there. Oh, say does that — Star - Span - gled Ban - ner — yet —

T
B

f

28

S
A

wave, — O'er the land — of the free and the home of the brave!

T
B

ff