

America the Beautiful, 1913 version

*O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

*O beautiful for pilgrim feet
Whose stern impassioned stress
A thoroughfare of freedom beat
Across the wilderness!
America! America!
God mend thine every flaw,
Confirm thy soul in self-control,
Thy liberty in law!*

*O beautiful for heroes proved
In liberating strife.
Who more than self their country loved
And mercy more than life!
America! America!
May God thy gold refine
Till all success be nobleness
And every gain divine!*

*O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed by human tears!
America! America!
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!*

“America the Beautiful,” has at times, been suggested as a replacement to our national anthem, the “Star Spangled Banner.”

Proponents of “America the Beautiful” cite the songs, easy, flowing line, and its adaptability to various voices and ensembles.

America the Beautiful also lacks the imagery of war, that's so ever-present in the Star Spangled Banner.

Which song do you think better represents the America?



Buzz Aldrin salutes the flag on the moon.