



All Across America

By Cornelius James Van Cott

This song is dedicated to those who proudly serve
and sacrificed to preserve our Country's liberty and honor.

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*This is a patriotic song of appreciation.
Audiences, if so inspired by the words and music,
are encouraged to make a free will donation,
in the name of the song, to an organization
that supports our servicemen and women,
their families, and those who serve or sacrificed
to preserve our Country's liberty and honor.*

*C. J. Van Cott
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All Across America

This is a patriotic song. Basically, the love, pride, and gratitude I feel when I see our flag flying led me to compose the words and music.

These feelings go back to my boyhood days, starting when my parents would give me the responsibility of flying our 48-star flag on Memorial Day and The Fourth of July. To do the task, I had to shinny along the peak of the roof over our front door and attach our flag to a line between the door and a landmark tree in the front yard. It was a daunting challenge, calling for agility and courage given the height. Upon completion, I would step back to watch our flag waving gently in the breeze. How nice it looked!

At scout camp and others, I took pride when my turn came to be part of the honor guard and having to raise the flag before breakfast and lower the flag before evening dinner. Experiences like this inspired me to earn bugling merit badge in scouts and be the bugler at flag ceremonies for my scout troop, Troop 1 in Pelham, NY, where I made Eagle Scout.

At Yale a college banner had the motto, "For God, For Country, and for Yale", which initially seemed over done. Later, at Naval Officer Candidate School I realized that the banner's message had become significant to me. Navy traditions about showing respect for our flag at "Morning Colors" (0800) and "Evening Colors" (sunset), subsequent flag ceremonies, my leadership responsibilities, and the dedication of my enlisted men added greatly to my appreciation of our flag. Many tall, gleaming white flag poles flying our Country's flag, like the flagstaff at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, are represented in the words of the song.

Reading many books about the sacrifices and deeds of our servicemen and women, September 11, 2001, and a very divided national opinion, all combined in me to inspire a song that would hopefully create better unity, harmony of spirit, and gratitude for our Country's sacrifices. I also wanted the song to embrace the full name and dignity of our Country. Accordingly, the song boldly begins, "The United States of America..."

Concurrently, in honor and appreciation of our relatives, friends, and those whom we did not know on active duty - veterans, too - our flag began to fly daily in front of Wood Hollow Farm, at our Maine lakeshore camp, and anywhere we call "home".

Inspiration for this song also comes from seeing the beauty of our flag flying respectfully in places like: quiet village greens, tall buildings; on scenic lakes; and unexpected remote and rural places in our land. Hence the title: "All Across America". Hopefully, the title's words in the song are heard as rich chords and moving harmony.

The words "...that under God, for peace, unfurls our flag's red, white, and blue.", and "...the Stars and Stripes - our Country's Honor Roll." best summarize in my mind the patriotic values and message of "All Across America".

*Measures 41-43
were inspired
by Wayne, ME
and
Androscooggin Lake,
especially.*

All Across America

Cornelius James Van Cott

Spiritedly

The U - ni - ted States of A - mer - i - ca

mf

This system contains the first four measures of the piece. It features a treble and bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'The U - ni - ted States of A - mer - i - ca' are written below the treble staff. A dynamic marking of *mf* is placed in the first measure.

6

is the land that I love and call home. So I proud - ly pledge my al -

This system contains measures 5 through 8. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment remains in the bass clef. The lyrics 'is the land that I love and call home. So I proud - ly pledge my al -' are written below the treble staff. A fermata is placed over the final note of the melody in measure 8.

10

le - giance to our flag. What's more, I do af - firm:

This system contains measures 9 through 12. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment remains in the bass clef. The lyrics 'le - giance to our flag. What's more, I do af - firm:' are written below the treble staff. A fermata is placed over the final note of the melody in measure 12.

14 *proudly*

All a - cross A - mer - i - ca, I love to see our Coun - try's flag

This system contains measures 13 through 16. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment remains in the bass clef. The lyrics 'All a - cross A - mer - i - ca, I love to see our Coun - try's flag' are written below the treble staff. A dynamic marking of *proudly* is placed above the first measure.

18

fly - ing in the breeze. It makes me think of

21

mf

free - dom and our cher - ished lib - er - ty. I love to see a

25

gleam - ing white, flag - pole tall and true, that, un - der God, for

29

mf

peace un - furls our flag's red, white, and blue. I love to see The

33

Stars and Stripes stream - ing from that pole the spir - it of A -

37

mer - i - ca, our Coun - try's Hon - or Roll. A - loft a qui - et

mp

41

vil - lage green, hill, or spark - ling lake, our flag lifts high my

mf

45

eyes, and heart, and re - solve for our chil - dren's sake. From

mf

49 *gratefully*

coast to coast Old Glor - y stands, free our land to - keep! In

Musical notation for measures 49-52, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

53

grat - i - tude I trib - ute give to our brave in hon - ored

Musical notation for measures 53-56, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

57 *mp* *mf*

sleep. Thanks to their deeds, our flag waves on

Musical notation for measures 57-61, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

62

stead-fast in the breeze, in - spir - ing us, re - mind - ing us of our

Musical notation for measures 62-65, including vocal line and piano accompaniment.

66 *mf* *firmly*

pre - cious li - ber - ty. Thus, may our

This system contains measures 66 through 69. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present at the beginning, and the instruction *firmly* is written above the staff. The lyrics are: "pre - cious li - ber - ty. Thus, may our".

70 *gva*

flag bright - ly, ev - er wave

This system contains measures 70 through 73. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. A dynamic marking of *gva* is present at the beginning. The lyrics are: "flag bright - ly, ev - er wave".

74

all a - cross A - mer - i - ca!

This system contains measures 74 through 77. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "all a - cross A - mer - i - ca!".

78 *mp*

This system contains measures 78 through 81. It features a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The melody is in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. A dynamic marking of *mp* is present at the beginning.

