

"I, Too, Sing America" Texts & Translations

Mahk Jchi by Ulali

Mahk Jchi tahm boo-ee
yahm pi-gih-dee
Mahk Jchi tahm boo-ee
kahn speh-wah eh-bi

Our hearts are full
and our minds are good
Our ancestors come
and give us strength

Mahm-pi wah ho-ka yi nonk,
tah hond tah-ni kih-yee tai-yee
Ghee weh meh yee-tai-yee,
Nan-ka yaht yah moo-ni-yeh wah-jhi-
seh

Stand tall, sing, dance
and never forget who you are
Or where you come from

Songs for the People by Reginal S. Wright

Let me make the songs for the people
Songs for the old and young
Let me make the songs to stir like a battle-cry
Wherever they are sung.
Not for the clashing of sabres,
For carnage nor for strife;
But songs to thrill the hearts of men with more...
more abundant life.

Let me make the songs for the weary
Let me sing for little children
Let me make the songs
Let me make songs for the people

Songs for the people.

The Redwood by Matthew Lyon Hazzard

I am here
my hand on your chest
which has been breathing
for thousands of years

I am here (I am here)
my hand on your chest (my hand on your chest)
your woolen tresses (your woolen tresses)
braided by time (braided by time)
your wood fur echoes (your wood fur echoes)
in the church of trees (in the church of trees)
my car door slamming (slamming)
even our noise (even our noise)
sounds like music

sounds like music...

I step carefully around your tiny friends
that grow in your shade
above blankets
of rust-colored down (rust-colored down)
that sigh at my feet (sigh at my feet)
Like gentle elders
taking care of their children.

Can we be like you?
Can we be like you?
Kindness is what this is and what you are.
Kindness is what this is and what you are.
Can we be like you?

Kindness is what this is and what you are.

Kindness is what this is and what you are.

Tierra y Pasión (Yo Soy América) by Carlos Cordeiro

Yo Soy

I am

América

America

Tierra y bondad

Land and kindness

América

America

Juntos América

Together America

Tierra y pasión

Land and passion

Juntos...

Together...

Vida y amor

Life and love

Miedos & fe

Fears and faith

Muchas voces

Many voices –

Árboles de luz

Trees of Life

Historias conectadas

Connected histories –

Canciones compartidas

Shared songs.

Tierra y pasión

Land and passion

América

America

Yo Soy América

I am America

Shenandoah arranged by Mark Wilberg

Oh, Shenandoah,
I long to hear you
'Way, you rolling river
Oh, Shenandoah,
I long to hear you
'Way, I'm bound away
Across the wide Missouri

Oh, Shenandoah (Shenandoah)
I long to see you (I long to see you)
'Way, you rolling river (you rolling river)
Oh, Shenandoah (oh, Shenandoah)
I long to see you (I long to see you)
'Way, We're bound away (we're bound away)
Across the wide Missouri.

'Tis seven long years
Since last I saw you
'Way, you rolling river
'Tis seven long years
Since last I saw you
'Way, we're bound away
Across the wide Missouri.

Oh, Shenandoah
I long to see you
'Way, you rolling river
Oh, Shenandoah
I long to see you
'Way, we're bound away
Across the wide Missouri
Oh, Shenandoah,
I long to see you
Across the wide Missouri.

My Anthem by B.E. Boykin

My anthem
is the language of trees
the yellow lotus
the mountain iris
the vow to leave the land behind
better than I have found it

My anthem
is making room
for blessings earned
and given

my anthem
is a kinship
no borders to grace
everywhere we breathe
everywhere stand

my anthem
is a kinship
no borders to grace
everywhere we breathe
everywhere stand
an offering
a share of hallowed space

My anthem
Is saving for the frost
Surviving fire
flood
and flight
the vow to leave the land behind
better than I have found it

My anthem
is an heirloom
memory passed
from mother to mother's hand

My anthem
is a kinship
no borders to grace
everywhere we breathe
everywhere stand

My anthem
is a kinship
no borders to grace
everywhere we breathe
everywhere stand
an offering
a share of hallowed space

My anthem
is the history
the past
 the future
 the living

My anthem
is the history
the past
 the future
 the living

My anthem
is the history
the past
 the future
 the living

My anthem
is the journey
prayers by gleam of twilight
a nocturne's tender glimmer
first dream at shadows rest

My people dreamed of me
My people dreamed us whole
My people dreamed us home
dreamed us free

This Land is Your Land by Courtney Politano

This land is your land
this land is my land
From the California
to the New York island
From the redwood forests
to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me...

As I went a-walkin' that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
I saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me

(Chorus)

I roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
All around me a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me
There was a big high wall there
That tried to stop me
A sign was painted
said, "Private Property!"

but on the back side
it didn't say nothing
This land was made for you and me

(Chorus)

When the sun came shining and I was strolling
the wheat fields waving, the dust clouds rolling
as the fog was lifting, a voice was chanting
This land was made for you and me

(Chorus)

Nobody living can ever stop me
As I go walking that freedom highway
Nobody living can ever make me turn back
This land was made for you and me

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York island
From redwood forests to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me

How Can I Keep from Singing by Gwyneth Walker

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.
I hear the real though distant song that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear the music ringing.
It sounds an echo in my soul,
how can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest loudly roars,
I hear the truth, it's living!
What though the darkness round me close,
songs in the night it's giving!
No storm can shake my inmost calm

while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since I believe that love abides,
how can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble
when they hear the bells of freedom ringing.
When friends rejoice both far and near,
how can I keep from singing?
In prison cell, in dungeon dark,
our thoughts to them are winging.
When friends hold courage in their heart,
how can I keep from singing?

How can I keep?
How can I keep?

No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since I believe that love abides,
how can I keep?
how can I keep from singing?

How can I keep?
How can I keep from singing?
Singing!
Singing!

Lean on Me with We Shall Overcome

We shall overcome,
We shall overcome,
We shall overcome some day.
Oh, deep in my heart,
I do believe,
We shall overcome some day.

Sometimes in our lives,
we all have pain, we all have sorrow.
But if we are wise,
We know that there's always tomorrow.

Lean on me when you're not strong,
And I'll be your friend,
I'll help you carry on.
For it won't be long,
'Til I'm gonna need somebody to lean on.

Please swallow your pride
If I have faith you need to borrow
For no one can fill those of your needs
That you won't let show.

You just call on me, brother,
When you need a hand.
We all need somebody to lean on.
I just might have a problem
That you'll understand.
We all need somebody to lean on.

If there is a load you have to bear
That you can't carry
I'm right up the road
I'll share your load
If you just call me
(call me)

If you need a friend,
if you need somebody,
just call me.
Just lean on me
We can work it out
Yes, we shall overcome someday
You got to lean on me

Yes, we shall overcome someday

I am Willing by Holly Near

I am open and I am willing
For to be hopeless would seem so strange
It dishonors those who go before us
So lift me up to the light of change

There is a hurting in my family
And there is sorrow in my town
There is a panic in the nation
And there is wailing the whole world round

For I am open and I am willing
For to be hopeless would seem so strange
It dishonors those who go before us
So lift me up to the light of change

May the children see more clearly
May the elders be more wise
May the winds of change caress us
Even though they burn our eyes

For I am open and I am willing
For to be hopeless would seem so strange
It dishonors those who go before us
So lift me up to the light of change

Give me a mighty oak to hold my confusion
And give me a desert to hold my fears
Give me a sunset to hold my wonder
And give me an ocean to hold my tears

For I am open and I am willing
For to be hopeless would seem so strange

It dishonors those who go before us
So lift me up to the light of change

Signs by Ruth Huber

in a dark time when fear and confusion reign,
and hatred casts a shadow on the stage,
a power play.

So easy to despair, but we don't have time to waste!
We will not be silent
We'll fight like a girl all over the world
We rise,
together we rise!

We, the people,
stand united against the hate.
We, the people,
say no no no no, not in my name!
We flood the streets with cardboard signs,
as millions of lifted voices cry,

No hate, no fear, refugees are welcome here,
no wall, no ban, yes, we still can!
My body, my choice, better listen to my voice
and Black lives matter

Girls just wanna have fun-damental rights
Don't you think it's time to stop being so polite?
I'm gonna be the change I want to see in this land,
from Jacksonville to Ketchikan.

From seven continents and fifty divided states
left or right, we all know something's wrong,
come join our song.

With the whole world watching
our differences are our strengths,
No human is illegal,
Stay focused and strong, everybody belongs
We rise! Together we rise!

We, the people,
Nasty women and our friends,
We, the people,
show up, dive in, persevere to the end.

With kindness and generosity
Build bridges of hope and liberty
Listen to the wisdom of the first nations
climate change is real, stand up for education
a woman's place is in this revolution

never surrender

respect my existence or expect resistance
and keep your mitts OFF my lady bits
our rights are not up for grabs
and neither are we
equality,

equality

for all girls to the front, time to get in formation
We rise!

If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention
We rise!

Love, not hate, makes America great
We rise!

We, the people, we will not be silent

Together we rise
No hate, no fear Stand up,
persevere

We rise!

We Rise

We rise
Oh rise

Out of the ashes I will rise
A phoenix reborn in the heart of night
I have been strong
though I am weary
I will remain unyielding
untamed

Out of the shadows I take flight
My wings of flame light up the sky
I've walked through fire
And felt it consume me
still, my heart will not turn away

A new day
Is dawning
I open my eyes
To the light
and I am returning
Oh I am returning home
We rise

Out of the ashes
Rising with passion
A new beginning
Illuminating

A new day
Is dawning
I open my eyes
To the light and I am returning
Oh I am returning
 (I am returning)
 (I am returning)
I am returning home

Keep Marching from *Suffs* by Shaina Taub, arr. Jennifer Lucy Cook

Oh we are marching

You won't live to see the future that I fight for
Maybe no one gets to reach that perfect day
If the work is never over
Then how do you keep marching anyway?

Do you carry your banner as far as you can?
Rewriting the world with your imperfect pen?
'Til the next stubborn girl picks it up
in a picket line over and over again?

And you join in the chorus of centuries chanting to her
The path will be twisted and risky and slow
But keep marching, keep marching
Will you fail or prevail? Well, you may never know
But keep marching, keep marching

'Cause your ancestors are all the proof you need
That progress is possible, not guaranteed
It will only be made if we keep marching, keep marching on

Keep marching on
(Keep marching on)

And remember every mother that you came from
Learned as much from our success as our mistakes
Don't forget you're merely one of many others
On the journey every generation makes

We did not end injustice and neither will you
But still, we made strides, so we know you can too
Make peace with our incomplete power and use it for good
'Cause there's so much to do

The gains will feel small and the losses too large
Keep marching, keep marching
You'll rarely agree with whoever's in charge
Keep marching, keep marching

'Cause your ancestors are all the proof you need
That progress is possible, not guaranteed
It will only be made if we keep marching, keep marching on
Keep marching on (Keep Marching On!)

Yes, the world can be changed, 'cause we've done it before
So keep marching, keep marching
We're always behind you, so bang down the door
And keep marching, keep marching
And let history sound the alarm of how
The future demands that we fight for it now
It will only be ours if we keep marching, keep marching on

Come on, keep marching, marching, marching...

Keep marching on!

America the Beautiful by Shawn Kirchner

O beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountain majesties
Above the fruited plain!
America! America!
May bounteous grace be shed on thee
Thy good be crowned with unity
From sea to shining sea!

O beautiful, that ancient feet,
beneath the countless stars
Ten thousand years in beauty walked
Through wilderness unmarred.
But fateful then, that sailing fleets
A new world sought, and found
And whose bright promise wrought a doom
Whose echoes yet resound.
America, America!
 America, America!
May God forgive thy vying strains.
Thy pride yet tame with rightful shame.

That others' loss bought selfish gain.
O sorrowful for captive feet
In chains against their will,
Who toiled through centuries of wrong
To triumph still:
Whose heroes proved so beautiful
In claims of lawful rights,
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than life.
America! America!

America! America!
May God yet mend thine every flaw,
Redeem thy soul and be made whole,
Thy liberty in law.

O beautiful for patriot dream
That sees beyond the years
Thine alabaster cities gleam
Undimmed human tears.
America! America!

America! America!
From farthest shores thy people stream,
The multitude that seek thy good,
And share a common dream.
America! America!
May God shed bounteous grace on thee,
Thy beauty crown with unity,
From sea to shining sea!