



Katharine Lee Bates 1859-1929

Thank You for the inspiraton!

**AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL**

(Original first verse by Katharine Lee Bates\*  
followed by three additional verses  
by Chris Van Cleave\*\*)

\*O beautiful for spacious skies,  
for amber waves of grain;  
for purple mountains 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 when we awake  
to live the dream of love;  
where all of life's in harmony,  
at one with heaven above!  
America! America! May history serve us well  
through those who gave their lives to save  
and ring our Freedom Bell.

\*\*O beautiful when we can see  
the treasure of your soul;  
where every human race and creed  
achieves God's loving goal!  
America! America! Let shine your glorious heart  
from every woman, man, and child  
who see how great thou art!

\*\*O beautiful to know the truth  
of those born here before;  
who knew this country's gracious gift  
was valued even more!  
America! America! Let all who walk thee know  
the blessedness, the preciousness  
of life born here to show!

(Finish by repeating Katherine Lee Bates'  
original first verse)

*\*\*2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> verses © 2000 Chris Van Cleave*