



Katharine Lee Bates 1859-1929

Thank You for the inspiration!

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!

(repeat Katharine Lee Bates' original first verse)

2nd three verses © 2000 Chris Van Cleave