

U.S.A.

The Star-Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key

John Stafford Smith

8 O — say, can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly light, what so proud - ly we hailed at the

8 twi - light's last gleam - ing, Whose broad stripes and broad stars, through the pe - ril - ous fight, O'er the

14 ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly stream - ing? And the rock - ets' red glare, the bombs

20 burst - ing in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. O say does tha - t

27 star span - gled ban - ne - r ye - t wa - ve O'er the la - nd of the free and the home of the brave?

In 1814 when Great Britain and the USA were at war Francis Scott Key witnessed the night long attack by the British navy of the American base of Fort McHenry.

Based on what he had seen he wrote a poem describing his feelings at the time:

"Oh, say does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave?"

He put his words to an old song which had been composed in London in about 1765 by John Stafford Smith.

The song became popular immediately but did not become the official American anthem until 1931 helped by support from the composer John Philip Souza.

The law passed by president Hoover confirming the anthem does not specify how the tune is to be played so many people, such as composers Igor Stravinsky,

Duke Ellington and guitarist Jimi Hendrix have made their own versions.