"STATE SONG," "CORN SONG," AND "IOWA— BEAUTIFUL LAND"

The Iowa official state song is "The Song of Iowa," words by Maj. S. H. M. Byers of Des Moines, more recently of Los Angeles, California, air "Maryland, My Maryland." It was made the official state song by the Thirty-fourth General Assembly, 1911, as shown by the journals as follows:

[Charles J.] Fulton of Jefferson called up concurrent resolution relative to state song and moved its adoption.

Whereas, The patriotic song of Iowa by S. H. M. Byers has for years been sung in all the schools of the state and on thousands of public occasions, political and social, and wherever Iowa people come together in other states, therefore be it,

Resolved, By the House, the Senate concurring, that it be hereby declared to be recognized as the state song.

Motion prevailed and resolution was adopted.—House Journal, March 18, page 1085.

Senator [John B.] Sullivan called up the House concurrent resolution relative to a state song.

Senator Sullivan moved that the Senate concur in the House concurrent resolution.

Motion prevailed.—Senate Journal, March 24, page 1058.

"The Iowa Corn Song," while not legally adopted as an official song, has attained national fame. The original stanza was written by George E. Hamilton, and the music arranged by J. T. Beeston, both of Des Moines, for the Shrine pilgrimage to Los Angeles in 1912, and sung for the first time then. Mr. Hamilton and his friends have added additional lines from time to time until the words and music (pages 54 and 55) are in current use.

Another Iowa song that attained great popularity and which has been used on many state occasions is "Iowa—Beautiful Land," by Tacitus Hussey, a pioneer printer, newspaper writer and poet of Des Moines. Music for it was written by Hon. Horace M. Towner, now governor of Porto Rico. It was copyrighted in 1899.

The Song of Iowa.

Air: "Der Tannenbaum." * (My Maryland.)



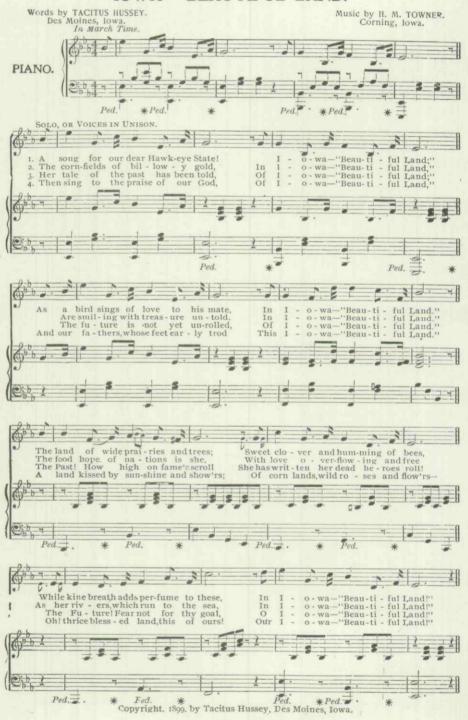
- 3 And she has malds whose laughing eyes,
 To him who loves were Paradise,
 Iowa, O! Iowa.
 O! happiest fate that e'er was known,
 Such eyes to shine for one alone,
 To call such beauty all his own,
 Iowa, O! Iowa.
- 4 Go read the story of thy past,
 Iowa, O! Iowa,
 What glorious deeds, what fame thou hast!
 Iowa, O! Iowa.
 So long as time's great cycle runs,
 Or nations weep their fallen ones,
 Thou'lt not forget thy patriot sons,
 Iowa, O! Iowa.

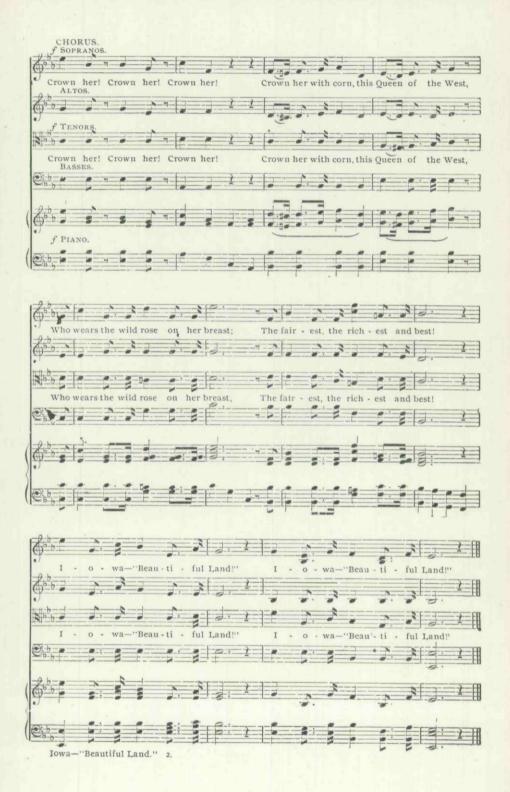
**Der Tannenbaum," the old air to which this song is sung, was a popular German Studenta' song as early as 1819. It had been a Yolka song long before that, even. During our Civil War, the Southerners adapted it to 1808; "My Maryland,"





IOWA-"BEAUTIFUL LAND."





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