

"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.)

By S. H. M. BVERS.

1. You ask what land I love the best, I - o - wa, 'tis I - o - wa, The
2. See you - der fields of tassel'd corn, I - o - wa, in I - o - wa, Where

fair - est State of all the west, I - o - wa, O! I - o - wa. From
Plen - ty fills her gold - en horn, I - o - wa, in I - o - wa. See

you - der Mis - sis - sip - pi's stream To where Mis - sou - ri's wa - ters gleam O!
how her won - drous prai - ries shine To you - der sun - set's pur - pling line, O!

fair it is as po - et's dream, I - o - wa, in I - o - wa.
hap - py land, O! land of mine, I - o - wa, O! I - o - wa.

3 And she has maids whose laughing eyes,
Iowa, O! Iowa,
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 Students' song as early as 1819. It had been a Volks song long before that, even. During our Civil War, the Southerners adapted it to the song, "My Maryland."

Iowa Corn Song

Lyric by { RAY W. LOCKARD &
GEORGE HAMILTON

Music by EDWARD RILEY

Let's sing of Grand old I - O - WAY, Yo - ho, yo - ho, yo - ho, Our
Our land is full of ripe-ning corn, Yo - ho, yo - ho, yo - ho, We've

love is strong - er ev - 'ry day, Yo - ho, yo - ho, yo - ho So
watched it grow both night and morn, Yo - ho, yo - ho, yo - ho. But

come a - long and join the throng, Sev - 'ral hun - dred thou - sand strong,
now we rest, we've stood the test, All that's good we have, the best,

As you come just sing this song, Yo - ho yo - ho yo - ho We're from
I - o - way has reached the crest, Yo - ho yo - ho, yo - ho

CHORUS

I - o - way, I - o - way. State of all the land,

Joy on ev - 'ry hand. We're from I - o - way, I - o - way

That's where the tall corn grows. We're from grows.

Chorus Borrowed from "Travelling," by George Rotzford

Copyrighted by Jerome H. Hamick & Co.

IOWA—"BEAUTIFUL LAND."

Words by TACITUS HUSSEY.
Des Moines, Iowa.
In March Time.

Music by H. M. TOWNER.
Corning, Iowa.

PIANO.

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

SOLO, OR VOICES IN UNISON.

1. A song for our dear Hawk-eye State! In I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land;"
2. The corn-fields of bil - low - y gold, In I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land;"
3. Her tale of the past has been told, Of I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land;"
4. Then sing to the praise of our God, Of I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land;"

Ped. * Ped. *

As a bird sings of love to his mate, In I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land;"
Are smil-ing with treas-ure un - told, In I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land;"
The fu - ture is not yet un-rolled, Of I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land;"
And our fa - thers, whose feet ear - ly trod This I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land;"

Ped. * Ped. *

The land of wide prai-ries and trees; Sweet clo-ver and hum-ming of bees,
The food hope of na-tions is she, With love o-ver-flow-ing and free
The Past! How high on fame's scroll! She has writ-ten her dead he-ros roll!
A land kissed by sun-shine and show'rs; Of corn lands, wild ro-ses and flow'rs--

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

While kine breath adds per-fume to these, In I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land!"
As her riv - ers, which run to the sea, In I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land!"
The Fu - ture! Fear not for thy goal, O I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land!"
Oh! thrice bless - ed land, this of ours! Outr I - o - wa—"Beau-ti - ful Land!"

Ped. * Ped. * Ped. * Ped. *

CHORUS.
f SOPRANOS.

Crown her! Crown her! Crown her! Crown her with corn, this Queen of the West,

ALTOS.

f TENORS.

Crown her! Crown her! Crown her! Crown her with corn, this Queen of the West,

BASSES.

f PIANO.

Who wears the wild rose on her breast; The fair - est, the rich - est and best!

Who wears the wild rose on her breast, The fair - est, the rich - est and best!

I - o - wa - "Beau - ti - ful Land!" I - o - wa - "Beau - ti - ful Land!"

I - o - wa - "Beau - ti - ful Land!" I - o - wa - "Beau - ti - ful Land!"

Copyright of Annals of Iowa is the property of State of Iowa, by & through the State Historical Society of Iowa and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.