

# American Song



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*Hear and feel America's past with the only comprehensive online collection to trace the roots and evolution of American music.*

"This useful site will support music, history, and literature programs. . . . Highly recommended. All users, all levels."—*CHOICE*

With more than [58,000 recordings online in streaming audio](#), *American Song* is an aural history of America. Much more than a repository of well known classics, this online collection includes music that relates to almost every walk of American life, every ethnic group, and every time period. You'll find songs by and about American Indians, miners, immigrants, slaves, children, pioneers, and cowboys. There are the songs of Civil Rights, political campaigns, Prohibition, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and anti-war protests. Listening to the music of the American experience brings an entirely new dimension to studies in history, music, literature, diversity, sociology, and related disciplines.

*American Song* is the definitive source for American roots music and pre-1960 American popular music. It encompasses the great American musical [genres including country, folk, bluegrass, Western, old time, American Indian, blues, jazz, gospel, spirituals, and shape note singing](#) with powerful recordings by artists such as Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger, Peggy Seeger, Si Kahn, Lead Belly, Sleepy LaBeef, the New Lost City Ramblers, Otis Clay, Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater, Nanci Griffith, The Lilly Brothers, Merle Travis, and many others.

The collection also includes all of the 17,000 recordings that were originally released in Alexander Street's *African American Song*, together with an additional 18,000 recordings of just-added soul, doo-wop, funk and R&B, making this the largest online collection to document forms of black American musical expression and the ideal companion to Alexander Street's full-text collection, [African American Music Reference](#).

As part of Alexander Street's [Music Online suite of music reference and listening collections](#), *American Song* can be cross-searched together with all of your library's *Music Online* subscriptions from a single interface. Imagine searching for *ragtime* and finding relevant recordings from *American Song*, together with sheet music, biographies, and reference works from [African American Music Reference](#). Beginning in 2010, access all your *Music Online* content via your iPhone or iPod Touch!

Recordings in *American Song* come from [Rounder Records, the Smithsonian Institution, Document Records, County, King Records, McNeil Music, Appleseed Records, Arhoolie Records, Tompkins Square Records](#), and many other labels and sources. Wherever possible, original liner notes are included, and these constitute an encyclopedia of their own within the collection, rich in music history, biographies, and production information.

Songs like the following provide a rich source for understanding the American experience: *New Massachusetts Liberty Song* (1775); *Hurrah for Grant!* (1868 election song); *Influenza Blues* (1919); *The Titanic Disaster* (1912); *The Battle of Saratoga* (1777); *The Ludlow Massacre* (1914); *Prohibition is a Failure; If You Miss Me From the Back of the Bus* (Civil Rights song); *The Wreck of the Old 97* (1903 railroad song); *Chisolm Trail* (cowboy song); *The Harrison Song* (War of 1812); *Poor Paddy Works on the Railway* (railroad song); *I Rode Southern, I Rode L&N* (railroad song); *Zion's Walls* (shape note song); and tens of thousands more.

*Alexander Street's Semantic Indexing™* and multiple, combinable search fields allow you to search by artist, ensemble, label, geographical region, instrument, album, and time period. Users can even search by historical event. Specially created controlled vocabularies for genre, instrumentation, performer, and time period are musically authoritative and are applied consistently across all Alexander Street music collections. Tools common to all our streaming music and video collections include password-protected, [personal playlists](#) and [permanent URLs](#) for every recording that make it easy to create, save, access, and share *Music Online* content.

*American Song* is available online in streaming audio through annual subscription, works on both Macs and PCs, and requires no special software beyond a standard Web browser. Find out more about Alexander Street's complete suite of *Music Online* listening and reference collections at <http://alexanderstreet.com/music.htm>.

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