# Early American Ballads, Hymns, and Songs of Patriotism for Solo Guitar

The early years of American history were a time of great change and upheaval. The colonists were establishing a new country in a new world, and they brought with them their own traditions and culture. These traditions included music, and the early American ballads, hymns, and songs of patriotism that were created during this time played a vital role in shaping the American identity.



American Treasures: Early American Ballads, Hymns & Songs of Patriotism for Solo Guitar by Bill Piburn

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These songs were passed down orally from generation to generation, and they were often used to tell stories, commemorate events, and express the hopes and dreams of the American people. They were also used to teach moral lessons and to inspire patriotism. In this article, we will explore some of the most popular and enduring early American ballads, hymns, and songs of patriotism. We will provide the lyrics, chords, and a detailed analysis of each song, so that you can learn more about the history and significance of these important pieces of American music.

### Ballads

Ballads are traditional narrative songs that tell a story. They are often based on real events, but they can also be fictional. Ballads were very popular in early America, and they were often used to entertain and inform people.

One of the most famous early American ballads is "The Ballad of John Henry." This song tells the story of a steel-driving man who dies in a contest with a steam-powered drill. The song is a celebration of American workers and their struggles.

Another popular early American ballad is "The Star-Spangled Banner." This song was written by Francis Scott Key in 1814, during the War of 1812. Key was inspired to write the song after he saw the American flag flying over Fort McHenry in Baltimore, Maryland, after a British attack.

### "The Ballad of John Henry"

Verse 1

John Henry was a steel-drivin' man, Didn't know no fear, He worked a ham

Chorus

John Henry was a steel-drivin' man, He said he was the best that ever wa

Verse 2

The captain said to John Henry, "I'll make you a bet, If you can beat my

Chorus

John Henry was a steel-drivin' man, He said he was the best that ever wa

Verse 3

John Henry hammered and he drilled, He hammered and he drilled, He hamme

Chorus

John Henry was a steel-drivin' man, He said he was the best that ever wa

Verse 4

But the steam-drill drilled too fast, John Henry couldn't keep up, The s

Chorus

John Henry was a steel-drivin' man, He said he was the best that ever wa

Verse 5

John Henry fell to his knees, He hammered and he drilled, John Henry fel

Chorus

John Henry was a steel-drivin' man, He said he was the best that ever wa

Verse 6

John Henry hammered and he drilled, He hammered and he drilled, He hamme

Chorus

John Henry was a steel-drivin' man, He said he was the best that ever wa

Verse 7

But the steam-drill drilled too fast, John Henry couldn't keep up, The s

Chorus

John Henry was a steel-drivin' man, He said he was the best that ever wa

Verse 8

John Henry fell to his knees, He hammered and he drilled, John Henry fel

Chorus

John Henry was a steel-drivin' man, He said he was the best that ever wa

#### "The Star-Spangled Banner"

Verse 1

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light, What so proudly we hailed

Verse 2

On the shore dimly seen through the mists of the deep, Where the foe's I

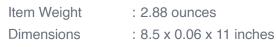
Verse 3

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore That the havoc of war and



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