

A Birthday Song

Words Jonathon Odell

Melody © George W. Lyon 1993

composed at New York, in honour of the anniversary of the King's birthday, June 4th, 1777... (Sargent 11).

Time was when A-mer-i-ca hal-low'd the morn on which the lov'd mon-arch of
 Brit-ain was born, Hal-low'd the day and joy-ful-ly chant-ed God save the King! Then
 flour-ish'd the bless-ings of free-dom and peace, And plen-ty flow'd in with a year-ly in-crease.
 year - of our lot we chan - ted mer - ri - ly Glor - y and joy crown the King!

Time was when America hallow'd the morn
 On which the lov'd monarch of Britain was born,
 Hallow'd the day, and joyfully chanted
 God save the King!
 Then flourish'd the blessings of freedom and peace,
 And plenty flow'd in with a yearly increase.
 Proud of our lot we chanted merrily
 Glory and joy crown the King!

With envy beheld by the nations around,
 We rapidly grew, nor was anything found
 Able to check our growth while we chanted
 God save the King!

O blest beyond measure, had honour and truth
 Still nurs'd in our hearts what they planted in youth!
 Loyalty still had chanted merrily
 Glory and joy crown the King!

But see! how rebellion has lifted her head!
 How honour and truth are with loyalty fled!
 Few are there now who join us in chanting
 God save the King!
 And see! how deluded the multitude fly
 To arm in a cause that is built on a lie!
 Yet are we proud to chant thus merrily
 Glory and joy crown the King!

Though faction by falsehood awhile may prevail,
 And loyalty suffers a captive in jail,
 Britain is rous'd, rebellion is falling:
 God save the King!
 The captive shall soon be releas'd from his chain;
 And conquest restore us to Britain again,
 Ever to join in chanting merrily
 Glory and joy crown the King!

Somewhere out there, there are young performers writing songs that could very easily replace "Sunwheel Dance," "Rock and Roll Song," "Beresford Street" or "Forty-Five Years" in your heart. Songs that you will come to immediately associate with that performer, that you will want to share with your friends, and you will automatically greet with "recognition applause" at concerts in years to come. But you'll never hear those songs if you continue to turn out for the same old gang of players and ignore the rest.

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