

## TO THE TUNE OF: AMERICA, THE BEAUTIFUL

**Written by: Monica Keele Jones and Victoria Jones**

In eigh--teen fifty-nine-- was born Ms. Kath--er--ine Lee Bates.  
She lived-- in Massachu--setts and taught all the Shakespeare greats!  
She tra--veled to the Dead-- Sea, Egypt, China, Italy  
Rode ca--mels in Damas--cus, while still writing poetry.

In eigh---teen ninety-three--, she vi-sited Niagara Falls,  
Then to-- Chicago she-- would see the World's Fair having a ball.  
In Kan--sas, "amber waves-- of grain" were such a sight to see!  
The Col--orado moun--tains were a "purple majesty!"

At Col--orado Col--lege, she was a good professor.  
Then to-- the Garden of-- the Gods, she saw sandstone on earth.  
She head--ed to Sun Moun--tain which rose 14,000 feet,  
Rode prair--ie wagons drawn-- by mules and horses to its peak.

"Pike's Peak-- or Bust" she saw-- on all the signs throughout the day!  
The awe-- she felt from na--ture would just never go away.  
In her-- hotel, she wrote-- a poem and let her ink pen lead.  
CONGREGA--TIONALIST NEWSPA--PER published it for all to read!

"Amer--ica, the Beau--tiful" was loved by all mankind.  
They e--ven put the words-- to fit with the great "Auld Lang Syne"  
But Sam--uel Ward, church or--ganist, put Bates' words to the test.  
His hymn--, "Materna", soon-- became the tune to manifest!

Bing Cros--by and Sina--tra made remakes in the 60s.  
Ray Charles-- sang a rendi--tion, don't forget Alicia Keys  
The Su--per Bowl had half--time guests to sing this song for you.  
From op--era greats to mo--vie stars, Inaugurations too!

The "Sand--lot" and "The Pentagon Wars" used this tune in their score.  
But whe--ther it could be-- our Nation's anthem caused uproar.  
In nine--teen thirty-one-- , the "Star-Span-gled-Ban-ner" was picked!  
"Amer--ica, The Beau--tiful" is still patriotic!

Compo--ser Ter-ry Mi--zesko is from the Old North State.  
His arrange--ment of Bates' mas--terpiece is one we celebrate.  
Over for--ty years, he's played-- in the Sym-pho-ny his trombone!  
His wife-- plays the vio--la, they're a power couple known!

We thank-- you, NC Sym--phony, for concerts annually.  
For o--pening our ears-- and eyes, and minds and hearts to see  
How mu--sic is so glor--ious, we love to hear you play.  
The in--struments in har--mony, we'll cherish the big day!

We know-- how much it takes-- in preparation for the day.  
Select--ing repertoire-- and practicing your lives away!  
On con--cert day we will-- be still; listen attentively  
Then af--terwards, we'll stand-- and clap for our great Symphony!