

**America(n) Songs: Overview[[1]](#footnote-1)**

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|  | **Title (+ Singer)** | **(Thematic) Focus** |
| **M1** | **The Star-Spangled Banner (official national anthem):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyGseT2Fiqo> (with pictures)<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqxJ_iuBPCs> (long version) | National anthem(critical) analysis: contrast patriotism, historical meaning, content / expressions, USA as a role model? |
| **M2** | **The Star-Spangled Banner (official national anthem):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyGseT2Fiqo> (with pictures)<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FqxJ_iuBPCs> (long version)**America the Beautiful (“unofficial” national anthem):**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLYAyuf1I1Q> (with patriotic pictures)**God Bless America (“unofficial” national anthem):**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_kGAN-rl-OI> (with lyrics) | Patriotic songs: national anthem, unofficial national “anthems” |
| **M3** | **America © Michael Patrick Kelly, 2021**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nIsMTXdHDo> | Modern: © 2021; ambivalent feelings towards the US: historical references / criticism / hope |

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| **M4** | **American Idiot, © Green Day, 2004**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ee_uujKuJMI> | Post 9/11 song; it accuses the media of propaganda and creating xenophobia and fear |
| **M5** | **American Oxygen, © Rihanna, 2015**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ao8cGLIMtvg> | Modern: © 2015; song about the American Dream; very ambiguous (especially in combination with the video clip which shows many landmarks of American history (moon landing, Martin Luther King, Obama, Statue of Liberty, immigration, police violence, …) |
| **M6** | **God Bless the U.S.A.****Original version: © Lee Greenwood, 1984**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-KoXt9pZLGM> | Very patriotic song, praising America, video: many American clichés; American Dream |
| **M7** | **God Bless the U.S.A., © Beyoncé, 2011**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XnCNHFg9y1Q> | Very patriotic song, praising America; Beyoncé: well-known version, video rather pathetic (4th of July / Liberty Island) |
| **M8** | **White America, © Eminem, 2002**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RZIzD0ZfTFg> | Very critical, autobiographical song; naming and shaming the dichotomy black vs. white “underprivilegedness” |
| **M9** | **In America © John Legend, 2017**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hA29HXDHW9Y>This song could be used in the same way as M3b or as a contrast to any of the other songs in M2 or M7. | Anti-American Dream song; John Legend = famous R&B singer and activist against racial injustice and the continuing fight for civil rights. |
| **M10[[2]](#footnote-2)** | **American Dreams © Papa Roach, 2017**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6KX2mB7LHI> (video 1)<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-CXq51iC4yk> (video 2) | Punk, Anti-American Dream; very explicit criticism of many different issues. |
| **M11** | **American Dream © will.i.am, 2021**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1NjH_pVai2M> | Contrast: statistics + words question equality, but general (hopeful) message: anyone can make it;Suitable as an introduction or “wrap up” for the topic // pop |
| **M12** | **I love the USA © Weezer, 2016**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=amy-4jDlYgo> | Patriotic song? Cynical song? “Choose Your Own Adventure” |

“Classics” such as “Born in the USA” (Bruce Springsteen, 1984), “Living in America” (James Brown, 1985), “This Land is Your Land” (Woody Guthrie, 1940) etc. are not included here.

“Local” songs like “New York, New York”; “West Virginia”, “California Dreaming”, “Go West”, “Empire State of Mind” etc. are not listed here either.

You might get further inspiration via Google, Bing or other search engines.



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