

# Folk Song: This Land is Your Land

Written by American folk singer Woody Guthrie in 1940, "This Land Is Your Land" has become one of the most beloved folk songs in the United States. Guthrie originally wrote the song as a response to "God Bless America," which he felt painted an overly rosy picture of the country during a time when many Americans were struggling through the hardships of the Great Depression. Inspired by his travels across the nation, he penned lyrics that reflected both the beauty of the land and the realities faced by ordinary people, exploring issues like the economic struggles of everyday Americans.

Set to a simple, familiar melody adapted from an older gospel tune called "When the World's On Fire," the song was easy to learn and quickly spread through oral tradition. A 1944 revision omitted some of the original, more critical lyrics in an effort to inspire unity and patriotism during the landscape of World War II, and the song was eventually formally published in 1945. Its verses paint a vivid picture of the American landscape, from California to New York Island, and examines themes of freedom and equality.

Over time, "This Land Is Your Land" has been embraced as an unofficial national anthem, often sung in schools, gatherings, and community events, as well as multiple presidential inaugurations. Though some of Guthrie's original verses are less commonly included today, they offer a deeper glimpse into his heart for justice. Even now, the song continues to invite listeners to reflect on both the beauty of the nation and its people.

# This Land is Your Land, This Land is My Land Lyrics

This land is your land, this land is my land  
From California to the New York island,  
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;  
This land was made for you and me.

As I was walking that ribbon of highway  
I saw above me that endless skyway;  
I saw below me that golden valley;  
This land was made for you and me.

I've roamed and rambled and I followed my footsteps  
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts;  
And all around me a voice was sounding;  
This land was made for you and me.

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling,  
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,  
As the fog was lifting a voice was chanting:  
This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land, this land is my land  
From California to the New York island,  
From the redwood forest to the Gulf Stream waters;  
This land was made for you and me.


# This Land is Your Land

C<sup>7</sup> F




This land is your land, this land is  
As I went walk - ing that ribbon of  
This land is your land, this land is

C G<sup>7</sup>



my land, from Ca - li - for - nia, to the New York  
high - way, I saw a - bove me, the\_\_ end - less  
my land, from Ca - li - for - nia, to the New York

C C<sup>7</sup> F



is - land, from the red wood fo - rests, to the Gulf Stream  
sky - way, I\_\_ saw be - low me that\_\_ gold - en  
is - land, from the red wood fo - rests, to the Gulf Stream

C G<sup>7</sup> C



wa - ters, This land was made for you and me.  
val - ley, This land was made for you and me.  
wa - ters, This land was made for you and me.