

FOURTH GRADERS FROM SYRACUSE, UTAH, CHANGE THE STATE SONG

Have you ever sung the Utah State Song? “**Utah We Love Thee**” was written and adopted soon after Utah was accepted for statehood. Elementary students used to learn the song in school, but few people sing it today.

Trudy Day’s 4th grade students at Cook Elementary School in Syracuse, Utah, recognized this problem. They were preparing a Utah Studies program for parents. The students wanted to sing Utah’s state song as part of their program, but they could not find a copy of the song anywhere! It seemed to be lost, and very few people could remember the tune or the words. Finally someone found the music in an old Latter-Day Saints (LDS) hymn book. Students tried to sing the song, but found it pretty boring. The words were old fashioned, and the tempo really dragged. This seemed like a problem they would just have to live with until someone had a good idea! They remembered a great song about Utah that kids sang for the Utah Centennial.



Utah We Love Thee

WORDS AND MUSIC BY EVAN STEPHENS

Adopted on February 17, 1937 (Song)

Change to Hymn (May 5, 2003)

Land of the mountains high,

Utah, we love thee,

Land of the sunny sky,

Utah, we love thee!

Far in the glorious west, throned

on the mountain's crest,

In robes of statehood dressed,

Utah, we love thee!

Columbia's brightest star,

Utah, we love thee,

Thy luster shines afar,

Utah, we love thee!

Bright in our banner's blue,

among her sisters true

She proudly comes to view,

Utah, we love thee!

Land of the pioneers,

Utah, we love thee,

Grow with the coming years,

Utah, we love thee!

With wealth and peace in store,

to fame and glory soar,

God guarded, evermore,

Utah, we love thee!

HANDOUT, PART 2

The music was peppy and the lyrics gave a lot of good information about Utah. The students found this music and had a lot of fun singing it. They wondered if it was possible for “**Utah...This is the Place**” to replace “Utah We Love Thee” as the state song. They decided to call their legislators. They found out that Dana Love was their House Representative, and Dave Steele was their Senator. The students asked if these people would sponsor a bill asking that the state song could be changed. Both Representative Love and Senator Steele agreed!

Students worked hard to support Representative Love and Senator Steele. First they had to write the bill. Next Representative Love took it to the Utah House Committee. The committee passed the bill, which allowed it to be presented on the House floor. The House passed the bill as well. Now Senator Steele could take it to the Utah Senate Committee. When it passed the Senate Committee, Senator Steele took the bill to the Senate floor. Do you think that everyone



Utah... This is the Place

WORDS BY SAM AND GARY FRANCIS

MUSIC BY GARY FRANCIS

State Song (May 5, 2003)

Utah! People working together.

Utah! What a great place to be.

Blessed from Heaven above.

It's the land that we love.

This is the place!

*Utah! With its mountains
and valleys.*

*Utah! With its canyons and
streams.*

You can go anywhere.

But there's none that compare.

This is the place!

*It was Brigham Young who
led the pioneers across
the plains.*

*They suffered with the trials
they had to face.*

*With faith they kept on going
till they reached the
Great Salt Lake*

*Here they heard the
words...*

"THIS IS THE PLACE!"

Utah! With its focus on family.

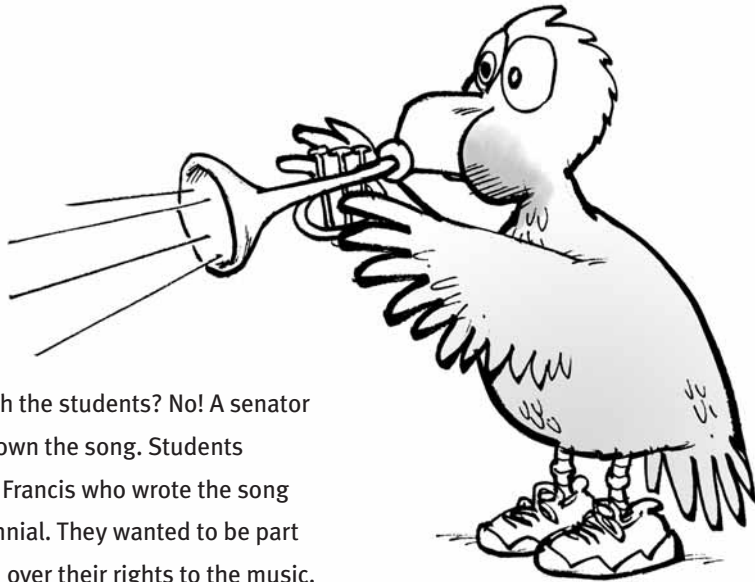
*Utah! Helps each child
to succeed.*

People care how they live.

Each has so much to give.

This is the place!

HANDOUT, PART 3



automatically agreed with the students? No! A senator said that the state must own the song. Students contacted Sam and Gary Francis who wrote the song for the Utah State Centennial. They wanted to be part of the project and signed over their rights to the music. Many people felt that the old song was traditional and should not be changed. They argued that state symbols are important and should be respected. Although people enjoyed listening to the new state song, they wondered if it too would become outdated. They also worried that no one would know how to sing the new song. Have you noticed that problems can sometimes be solved if you compromise? Well it worked in this case. Students wrote letters, lobbied legislators, and visited the state capitol several times to sing the new song. Students contacted the legislators and senators who worried about making the change. They suggested that the old song, “Utah We Love Thee” be the state anthem, and that “Utah...This is the Place” be the new state song! This compromise seemed to make everyone happy! The bill was passed, and Utah received a new state song. Governor Leavitt invited the students to the Gold Room to sing when he signed the bill into law. Governor Walker asked the students to sing the song at her Governor’s Inauguration. Now Utah has a state song AND a state anthem thanks to the problem-solving skills of 4th graders at Cook Elementary.

*Utah! Getting bigger and better.
Utah! Always leading the way.
New technology's here...
Growing faster each year.
This is the place!*

*There is beauty in the
snow-capped mountains,
in the lakes and streams.
There are valleys filled with
farms and orchards too.
The spirit of its people shows
in everything they do.
Utah is the place where
dreams come true.*

*Utah! With its pioneer spirit.
Utah! What a great legacy!
Blessed from Heaven above.
It's the land that we love.
This is the place!*

*Utah! Utah! Utah!
THIS IS THE PLACE!*