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1900

Strike Up The Band : \b Here Comes A Sailor

Chas. B. Ward Composer

Andrew B. Sterling *Lyricist*

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Strike Up The Band

(Here Comes A Sailor.)



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The National Anthem. The Star-Spangled Banner.



The music to which Key wrote his words, was long attributed to the London organist and composer, Dr. Samuel Arnold (1740-1802). Late researches credit the music beyond dispute to John Stafford Smith (Gloucester, 1750; London, 1836), an organist of rank and a prolific composer. The music, in $\frac{6}{4}$ time, with the words beginning "To Anacreon in heaven, where he sat in full glee, is to be found in Collections of Popular Songs, Catches, etc., composed by John Stafford Smith, Vol. V, page 33. A copy of this volume is in the British Museum. The melody was well known in this country during revolutionary days, and various texts were sung to it. Francis Scott Key was evidently familiar with the popular melody, and wrote his immortal verses on the morning after the bombardment of Fort McHenry by the British fleet, September 14, 114. This version of the melody (with the exception of the shortening the last note in measures 2 and 10), is the one adopted by the Masic Supervisor's National Convention.