

American Tears

by
Teresa Jennings

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American Tears

PATRIOTIC BALLAD (♩=104)

Teresa Jennings

N.C.
GENTLY OBOE

mf

LIGHT FILL - - - -

PEDAL FREELY THROUGHOUT

5 REPEAT ON D.S. ALSO

mf SOLO 1ST + 2ND TIMES, ALL 3RD + 4TH TIMES (OPT.)

1. Some-times I think a - bout A - mer-i - ca.
2. Some-times I think a - bout A - mer-i - ca.
3. Some-times I think a - bout A - mer-i - ca.
4. Some-times I think a - bout A - mer-i - ca.

RHYTHM - BUILD EACH TIME (MORE FREELY)

*Bm*¹ C E. HORN

DRUMS - SPARSE 1ST TIME; HALFTIME FEEL 2ND TIME

A - bout her strug - gles through the years.
 A - bout her fu - ture and her past.
 A - bout her peo - ple's leg - a - cy.
 A - bout her pain a - long the way.

*Bm*¹ C

OB. (+E.H. 8vb)

FILL - -

American Tears

13

I think of peo - ple who did what they had to do with the
 I know I'm blessed to be liv - ing in lib - er - ty in a
 I won - der if they knew that what they had to do would be
 I know it had to be for our de - moc - ra - cy, for the

Em1 *Em1/D* *A* *D* *A/C#* *Bm1* *A*

strength to act through their fears.
 land where free - dom will
 known through - out his - to - ry.
 world we live in to -

G (ADD 9) *Asus*

FILL INTO TIME
 1ST TIME

1.

last. For the he - roes. For the
 day.

Asus *A* *D + STGS.* *A* *D/A*

f ALL **23**

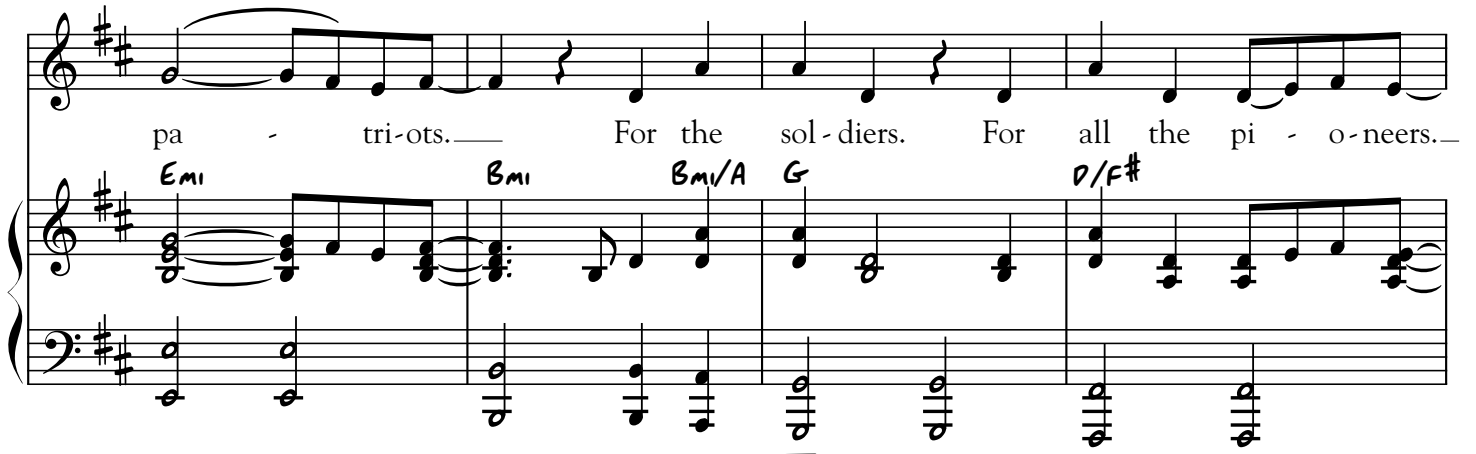
f FILL - - - - -
 PIANO - MORE FREELY 2ND TIME

2.

American Tears

pa - tri-ots. For the sol - diers. For all the pi - o-neers.

E_m *B_m* *B_m/A* *G* *D/F#*



I will al - ways be an A -

A_{sus} *G* *D/F#* *G*

FILL - - - - -

mf *v* *v*

TO CODA



mer - i - can. And I'll al - ways cry A-mer - i - can

D/F# *F#/A#* *B_m* *B_m/A* *G* *A_{sus}* *A*

mf FILL - - - - -



tears.

N.C. FILL - - - - -

37 **(D.S. AL CODA)**



American Tears

CODA
CRESC. *RIT.* *f*

I
tears. For the

II
OPT. SOLO *RIT.* *f* I'll al - ways cry.

N.C. *CRESC.* *f* *RIT.* *FILL*

G/D *Asus* *A*

45 *SLIGHTLY SLOWER* ($\text{♩} = 96-100$)
+CLAPS, OPT. *sim.*

I
he - roes. For the pa - tri-ots. For the

II
For the he - roes. Oh, for the pa - tri-ots. For

D *A* *D/A* *Emi* *Bmi* *Bmi/A*

I
sol - diers. For all the pi - o-neers. I will

II
sol - diers. For pi - o - neers, pi - o - neers.

G *D/F#* *Asus* *G*

FILL

53

American Tears

I al - ways be an A - mer - i - can. And I'll

II I'll al - ways be A - mer - i - can. And

D/F# G D/F# F#/A# Bm Bm/A

I al - ways cry A-mer-i-can tears. Yes, I will

II al - ways cry, al - ways cry.

G Asus A N.C. G

FILL-----

I al - ways be an A - mer - i - can!

II I'll al - ways be A - mer - i - can!

D/F# G D/F# F#/A# Bm

BUILD **ff** STOP CLAPS

ff (STOP TIME - ACCENT)

American Tears

mf

68

And I'll al - ways

And I'll al - ways

mf

A G(ADD9)

mf LIGHT FILL

SPARSE DRUMS

72

cry A - mer - i - can tears.

cry. I will cry.

Asus A N.C.

LIGHT TIME RIT.

A - mer - i - can tears.

A - mer - i - can tears.

mp SLOWLY

mp SLOWLY

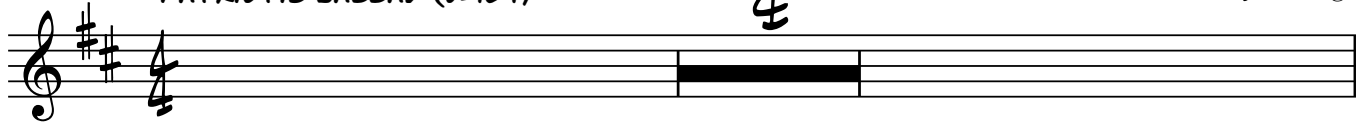
D(ADD9)

American Tears

PATRIOTIC BALLAD (♩=104)

4

Teresa Jennings



5

REPEAT ON D.S. ALSO

mf SOLO 1ST + 2ND TIMES, ALL 3RD + 4TH TIMES

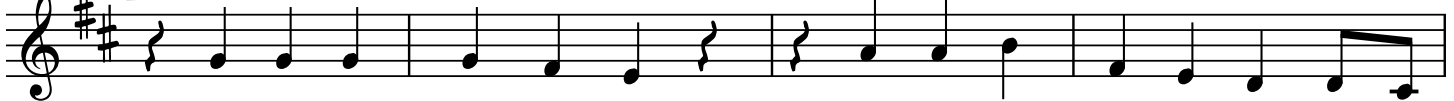


1. Some - times I think a - bout A - mer - i - ca.
2. Some - times I think a - bout A - mer - i - ca.
3. Some - times I think a - bout A - mer - i - ca.
4. Some - times I think a - bout A - mer - i - ca.



A - bout her strug - gles through the years.
 A - bout her fu - ture and her past.
 A - bout her peo - ple's leg - a - cy.
 A - bout her pain a - long the way.

13



I think of peo - ple who did what they had to do with the
 I know I'm blessed to be liv - ing in lib - er - ty in a
 I won - der if they knew that what they had to do would be
 I know it had to be for our de - moc - ra - cy, for the



strength to act through— their fears.
 land where free - dom— will last.
 known through - out his - to - ry.
 world we live in— to - day.

American Tears

f ALL 23

For the he - roes. — For the pa - tri - ots. —

— For the sol - diers. For all the pi - o - neers. — I will

31 *mf*

al - ways be an A - mer - i - can. And I'll

TO CODA ϕ 37 3 D.S. AL CODA

al - ways cry A - mer - i - can tears.

ϕ CODA *CRES.* *RIT.* *f*

I

tears. For the

II *SOLO RIT. f*

I'll al - ways cry. —

45 SLIGHTLY SLOWER ($\text{♩} = 96-100$) *+CLAPS* *sim.*

I

he - roes. — For the pa - tri - ots. — For the

II

For the he - roes. Oh, for the pa - tri - ots. For

American Tears

I
sol-diers. For all the pi-o-neers. — I will

II
sol - diers. For pi - o - neers, — pi - o - neers.

53

I
al - ways be an A - mer - i - can. And I'll

II
I'll al - ways be A - mer - i - can. And

I
al - ways cry A-mer-i-can tears. Yes, I will

II
al - ways cry, al - ways cry.

61 BUILD

I
al - ways be an A - mer - i -

II
I'll al - ways be A - mer - i -

American Tears

ff STOP CLAPS *mf*

I
can! _____ And I'll

II
can! _____

68

I
al - ways cry A - mer - i - can

II
mf
And I'll al - ways cry. _____

72

RIT. *mp*

I
tears. A - mer - i - can

II
RIT. *mp*
I will cry. A - mer - i - can

SLOWLY

I
tears. **2**

II
tears. **2**

American Tears

solo (opt.):

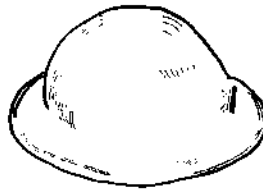
Sometimes I think about America.
About her struggles through the years.
I think of people who did what they had to do
with the strength to act through their fears.



Sometimes I think about America.
About her future and her past.
I know I'm blessed to be living in liberty
in a land where freedom will last.

all:

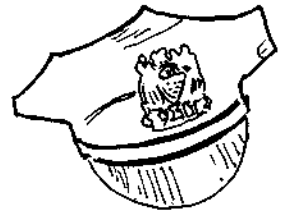
For the heroes. For the patriots.
For the soldiers. For all the pioneers.
I will always be an American.
And I'll always cry American tears.



Sometimes I think about America.
About her people's legacy.
I wonder if they knew that what they had to do
would be known throughout history.



Sometimes I think about America.
About her pain along the way.
I know it had to be for our democracy,
for the world we live in today.



For the heroes. For the patriots.
For the soldiers. For all the pioneers.
I will always be an American.
And I'll always cry American tears.



For the heroes. For the patriots.
For the soldiers. For all the pioneers.
I will always be an American.
And I'll always cry American tears.

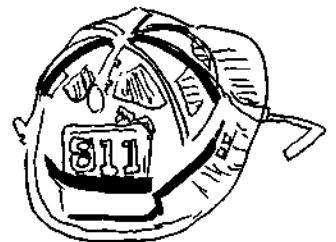
part 2 (opt. solo):

I'll always
cry. For the heroes. Oh, for the patriots.
For soldiers. For pioneers, pioneers.
I'll always be American.
And always cry, always cry.

Yes, I will always be an American!
And I'll always cry American tears.

I'll always be American!
And I'll always cry.
I will cry.
American tears.

American tears.



Notes for American Tears

This song was originally published in the musical revue, *This Is America*. We published it at a time when we knew many schools would want to use it as part of their memorials of September 11. Since that time, we have heard that it has been used in many other ways as well, and has had quite a powerful and emotional impact on audiences and performers alike.

Teresa tells us that her own father was the inspiration for “American Tears” as much as any of the heroes of September 11. He was only 18 when he went off to Europe to fight in World War II. The stories he tells are frighteningly familiar: An ordinary person is thrust into a position of terror, impossible circumstances, and facing death. He is forced to rise to the occasion, putting his own life on the line for his family, his friends, his country. Teresa’s father was lucky. His story had a happy ending. He came home alive and healthy. He got married, had five children, and celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary in August 2002.

Unfortunately, not all of our heroes, patriots, soldiers, and pioneers were so lucky. They put their lives on the line, too, and many of them never got to go home. A lot of Americans shed a lot of tears on September 11, 2001, and in the weeks and months that followed it. It made us all think of the sacrifices so many Americans made – not just then – but during all of America’s history. We live in a land of freedom today because of them. They deserve our thanks, our respect, and our tears.

The song “American Tears” is a tribute to these people. We know that music can be so helpful and important in the healing process. It can bring us together in ways we never dreamed possible. It has done this time and again. Perhaps this song will best benefit you and your students if you only use it in the classroom. Or even just listen to it there.

If you wish to use it in performance, consider adding an introduction. If you have any veterans, police officers, firefighters, and so on in the audience, honor them by naming them at this point. At the very least, have them stand and be recognized.

“American Tears” is not a difficult song melodically. The only challenge might be memorizing the four verses. The chorus is quite memorable and will be easily learned. We have chosen to feature a soloist, Rachel Moody, on the recording. If you have a soloist (or more than one) that you would like to feature, that’s fine. But you do not have to do it that way. The song will work in unison. The optional solo descant which begins at measure 43 can be performed as is, by a soli group, or ad libbed by a soloist, as you prefer.

We really feel that the recording of this piece will add a lot to your performance as well. There are beautiful recurring countermelodies in oboe, viola, English horn, and flugelhorn throughout the piece. There is a slight ritard just before measure 45 which is lead by the drummer. At 45, we have suggested that you could add claps on beat 3 of each bar if you like. For a large anthem ballad like this, that would be very appropriate, but not necessary. If you are not using the recording, be sure to start gently and build as indicated. Use the recording as a reference, as it builds and subsides a few times for dramatic effect. The peak of the tune hits at bar 64 (where the claps should also stop) and then gradually decrescendos to the end. The solo at the end is also optional.