

DINOS CONSTANTINIDES

**I HEAR AMERICA
SINGING
LRC 96**

MAGNI PUBLICATIONS

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I HEAR AMERICA SINGING

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Commissioned by the Philadelphia Boys Choir. Premiered on June 6th,
1985, in Philadelphia

I Hear America Singing uses as text a poem with the same title by Walt Whitman from his collection, *Leaves of Grass*. It was commissioned by the Philadelphia Boys Choir and premiered by the group at the Philadelphia Music Academy on June 6th, 1985. The work was also selected after a competition for a Reading-performance at a festival by the Dale Warland Singers in Minneapolis.



It is in ABA form, and uses sound effects derived from the Children's story, *Tikki tikki Tembo*. The middle section contains echoes of the nursery rhyme *Rock-a-bye Baby*. Children's material was deliberately employed for this piece because it was written and dedicated to children performers.

Walt Whitman - *Leaves of Grass*

I HEAR AMERICA SINGING

I hear America singing, the varied carols I hear,
Those of mechanics, each one singing his as it should be blithe and strong
The carpenter singing his as he measures his plank or beam,
The mason singing his as he makes ready for work, or leaves off work,
The boatman singing what belongs to him in his boat, the deck-hand singing on the
steamboat deck,
The shoemaker singing as he sits on his bench, the hatter singing as he stands,
The wood-cutter's song, the ploughboy's on his way in the morning, or at noon
intermission or at sundown,
The delicious singing of the mother, or of the young wife at work, or of the girl
sewing or washing,
Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else,
The day what belongs to the day – at night the party of young fellows, robust,
friendly,
Singing with open mouths their strong melodious songs.
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General Notes

1.	Phonemes	=	a, i, o (Latin pronunciation)
2.		=	Whispered (in soft passages), shout (in loud passages)
3.		=	Glissando
4.	Tikki tikki tack	=	Words for sound effect
5.	Hm	=	Humming
6.	Ooh, ah	=	No text vowels