

You're a Grand Old Flag

^C
YOU'RE A GRAND OLD FLAG, YOU'RE A HIGH-FLYING FLAG
AND FOR-EVER IN PEACE MAY YOU WAVE.
^G
^C
YOU'RE THE EMBLEM OF THE LAND I LOVE
^D ^G
THE HOME OF THE FREE AND THE BRAVE.
^C
EV'RY HEART BEATS TRUE 'NEATH THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE,
^{Am} ^G
WHERE THERE'S NEVER A BOAST OR BRAG
^C ^G
BUT SHOULD AULD ACQUAINTANCE BE FORGOT
^F ^G ^C
KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE GRAND OLD FLAG.

In his third musical, the 1906 *George Washington, Jr.*, George M. Cohan, the great musical flag-waver, draped himself in an American flag as he danced and sang a song in its honor. Cohan got the idea for the song, which came to be known as "You're a Grand Old Flag," from a Civil War veteran who had been a Union colorbearer. Of the flag he had carried then, the old man said to Cohan, "She's a grand old rag." Cohan liked the warmth of the phrase and wrote the song as "You're a Grand Old Rag." But after he sang it in the show, he was denounced by patriotic societies, who accused him of insulting the flag. So he changed "rag" to "flag," and his standing as a patriot was cleared.