

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

---

Maine Sheet Music Collection

Public domain (may be downloaded in full)

---

1876

## Our Fathers' God : American Centennial Hymn

John Knowles Paine

*Composer*

John Greenleaf Whittier

*Lyricist*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mmb-me>

---

### Recommended Citation

Paine, John Knowles and Whittier, John Greenleaf, "Our Fathers' God : American Centennial Hymn" (1876).  
*Maine Sheet Music Collection*. Score 28.

<https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/mmb-me/28>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Maine Sheet Music Collection by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact [um.library.technical.services@maine.edu](mailto:um.library.technical.services@maine.edu).

BAGADUCE CHORALE

# Our Fathers' God

American Centennial Hymn

Philadelphia

1876

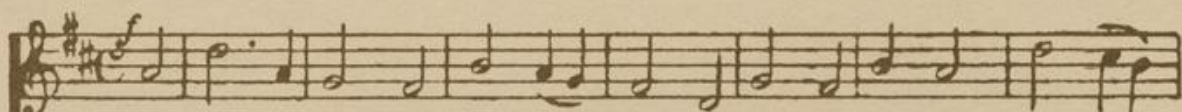
the words by

JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER

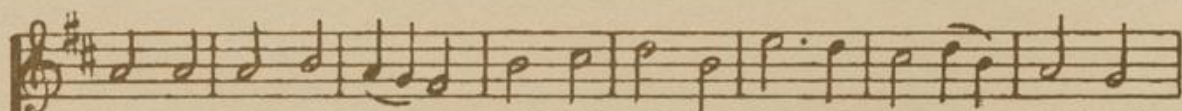
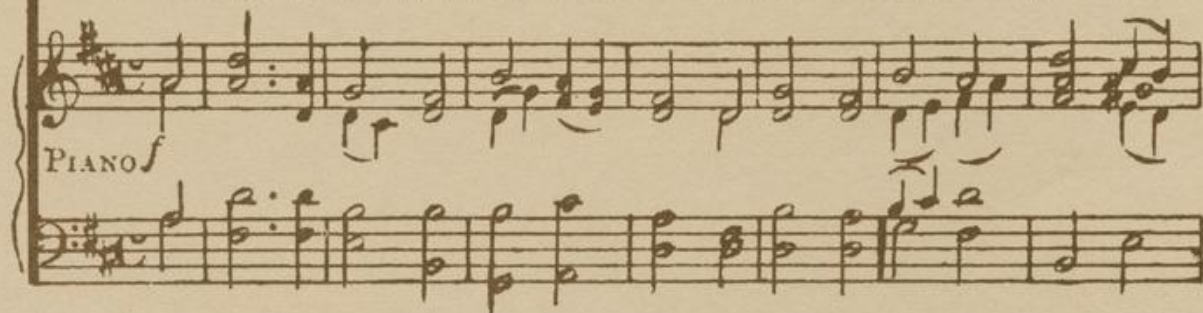
set to music by

JOHN KNOWLES PAINE

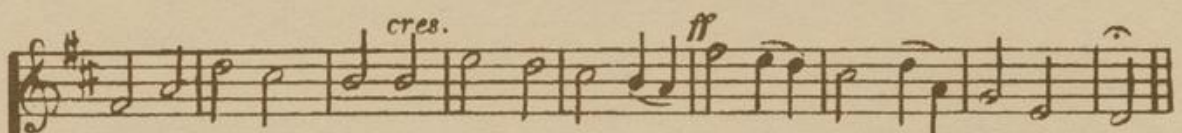
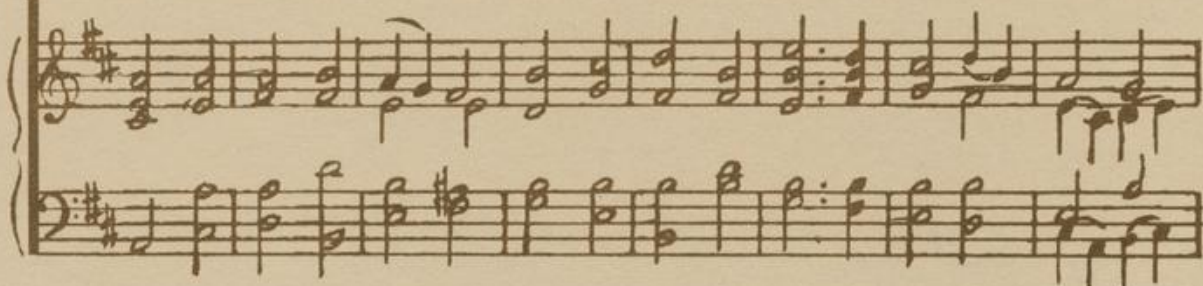
Cart Me.  
000144  
Pai



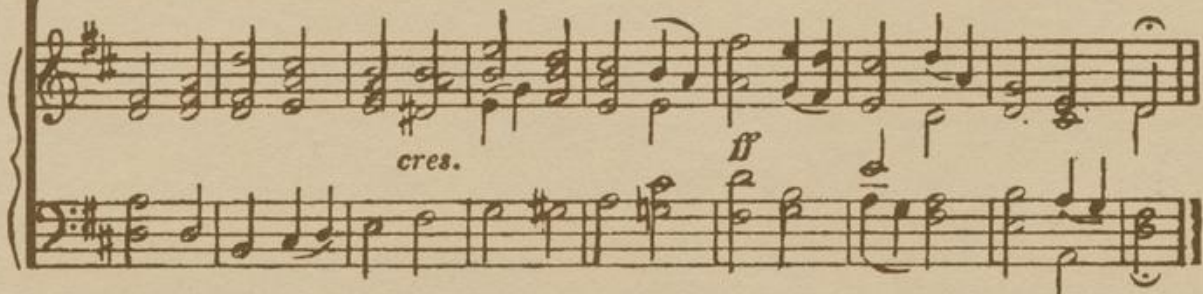
1. Our fa-thers' God! from out whose hand The cen-turies fall like grains of
2. Be with us while the New World greets The Old World throng-ing all its
3. Oh make Thou us, through cen-turies long, In peace se-cure, in jus-tice



sand, We meet to-day u-ni-ted, free, And loy-al to our land and  
streets, Un-veil-ing all the triumphs won By art or toil be-neath the  
strong; A-round our gift of free-dom draw The safe-guards of Thy right-eous



Thee, To thank Thee for the e-ra done, And trust Thee for the o-pening one.  
sun; And un-to com-mon good or-dain, This ri-val-ship of hand and brain.  
law; And, cast in some di-vin-er mold, Let the new cy-cle shame the old!





The musical setting of Whittier's hymn was made by Paine for the Centennial Exposition held at Philadelphia in 1876. Originally there were six verses but in the present form verses two, four and five have been omitted.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807 - 1892) ranks as one of the great 19th century New England poets. Whittier, along with a number of his colleagues such as Emerson and Longfellow, contributed regularly to the *Atlantic Monthly*. Much of his early writing, prior to the Civil War, centered on his contempt for the institution of slavery. This abolitionist stand was not looked on with much sympathy in the North and, of course, with hostility in the South. After the war, Whittier devoted himself primarily to the writing of Poetry and it was this period that produced his great epic, "Snowbound."

John Knowles Paine, American organist, teacher and composer, was born in Portland, Maine, on 9 January, 1839, and died at Cambridge, Massachusetts, 25 April, 1906. In 1862 Paine was appointed instructor in music at Harvard University and in 1875 he was appointed full professor, being the first incumbent of a chair of music in an American university and holding the post for twenty years.