

Arts Abroad Program: Music
Introduction to issues in American music, October 9, 2017

Thinking about America I, *Star-Spangled Banner*: nationalism/patriotism

Version #1: U.S. Marine
Corps Band, 2012



Version #2: Jimi Hendrix
(1942-70), live at Woodstock,
August 18, 1969



Text by Francis Scott Key (1779-1843), 1814:

1st verse; sung at all events

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's
last gleaming,
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through
the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watched, were so
gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs
bursting in air,
Gave proof through the night that our flag
was still there;
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave?

3rd verse; never sung

And where is that band who so vauntingly
swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's
confusion,
A home and a country, should leave us no
more?
Their blood has washed out their foul
footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight, or the gloom of the
grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth
wave,
O'er the land of the free and the home of the
brave.

Thinking about America II, "Hound Dog": race/ethnicity and gender

Version #1: Elvis Presley (1935-77), recorded 1956

You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
Well, you ain't never caught a rabbit
And you ain't no friend of mine

Well they said you was high-classed
Well, that was just a lie
Yeah they said you was high-classed
Well, that was just a lie

Well, you ain't never caught a rabbit
And you ain't no friend of mine

You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
Well, you ain't never caught a rabbit
And you ain't no friend of mine

Well they said you was high-classed
Well, that was just a lie

Yeah they said you was
high-classed
Well, that was just a lie
Well, you ain't never
caught a rabbit
And you ain't no friend of
mine

Well they said you was
high-classed
Well, that was just a lie
You know they said you was high-classed
Well, that was just a lie
Well, you ain't never caught a rabbit
And you ain't no friend of mine

You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
You ain't nothin' but a hound dog
Cryin' all the time
Well, you ain't never caught a rabbit
You ain't no friend of mine



Version #2: Willie Mae “Big Mama” Thornton (1926-84), recorded 1952



You ain't nothing but a hound dog
Been snoopin' 'round the door
You ain't nothing but a hound dog
Been snoopin' 'round my door
You can wag your tail
But I ain't gonna feed you no more

You told me you was high class
But I could see through that

Yes, you told me you was high class
But I could see through that
And daddy I know
You ain't no real cool cat

You ain't nothing but a hound dog
Been snoopin' 'round the door
You're just an old hound dog
Been snoopin' 'round my door
You can wag your tail
But I ain't gonna feed you no more

You made me feel so blue
You made me weep and moan
You made me feel so blue
Well you made me weep and moan
'Cause I'm looking for a woman
All you're lookin' for is a home

Thinking about America III, music for violin: high class (concert) music vs. low class (folk) music

Version #1: William Hamilton Stepp (1875-1957), *Bonaparte's Retreat*, recorded 1937 in Kentucky



Version #2: Aaron Copland (1895-1990),
“Hoedown” from *Rodeo* (1942)



Version #3: bluegrass fiddle music from North Carolina

- David Johnson (b. 1954) and Billie Ray Johnson (1929-2013), *Grey Eagle*, recorded 1983 in North Carolina
- The Lonesome Strangers (Buddy Pendleton, fiddle; John Herald, guitar; Bob Yellin, banjo), *Billy in the Lowground*, recorded 1962 in North Carolina



Version #4: Samuel Barber (1910-81), Violin Concerto (1939), performed by Joshua Bell, violin (b. 1967) and the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, David Zinman, conductor (b. 1936)

