

Official State Song



By Thy Rivers Gently Flowing Illinois

Words by
CHARLES H. CHAMBERLIN

New Verses by
WIN STRACKE

Music by
ARCHIBALD JOHNSON

Arrangement by
NORMAN LUBOFF

The official state song **Illinois**, although written just prior to the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893, was not so designated until June 30, 1925, by the Illinois State Legislature. The song was written by Charles H. Chamberlin, a veteran of the Civil War, wounded at Gaines Mill. The music, by Archibald Johnson, was adapted from a popular song which he wrote several years earlier. The song was introduced at a reunion of the Army of the Potomac in Chicago, with President McKinley as the speaker. The President called it "a song that will never die." A verse of the song is engraved on Chamberlin's tombstone in Forest Home Cemetery in Forest Park, Illinois. The bill which was to make **Illinois** the official state song was introduced in the State Senate by Florence Fifer Bohrer, daughter of Governor Joseph W. Fifer and our first woman Senator.

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ILLINOIS

(BY THY RIVERS GENTLY FLOWING)

Words by CHARLES H. CHAMBERLIN
New Verses by WIN STRACKE

Music by ARCHIBALD JOHNSON
Arr. by NORMAN LUBOFF

Freely

Voice

1. By thy riv - ers gent - ly flow - ing, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, O'er thy
out thy won-drous sto - ry, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, Can be
eight - een saw your found-ing, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, And your
pledge in fi - nal cho - rus, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, That in

Piano

prai-ries ver-dant grow-ing, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, Comes an ech - o on the breeze Rust-ling
writ the na-tion's glo - ry, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, On the re - cord of the years, Abr-'ham
prog-ress is un-bound-ing, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, Pi - o-neers once cleared the land Where great
strug-gles still be - fore us, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, To our he - roes we'll be true As their

through the leaf - y trees, And its mel-low tones are these, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, And its
Lin - coln's name ap-pears, Grant and Lo - gan and our tears, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, Grant and
in - dus-tries now stand. World re - nown you do com-mand, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, World re-
vi - sion we pur-sue In a - bid-ing love for you, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, In a -

rit. mel - low tones are these, Il - li - nois. 2. Not with - nois.
ten. Lo - gan and our tears, Il - li - nois. 3. Eight - een
nown you do com - mand, Il - li - nois. 4. Let us
bid - ing love for you, Il - li - nois.

rit. *ten.*

ILLINOIS

(BY THY RIVERS GENTLY FLOWING)
(Mixed Chorus)

Words by CHARLES H. CHAMBERLIN
New Verses by WIN STRACKE

Music by ARCHIBALD JOHNSON
Arr. by NORMAN LUBOFF

Freely

S
A

1. By thy riv - ers gent - ly flow - ing, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, O'er thy
out thy won - drous sto - ry, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, Can be
eight - een saw your found - ing, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, And your
pledge in fi - nal cho - rus, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, That in

T
B

prai - ries ver - dant grow - ing, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, Comes an ech - o on the breeze Rust - ling
writ the na - tion's glo - ry, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, On the re - cord of the years, Abr - 'ham
prog - ress is un - bound - ing, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, Pi - o - neers once cleared the land Where great
strug - gles still be - fore us, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, To our he - roes we'll be true As their

through the leaf - y trees, And its mel - low tones are these, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, And its
Lin - coln's name ap - pears, Grant and Lo - gan and our tears, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, Grant and
in - dus - tries now stand. World re - nown you do com - mand, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, World re -
vi - sion we pur - sue In a - bid - ing love for you, Il - li - nois, Il - li - nois, In a -

rit. mel - low tones are these, Il - li - nois. 1, 2, 3. 4.
ten. Lo - gan and our tears, Il - li - nois. 2. Not with - nois.
nown you do com - mand, Il - li - nois. 3. Eight - een
bid - ing love for you, Il - li - nois. 4. Let us



Illinois Sesquicentennial

“CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF STATEHOOD”

GOVERNOR OTTO KERNER

Illinois will celebrate its 150th year of statehood in 1968. On December 3, 1818, President James Monroe signed the Act of Congress by which the Territory of Illinois became the 21st State in the Union.

The 74th General Assembly, anticipating the importance of suitable recognition of this milestone in the State's history, established the Illinois Sesquicentennial Commission and fixed its duties, in part, as follows:

“The Commission shall . . . in cooperation with all State agencies, departments and commissions . . . plan, organize, coordinate and conduct such ceremonies, pageants and celebrations as are considered by the Commission . . . appropriate for commemorating such anniversary.”

The Commission is composed of seven members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore, seven members of the House of Representatives named by the Speaker, and ten Illinois citizens chosen by the Governor. In addition, the Secretary of State was added to the membership and the Director of the Department of Business and Economic Development was made the Commission's secretary.

To carry out its tasks, the legislature appropriated \$500,000.00, or as much of that sum as is needed, from the Agricultural Premium Fund for the Commission. The bill passed and was signed into law.

Governor Otto Kerner then appointed Ralph G. Newman, Chicago, historian and rare bookseller, as Chairman of the Commission, the appointment coinciding with Newman's completion of three years as head of the Illinois Commission for the New York World's Fair.

At the first organization meeting in Springfield, January 21, 1966, Senator Hudson R. Sours, Peoria, and Representative J. W. “Bill” Scott, Bloomington, who had sponsored the Sesquicentennial legislation in their respective chambers of the legislature, were elected vice chairmen of the Commission. Ver Lynn Sprague, Cherry Valley, former tourism consultant to the Department of Business and Economic Development, was named Director.

The broad purposes of the Commission were perhaps best described by Newman at the organizational meeting:

“Proud though we are of our appellation, ‘The Land of Lincoln,’ the phrase which was our dominant theme at the New York World's Fair where Mr. Lincoln represented us so nobly, the Illinois story does not begin or end with the life of our 16th President.

“The Sesquicentennial Commission will concern itself with every aspect of our State's physical, cultural, and industrial assets. We will recount the drama of the early days of Illinois, the beauties, advantages, and opportunities of present-day Illinois, and the magnificent promise of a future Illinois.

“Our cultural, historical, recreational, educational, and industrial virtues will be presented with dramatic effect, and in the best of taste, in every corner of this State and far beyond Illinois to the rest of the nation and to many places beyond our country's borders.

“With your help and with the help of the combined talent, skills and genius that we possess within the State we hope to dramatize Illinois' preparation for the future—how the State is meeting the challenge of population growth, education, automation, advances in science, expanded transportation, and the resulting public works requirements.

“We want to acquaint everyone within and without our borders with Illinois' unexcelled natural beauty and visitor conveniences, and our many recreational and tourism attractions.”

And, as the Chairman later elaborated, “One should not think of the Illinois Sesquicentennial celebration as one great and spectacular event such as the Columbian Exposition or the Railroad Fair in Chicago.

“It is, rather, a year-long series of events—some certainly may deserve the adjective ‘spectacular,’ and others of moderate scope—extending geographically throughout the state into every county, city and hamlet where citizens who love their Illinois wish to participate in this great celebration.”

The State song *ILLINOIS* has been given a Sesquicentennial arrangement, one stanza of which expresses the spirit of the 1960's. The Commission is distributing this new song sheet as one part of its broad program to achieve an increasing awareness of the rich heritage of our State.

Spectacular celebrations are being planned for the special days of the Sesquicentennial observance. Among these are December 4, 1967, the first day of the Sesquicentennial year; February 12, Lincoln's Birthday; April 18, the anniversary of the Act of Congress which enabled the people of the Illinois Territory to write a constitution and fixed the boundaries of the state; Memorial Day; the Fourth of July; August 26, the date of the Constitutional Convention and adoption of the document; September 17, the first election of state officers; October 5-6, when the first General Assembly met at Kaskaskia with Shadrach Bond inaugurated October 6 as the first Governor of the State of Illinois; and December 3, when Illinois was formally admitted to the Union.

The Commission welcomes suggestions as well as questions. Its staff and regional representatives will be happy to receive invitations to appear before local service clubs, church groups, historical societies and other organizations interested in arranging local celebrations. All mail should be sent to the Commission offices at 1936 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois 60614.