

# Official web site of Oregon Secretary of State

<https://sos.oregon.gov/blue-book>

## Oregon Focus: State Symbols: Song

Oregon's official state song, "Oregon, My Oregon," was adopted through Legislative action in 1927. The song was written in 1920 by John A. Buchanan, a former Oregon State Representative and municipal judge from Astoria, and the music was composed by Henry B. Murtagh for a competition to identify a state song, sponsored by the Society of Oregon Composers.

The original song lyrics to "Oregon, My Oregon" contained racist, outdated and exclusionary language and references that do not accurately reflect the whole history of Oregon. The song also didn't account for the experiences of indigenous people who have lived here since time immemorial. Those lyrics include references to "Empire builders," and a land "conquered and held by free men, fairest and the best" and "blessed by the blood of martyrs."

The Secretary of State has made it a priority to establish equity at the core of this agency and to center equity and anti-racism in our work. We supported discussions to consider alternatives to this current state song. [House Concurrent Resolution 11](#)

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Downloads/MeasureDocument/HCR11>), proposed and passed during the 2021 Legislative session modified the lyrics of the song to "reflect historical traditions and the cultural, historical, economic, and societal evolution of the state."

The updated lyrics written by Amy Shapiro, and adopted by HCR 11, are:

"Land of Majestic Mountains,  
"Land of the Great Northwest;  
"Forests and rolling rivers,  
"Grandest and the best.  
"Onward and upward ever,



**Oregon, My Oregon**  
The State Song of Oregon

music: Henry Bernard Murtagh  
original lyrics: John Andrew Buchanan  
with revised lyrics by Amy Donna Shapiro

Land of ma-jest-ic mount-ains, Land of the great north-  
Land of the rose and sun-shine, Land of the sum-mers

west; For-ests and rol-ling riv-ers,  
breeze; La-den with health and vi-gor,

“Forward and on,  
and on;  
“Hail to thee, Land of  
Heroes,  
“My Oregon.

“Land of the rose and  
sunshine

“Land of the  
summer’s breeze;

“Laden with health  
and vigor,

“Fresh from the  
Western seas.

“Blessed by the love  
of freedom,

“Land of the setting  
sun;

“Hail to thee, Land of  
Promise,

“My Oregon.”

Grand - est and the best, On - ward and up - ward  
Fresh from the west - ern seas. Blessed by the love of

ev - er, For - ward and on and on;  
free - dom, Land of the set - ting sun;

Hail to thee, land of he - roes, My Or - e - gon.  
Hail to thee, land of pro - mise

7/3/2021



[Download jpg of state song here. \(/blue-book/PublishingImages/explore/focus/Oregon-State-Song.jpg\)](#)