

Piece: "Dixie"	Head Researcher: Grant Singer
Composer/Arranger: Daniel Decatur Emmett	Assistant Researchers:
Culture: American	

Cultural Context: This piece was written in the upcoming years to the Civil War as a rebuttal to the growing Abolition movement. It was an attempt to portray Slavery in a positive light. The author wrote for a minstrel troupe called "Bryant's Minstrels". Despite being written by a Northerner, *Dixie* gained popularity in the South and was later used as an unofficial anthem for the Confederate States of America. The New York Times describes the origins of the word "Dixie" as the following: "[Dixie] either references a benevolent slaveholder named Dix (thus slaves wanting to return to "Dix's Land"), Louisiana (where \$10 notes were sometimes called Dix notes), or — and most likely — the land below the Mason and Dixon's line (the slaveholding South)." There are also copious amounts of parody songs written by Northerners mocking the original, often with pro-abolition and anti-Confederate themes

Recommendation:

- Fine to use with context
- Use at your own discretion
- Unfit for the classroom given the current academic information provided

Recommendation Notes: There are numerous versions of this song, but the most popular ones are a celebration of the Confederacy – a nation created to preserve the institution of slavery. Even though anti-Confederacy versions were written, these still had themes of war. The song's roots in minstrelsy and the Confederacy makes this inappropriate for any classroom.

Score:

Allegro

I wish I was in de landoh cot-ton old times dar am not for-got ten look a-way! Look a way! Look a-way! Dix-ie Land Den I wish I was in Dix-ie Hoo-ray! Hoo-ray! In Dix-ie Land I'll take my stand to live and die in Dix-ie a-way, a-way, a-way down south in Dix-ie, a-way a-way a-way down south in Dix-ie.

Variations: *Union Dixie*

Union Dixie (Anon)

Away down South in the land of traitors,
Rattlesnakes and alligators,
Right away, come away, right away, come away.

Where cotton's king and men are chattels,
Union boys will win the battles,
Right away, come away, right away, come away.

CHORUS: Then we'll all go down to Dixie,
Away, away,
Each Dixie boy must understand
That he must mind his Uncle Sam,
Away, away,
And we'll all go down to Dixie.
Away, away,
And we'll all go down to Dixie.

I wish I was in Baltimore,
I'd make Secession traitors roar,
Right away, come away, right away, come away.
We'll put the traitors all to rout.
I'll bet my boots we'll whip them out,
Right away, come away, right away, come away.

Oh, may our Stars and Stripes still wave
Forever o'er the free and brave,
Right away, come away, right away, come away.
And let our motto ever be --
"For Union and for Liberty!"
Right away, come away, right away, come away.

Sources:

Levin, S. (1998). 'Dixie' now too symbolic of old south, not of origins. Retrieved February 10, 2021, from <http://old.post-gazette.com/regionstate/19980904dixie4.asp>

Mcwhirter, C. (2012, March 31). The Birth of 'Dixie'. Retrieved February 02, 2021, from <https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/03/31/the-birth-of-dixie/>

Model Interpretation. (n.d.). Retrieved February 02, 2021, from <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/songs/model.html>

Union Dixie (n.d.). Retrieved February 02, 2021, from <http://www.civilwarpoetry.org/union/songs/union-dixie.html>