

The full song of *The Star-Spangled Banner* consists of four stanzas; only the first one is used for the national anthem. The following is the third stanza:

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 wash'd out their foul footstep's 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.

Upon reading all four stanzas, I found them to be heavily tainted with racism and mockery. I selected three phrases (above in bold) and placed them under the beams of the stripe notes, as if they're part of the flag. Analyzing the text, a number of experts have suggested that "Where is that band" refers to the Colonial Marines, a group of enslaved Black Americans that fought for Britain in order to earn freedom. "The hireling and slave" is Francis Scott Key's way of mocking both British soldiers and the Colonial Marines. "The gloom of the grave" is perhaps his reaction to them as a slave owner, cursing both to the grave. I added this focus on the third verse in response to racial injustices that have been inflicted for centuries, and I support the growing call to replace *The Star-Spangled Banner* with *Lift Every Voice and Sing* of 1899 by J. Rosamond Johnson and James Weldon Johnson, which is considered the Black national anthem.

Christine Sun Kim
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This is a notation drawing of the American Sign Language (ASL) translation of *The Star-Spangled Banner*, the national anthem of the United States, which I signed during Super Bowl LIV in February 2020 in front of millions of viewers. Accepting the invitation to give such a performance was not an easy decision; however, it was vital for creating visibility for the Deaf and disabled communities in America. While I initially dissected and rearranged the anthem in a way that suits ASL and my vantage point as a disabled performer, I have since learned that Francis Scott Key, the anthem's lyricist, actively defended the rights of slave owners, owned slaves himself, and cultivated an openly anti-Black and anti-Abolition attitude. With this information in mind, I wish for the work's potential visibility to now be extended by highlighting the fact that Black disabled people are disproportionately targeted by the police: Half of people killed by police have a disability (David M. Perry and Lawrence Carter-Long, 2016) and more than half of Black people with disabilities will have been arrested at least once by the time they reach their late 20s (Erin J. McCauley, 2017). Systemic racism permeates American culture so deeply that it becomes a norm and it goes unchallenged, and often unnoticed—much like the country's anthem. We must all support the movement by practicing both anti-racism and anti-ableism. Black Disabled Lives Matter.

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