

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

## The History

In a contest for the most performed song in America, “Happy Birthday to You” wins hands down. It’s unlikely that sisters Mildred J. and Patty Hill had any idea that their little ditty, written more than a hundred years ago, would go on to worldwide fame.

In 1893 the sisters published “Songs for the Kindergarten.” In it they included a little greeting song for small children which they called “Good Morning to All.” Mildred Hill, a church organist and concert pianist, composed the song’s melody during the late 1880s while her sister, Patty Smith Hill, wrote the lyrics.

The sisters taught at the Louisville Experimental Kindergarten, where their original composition, “Good Morning to All,” was sung each morning to kindergarten students at the school. They copyrighted the song in 1893, and it received little attention for the next 30 years.

In 1924 the song appeared without authorization in a songbook edited and published by Robert H. Coleman. While the song bore its original title and first stanza lyrics, Coleman altered the second stanza’s opening to read “Happy birthday to you.” The Hill sisters’ line “Good morning, dear children” became “Happy birthday, dear [name].”

Over the next decade, the song was published several times, often with minor alterations in its lyrics. By 1933, it became widely accepted as “Happy Birthday to You.” When the song became part of a Broadway musical, *As Thousands Cheer*, a third sister, Jessica, tired of the blatant theft and absence of royalties, took the case to court and won. The Hill family owned the melody and was entitled to royalties every time the song was performed commercially.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

SATB, accompanied

Words and Music by  
MILDRED J. HILL and PATTY S. HILL  
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

Easy swing ♩ = 128 (♩ = ♩<sup>3</sup>) *mf*

S  
A

Hap - py birth - day to you. — Hap - py

T  
B

*mf*

Piano

*f* *mf*

*f*

birth - day to you. — Hap - py birth - day, — dear

*f*

*cresc.*

\*"Brit - ta - ny" Hap - py birth - day to you! — *cresc.*

\*Insert name

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

SSA, accompanied\*

Words and Music by  
MILDRED J. HILL and PATTY S. HILL  
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

*♩ = 120\**

S  
S

A

Piano

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*f*

birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to you. — Hap - py

*f*

*rit.*

birth - day, dear \*\*\*"Ma - ry." Hap - py birth - day to you!

*f*

*rit.*

\*May be sung a cappella  
\*\*Insert name

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

SSAATTBB, a cappella with optional piano or organ

Words and Music by  
MILDRED J. HILL and PATTY S. HILL  
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

Slow and robust ♩ = 60

*mf* *f*

S Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py

*mf* *f*

A Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py

*mf* *f*

T Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py

*mf* *f*

B Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py birth-day to you. Hap-py

*optional*  
*mf* *f*

Piano/  
Organ

birth - day, dear \*Jon - a - than." Hap - py

*molto rit. to end*

birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to you!

birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to you!

birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to you!

birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to you!

*molto rit. to end*

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Two-Part Mixed, accompanied

Words and Music by  
MILDRED J. HILL and PATTY S. HILL  
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

Lively "Baroque style" ♩ = 120 *mf* 4

I Hap-py birth - day to

II Hap-py birth - day

Piano *f*

you, - to - you. Hap-py birth - day to you, - to - you. Hap-py birth - day, dear

to - you. Hap-py birth-day to - you. Hap-py birth-day,

Repeat "ad nauseum" to you!

\*"Nan - cy." Hap-py birth - day, hap-py birth - day to you!

\*"Nan - cy." Hap-py birth-day, hap-py birth-day to - you!

\*Insert name

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

Two-Part, accompanied

Words and Music by  
MILDRED J. HILL and PATTY S. HILL  
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

Waltz style ♩ = 120

I

II

Piano

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*f*

birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to you. Hap - py

birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to you. Hap - py

birth - day, dear \*"John." — Hap - py birth - day to you!

birth - day, dear \*"John." — Hap - py birth - day to you!

*f*

\*Insert name

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

SATB, a cappella

Words and Music by  
MILDRED J. HILL and PATTY S. HILL  
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

Jazz ballad style  
Rubato ♩ = 88

*p* *rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

S  
A

Oo.

T  
B

*p* *mp*

*for rehearsal only*

Piano

*p* *rit.* *mp* *a tempo*

*mf* *f*

you. — Hap-py birth - day to you. — Hap-py birth - day, \*Mis-ter

*mf* *f*

you. —

Ste-ven-son. Hap-py birth - day to Hap-py birth-day to you!

\*Insert name



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

SATB, a cappella

Words and Music by  
MILDRED J. HILL and PATTY S. HILL  
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

Classically a cappella ♩ = 92

*mf*

S Hap - py birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to

*mf*

A Hap - py birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to

*mf*

T Hap - py birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to

*mf*

B Hap - py birth - day to you. Hap - py birth - day to

*f*

you. Hap - py birth - day, dear \*Bren - da." Hap - py birth - day to you!

*f*

you. Hap - py birth - day, dear \*Bren - da." Hap - py birth - day to you!

*f*

you. Hap - py birth - day, dear \*Bren - da." Hap - py birth - day to you! —

*f*

you. Hap - py birth - day, dear \*Bren - da." Hap - py birth - day to you!

\*Insert name

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

SSATB, accompanied

Words and Music by  
MILDRED J. HILL and PATTY S. HILL  
Arranged by RUSSELL ROBINSON

Rock and roll ♩ = 132

*f*

S  
S  
A

T  
B

Piano

*f*

Hap-py birth - day

Hap-py birth - day to

to — you. Hap-py, hap - py birth-day to — you. Hap-py

you. Hap-py birth - day to you. Hap-py

*cresc.*

birth - day, \_ dear \*"Su - zie." Hap-py birth - day to you!

birth - day, \_ dear \*"Su - zie." Hap-py birth - day to you!

*cresc.*

\*Insert name

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