

Baseball Championship Anthems

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While baseball has inspired the writing of numerous **songs** over the years, Major League Baseball teams—especially championship teams—often make songs from the past popular once again.

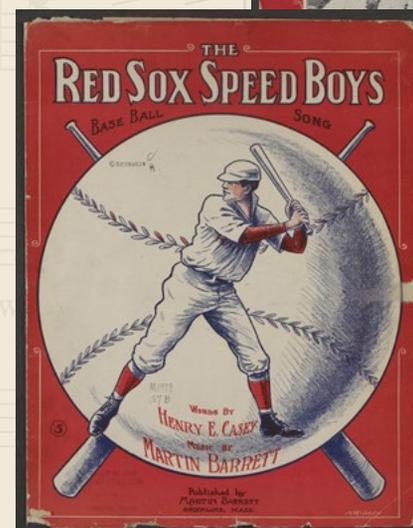
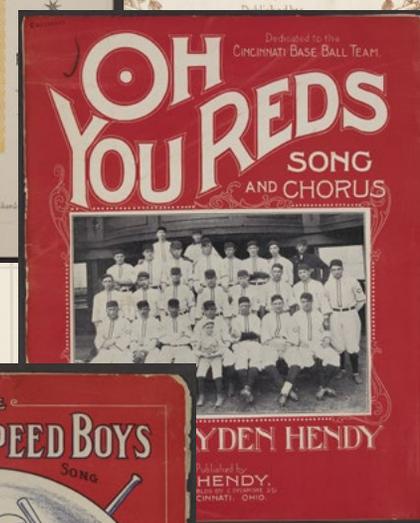
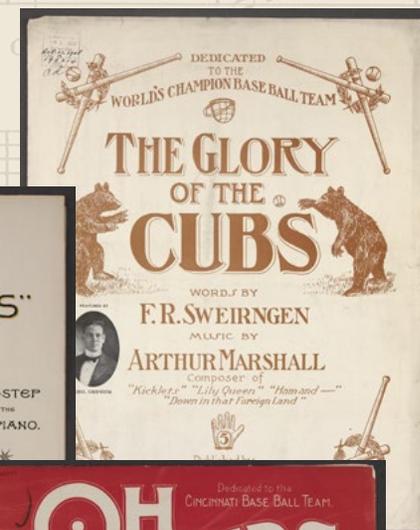
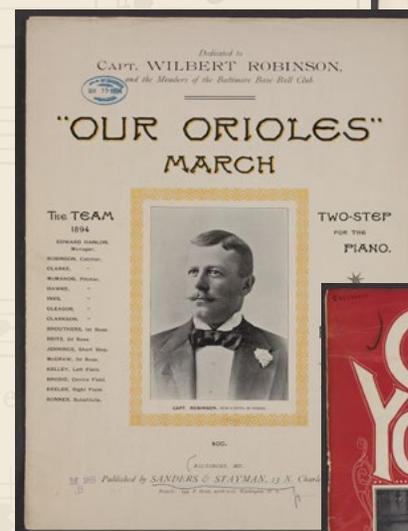
Often, baseball teams and artists go together no matter how the team is doing. The Boston Red Sox have the Dropkick Murphys, the New York Yankees have Frank Sinatra, and the San Francisco Giants have Tony Bennett, just to name a few. But Copyright holders of many songs have especially benefited when teams use their songs as anthems during a championship season.

Some teams have a theme song that's written for a specific season, and then the song is resurrected years later when the team does well in the playoffs. "Meet the Mets" was written by Ruth Roberts and Bill Katz in 1961 and was recorded in early 1963 after the New York Mets' first season, which did not go well. It later became the theme song of the 1986 Mets World Series champion team. "Go Get 'um Tigers" was written in 1968 and became the World Series champion Detroit Tigers theme song that year. In 2006, when the Tigers beat the Yankees in the American League Division Series, the song was played as manager Jim Leyland was carried off the field. "Go Cubs Go," written in 1984 by Steve Goodman, made the Billboard charts for the first time after the Cubs' 2016 World Series victory. That victory also brought back Pearl Jam singer Eddie Vedder's "All The Way," which he wrote in 2008 as a tribute to his hometown team.

Sometimes the songs aren't anthems of the teams but still get attention during the World Series. The song "Royals," written by Lorde and inspired by the Kansas City Royals logo she saw in a picture of former player George Brett, was played every hour by a radio station in Kansas City leading up to game one of the World Series in 2014. However, several radio stations in the opposing team's town, San Francisco, banned the song throughout the series. The San Francisco Giants won that series, to the tune of Tony Bennett's recording of "I Left My Heart in San Francisco."

Teams also have derivative versions of songs written when they are doing well. After the 2007 season ended just shy of the World Series for the Arizona Diamondbacks, the Crispy Brothers remixed Soulja Boy's "Crank That (Soulja Boy)" for the 2008 Arizona Diamondbacks, naming most of the team in the song.

Whether you believe "We Are Family" (Pittsburgh Pirates) or "Cleveland Rocks," (Cleveland Indians) or you identify with "Sweet Home Chicago" (Chicago White Sox) or "Kansas City," (Kansas City Royals), the artists who wrote and recorded baseball anthem songs have reason for a "Celebration" (used by more teams than any other victory song). ©



A selection of early baseball songs and compositions.