

# We the People the musical

Book by Pat Cook  
Music and lyrics by Bill Francoeur

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# **WE THE PEOPLE—THE MUSICAL**

Book by PAT COOK  
Music and lyrics by BILL FRANCOEUR

## **CAST OF CHARACTERS**

Characters involved in the entire show:

SAM	ABBY
MARTHA	TOM
GEORGE	BETSY
CHORUS (See Production Notes.)	

Additional characters in each scene\*:

### **PROLOGUE**

THREE MINUTEMEN

### **ACT ONE**

#### **Scene One**

“We the people of the United States”

TAXPAYER	TRUCK DRIVER
TEACHER	MOTHER

#### **Scene Two**

“In order to form a more perfect union”

DAUGHTER	DAD
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#### **Scene Three**

“Establish justice”

HUSBAND	POLICE OFFICER
WIFE	BACK UP SINGERS

#### **Scene Four**

“Insure domestic tranquility”

MOTHER	BARRY
FATHER	POLICE OFFICER
MARK	

Scene Five  
“Provide for the common defense”

MOTHER	HOUSEWIFE
PROFESSOR	CONGRESSMAN

ACT TWO  
Scene One  
“Promote the general welfare”

REPORTER	WOMAN
MAN	

Scene Two  
“And secure the blessings of liberty”

MAN ONE	IMMIGRANT
MAN TWO	

Scene Three  
“To ourselves and our posterity”

TEACHER ONE	TEACHER FOUR
TEACHER TWO	TEACHER FIVE
TEACHER THREE	TEACHER SIX

Scene Four  
“Do ordain and establish this Constitution”

LARRY	WIFE
NED	

Scene Five  
“For the United States of America”

SAM	ABBY
MARTHA	TOM
GEORGE	BETSY

\*The same ensemble of six can portray all the additional roles if you desire a cast size as small as 12 (plus the CHORUS). The cast can be any size up to 39 with as many roles as you want, played by separate actors.

SYNOPSIS

TIME: The present.

PLACE: A bare stage.

SEQUENCE OF MUSICAL NUMBERS\*

PROLOGUE

MC 1 We the People ..... Entire Cast

ACT ONE

MC 2 Only in America ..... Truck Driver, Taxpayer,  
Teacher, Mother,  
Chorus

MC 3 The Good Ol' U.S. of A. .... Dad, Daughter, Chorus

MC 4 It's Your Constitutional Right ..... Wife, Backup Singers

MC 5 Relaxin' in the Noonday Sun ..... Father, Mother, Barry,  
Mark, Chorus

MC 5a American Hymn Montage—  
Underscore ..... Chorus

MC 6 Together We Must Stand ..... Abby, Committee  
Members, Chorus

ACT TWO

MC 7 Entr'Acte—God Bless America ..... Soloist, Committee  
Members, Chorus

MC 8 People Helping People ..... Reporter, Man, Woman,  
Chorus

MC 8a The Immigrant—Underscore ..... Instrumental

MC 9 Oh, Freedom! ..... Woman, Chorus

MC 9a 911—Underscore ..... Instrumental

MC 10 The Future of America ..... Teachers One-Six

MC 11 I Have a Dream ..... George, Abby,  
Committee Members,  
Chorus

MC 11a Military Hymns/  
The Star Spangled Banner ..... Entire Cast/Audience

MC 12 We the People—Epilogue ..... Entire Cast

MC 13 Curtain Call ..... Instrumental

MC 13a Together We Must Stand—  
Reprise ..... Entire Cast

\*If desired, the CHORUS can be added to any musical number. See

Production Notes.

## **WE THE PEOPLE — THE MUSICAL**

### PROLOGUE

After the HOUSE LIGHTS DIM, we hear a faint MARCHING DRUM from the back of the auditorium. Soon after, we hear a FIFE playing the familiar tune of “Yankee Doodle.” OPTIONAL: A SPOTLIGHT reveals THREE MINUTEMEN at the back of the auditorium. MINUTEMEN may be dressed similarly to the famous painting, “The Spirit of ’76”—one plays a marching drum, one carries an American flag circa 1776 and the third plays a fife. (If using the accompaniment CD, the instruments can be mimed, of course.) They proceed slowly down the aisle, followed by the CHORUS. (See PRODUCTION NOTES.) When they reach the front of the auditorium, the MINUTEMEN proceed onto the STAGE DOWN CENTER and face the AUDIENCE while the CHORUS moves onto risers or chairs located on the floor on each side of the STAGE. MUSIC CUE 1: “We the People—Prologue.”

#### **ENSEMBLE:** (*Sings.*)

We the people of the United States,  
We the people of America!  
We the people of the United States,  
We the people of America!  
We the people of the United States,  
We the people of America! America!

America, America, lift your voice in song,  
Walking hand in hand,  
Proudly 'cross the land,  
With “Old Glory” waving high!

America, America, keep your spirit free!  
Spread your wings and fly,  
Sounding freedom’s cry.  
America! America! America!  
God bless America!

End of PROLOGUE

ACT ONE  
Scene One

“We the people of the United States”

AT RISE: A COMMITTEE of townspeople, consisting of MARTHA, GEORGE, ABBY, TOM and BETSY, are seated in chairs on a bare stage. The chairs should be placed to face each other in two angled rows. There is one extra chair. The STAGE is empty except for the six chairs, an American flag standing DOWN RIGHT and various platforms or boxes which may be used for the ensuing scenes. COMMITTEE MEMBERS may be holding a variety of items such as pencils and notebooks. BETSY carries a purse.

**ABBY:** Well, I personally believe it’s a good idea, and we should really put some thought into it.

**GEORGE:** Of course. I think we all agree on that.

**ABBY:** Though sometimes I wonder if Sam is up to it. He never seems to go along with any of us. It drives me crazy!

**TOM:** Don’t worry about Sam. He’ll come around.

**BETSY:** After all, the mayor chose the six of us for a reason. Even though we’re all so different, he thought we were the right ones to pull this off.

**GEORGE:** I think the mayor’s idea to put on a patriotic play is great!

**MARTHA:** But, George, where do we start?

**BETSY:** We certainly have a lot to cover. (*SAM ENTERS LEFT.*)

**ALL:** (*Ad-lib.*) Hi, Sam. Been waiting for you. Well, if it isn’t Sam!

**SAM:** Sorry I’m late. I could give you a bad excuse, or do you just want to get started?

**BETSY:** I vote we officially get started. (*Raises hand.*) All in favor?

**ALL:** Aye!

**GEORGE:** Good. Let’s get this show on the road.

**SAM:** (*Resigned.*) Nobody cares about patriotism anymore.

**MARTHA:** I disagree, Sam. I think this will be good for the town.

**SAM:** But how is some play going to hold anyone’s interest?

**GEORGE:** Sam, I think you’d be surprised. (*Indicates TOM.*) And having the high school history teacher here will be a great help.

**TOM:** Glad to be of service.

**MARTHA:** (*Hand up.*) One question.

**GEORGE:** (*Points to MARTHA.*) Martha?

**MARTHA:** How are the six of us going to pull this off?

**SAM:** Exactly!

**GEORGE:** Well, we'll have to use our imaginations.

**TOM:** Maybe we could each say a few words about America. This great country of ours—

**SAM:** *(Rises.)* Wait a minute, Tom. *(Moves to TOM.)* We're all just going to show up and talk about America?

**GEORGE:** Sam has a good point. I can't see the curtain coming up, and we're all just sitting in chairs talking.

**MARTHA:** We could stand if we wanted to.

**SAM:** *(To MARTHA.)* So stand up. *(She does. Sarcastic.)* Oh, that's really exciting! *(MARTHA sits.)*

**ABBY:** Come on, Sam. We won't get anywhere with that attitude.

**BETSY:** We need to find a way to show America, not just talk about it.

**SAM:** *(To BETSY.)* You mean, act out stuff? That seems awfully difficult.

**ABBY:** That's what a play is, Sam. We "act out stuff."

**SAM:** What are we going to do, act like states?

**MARTHA:** Can I be Wisconsin? I've always wanted to be a "cheese-head!" *(ALL laugh except SAM.)*

**SAM:** *(Aside.)* She's already in a state of confusion.

**BETSY:** Let's get back to business here. How about brainstorming some ideas? *(Thinks.)* What is America?

**GEORGE:** *(Stands.)* The United States. The land of the free.

**ABBY:** *(Stands.)* The noble experiment.

**MARTHA:** *(Stands.)* Made up of people from all over the world.

**BETSY:** *(Stands.)* It's "Old Glory."

**TOM:** It's the Constitution! *(This catches BETSY'S attention. She searches in her purse as the dialogue continues.)*

**GEORGE:** Purple mountain majesties...

**ABBY:** *(Sings.)* ...above the fruited plain.

**SAM:** We know all that. But I'm going to say it again. *(Stands.)* Where do we start? *(They look at each other. ALL but SAM sit.)* We need some sort of outline. A plan.

**BETSY:** All right, everyone, I have something that might help us. *(Holds up a sheet of paper, which she found in her purse, and hands it to*

*ABBY.*)

**ABBY:** Hmm. Now this might help us get some ideas. (*Passes sheet to GEORGE.*)

**GEORGE:** (*Speaks as he looks over the sheet.*) I think we may have something here, Betsy.

**TOM:** What is it?

**ABBY:** The Preamble to the Constitution.

**SAM:** (*Incredulous.*) You carry the Preamble to the Constitution in your purse?!

**BETSY:** Only when I'm coming to meetings that might need patriotic motivators. (*SAM rolls his eyes.*)

**TOM:** So give it a shot, Sam.

**SAM:** Huh?

**MARTHA:** Can you recite it?

**SAM:** Sure. It's... "We the people of the United States, in order to... something, something... to insure something... and establish something..." (*ALL laugh.*)

**MARTHA:** Well, I probably couldn't do any better.

**GEORGE:** Why don't you read the whole thing, Betsy?

**BETSY:** (*Stands. Reads.*) "We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

**ABBY:** Boy, that's a mouthful, isn't it?

**GEORGE:** (*Rises.*) But wait. Betsy's right, there's a lot in here to work with. This might be a good outline for the show.

**SAM:** How do you mean?

**TOM:** Let's take a little at a time—break it into phrases.

**ABBY:** I like that! (*To BETSY.*) Let's start from the very beginning.

**BETSY:** (*Reads.*) "We the people of the United States."

**MARTHA:** Hey, I have an idea! We could show a variety of different people... you know, all from the United States.

**GEORGE:** (*Moves LEFT.*) Okay, how about this? The stage is dark over here. Then, we have the lights come up on several different types of Americans. Can you see it?



**ABBY:** I like it!

**MARTHA:** And they tell about themselves, their lives.

**TOM:** They tell us about their own unique experiences as Americans.

**BETSY:** How they are the ones who make up “We the people.” (*LIGHTS FADE OUT on the COMMITTEE and COME UP LEFT. [NOTE: In each scene when the LIGHTS FADE OUT on the COMMITTEE, it is at the director’s discretion whether they should remain as still as possible in the background or EXIT and RE-ENTER at the beginning of the next scene. Either way, the transitions must be fast and smooth to keep the show moving.]*) A TAXPAYER is seated at a table with a pile of papers in front of him. Near him are a TEACHER holding a book, a TRUCK DRIVER and a MOTHER. During these interwoven monologues, the TAXPAYER, TEACHER, TRUCK DRIVER and MOTHER each freeze when not delivering lines. They do not react to or interact with each other.)

**TAXPAYER:** (*Reads from form.*) “Filling out your personal income tax form can be easy.” (*Looks at AUDIENCE.*) Right.

**TEACHER:** Teaching is a huge challenge. I was so scared my first year. It was overwhelming standing in front of those twenty-eight faces the first day. And there was one face in particular that really stood out. His name was James.

**MOTHER:** It isn’t easy being a single mom, raising two kids all by myself. It’s so frustrating trying to juggle my time. I want to spend more time with Rachel and Jeff, but it’s impossible to work forty hours a week and keep up with their busy lives.

**TRUCK DRIVER:** Some people think that the life of a truck driver can be pretty tough. It definitely can throw you some curves. (*Smiles at own pun, then sincere again.*) Being away from the family... on the road sixteen hours a day all by myself.

**TAXPAYER:** (*Reads.*) “Enter your deductions if they are itemized or take the standard deduction but see instructions to find if you qualify for the standard deduction if you checked any box on 35a or 35b.” (*To himself.*) Where the heck is 35a? (*To AUDIENCE.*) I’m getting more gray hairs by the minute!

**TEACHER:** James could barely read. He was so far behind, I was afraid he would never catch on. I wasn’t sure how to get through to him. Some days I felt he wasn’t even listening to me, and I was just talking to myself.

**MOTHER:** But I must say, I’m so thankful for the support I’ve gotten. I don’t know where I’d be without my church. They’ve been like a

second family to me and my kids.

**TRUCK DRIVER:** But let me tell you something. I feel so free out there on the open road. Driving a truck, I have the blue skies above me and the whole country in front of me. What a great way to see America!

**TAXPAYER:** (*Reads.*) "For each real estate property listed did you or your family use it during the tax year for more than the greater of fourteen days or ten percent of the total days rented at fair rental value?" (*Mutters to himself.*) That's the last time I take a vacation for a while. (*Sighs and works on the form for a moment. To himself.*) Wait a minute here... (*Gasps and smiles. To AUDIENCE.*) Oh, my gosh! A refund! I'm getting a refund!

**TEACHER:** But I just couldn't... and wouldn't lose faith in him. (*Smiles.*) Then one day something clicked! He started to enjoy reading. I would give him a book (*Shows book to AUDIENCE.*), and he would come back the next day with a smile on his face. It was incredible! Yes, being a teacher is a challenge. I would never give it up... not for the world!

**MOTHER:** Without help, I may not be able to give my kids everything they need, but I know that I'll always have enough love to give them. And isn't that what being a family is about?

**TRUCK DRIVER:** I've been everywhere and seen everything. From the skyline of Seattle to the wide open skies of Nebraska to the rocky coastline of Maine. Yes, I've been everywhere... (*MUSIC CUE 2: "Only in America." Speaks.*) ...from sea to shining sea!

**TEACHER/MOTHER/TRUCK DRIVER/TAXPAYER:** (*Sing.*)  
Oh, beautiful for spacious skies for amber waves of grain,  
For purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!

**SOLOISTS/CHORUS:** (*Sing.*)  
America, America, God shed his grace on thee,  
And crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining...  
...sea! Ah! (*A shout.*) America!

**TAXPAYER:** (*Sings.*)  
Only in America can you see the autumn leaves of New England.

**TEACHER:** (*Sings.*) Only in America can you taste a Georgia peach.

**TRUCK DRIVER:** (*Sings.*)  
You can feel the heart of America on the shores of California.

**MOTHER:** (*Sings.*)  
You can touch the soul of America, walkin' 'long Virginia Beach.

**TAXPAYER:** (*Sings.*)  
Only in America can you climb the highest peaks of the Rockies.

**TEACHER:** (*Sings.*) Only in America can you run through Kansas grain.

**TRUCK DRIVER:** (*Sings.*)

You can feel the heart of America in the Black Hills of Dakota.

**MOTHER:** (*Sings.*)

You can touch the soul of America when you cruise the coast of Maine.

**SOLOISTS/CHORUS:** (*Sing.*)

It's all here in America, the land of milk and honey.

It's all here in America, from "sea to shining sea."

It's all here in America, come taste the fruit of plenty.

It's all here in America, it's yours, it's mine, it's free!

(*NOTE: For background CHORUS "sha doo bee doos," refer to piano score, vocal score or rehearsal CD.*)

**TAXPAYER:** (*Sings.*)

Only in America can you ride a burro down the Grand Canyon.

**TEACHER:** (*Sings.*) Only in America can you see Old Faithful blow.

**TRUCK DRIVER:** (*Sings.*)

You can feel the heart of America in the wilds of Alaska.

**MOTHER:** (*Sings.*)

You can touch the soul of America at the Texas Alamo.

**TAXPAYER:** (*Sings.*)

Only in America can you steamboat down the great Mississippi.

**TEACHER:** (*Sings.*) Only in America can you sail the five Great Lakes.

**TRUCK DRIVER:** (*Sings.*)

You can feel the heart of America when you raft the Colorado.

**MOTHER:** (*Sings.*)

You can touch the soul of America when you cross the Golden Gate.

**SOLOISTS/CHORUS:** (*Sing.*)

It's all here in America, the land of milk and honey.

It's all here in America, from "sea to shining sea."

It's all here in America, come taste the fruit of plenty.

It's all here in America, it's yours, it's mine, it's free!

It's yours it's mine, it's free!

It's yours, it's mine, it's free!

Only in America! (*MUSIC OUT. BLACKOUT.*)

End of Scene One

*(Note: Scene breaks are indicated for rehearsal purposes only. The play should flow continuously.)*

## Scene Two

“In order to form a more perfect union”

LIGHTS UP: The COMMITTEE stands near the flag DOWN RIGHT.

**GEORGE:** What do you think?

**SAM:** I think we have a long way to go. Like Abby said, the Preamble is a real mouthful.

**ABBY:** I don't see you spouting ideas.

**GEORGE:** Okay, everyone, let's settle down. Sam, let's keep using the Preamble as the outline, the plan you were looking for. What's the next line, Betsy?

**BETSY:** Let's see. *(Reads.)* “We the people of the United States... *(With emphasis.)* in order to form a more perfect union...”

**TOM:** Notice that it doesn't say a perfect union, but a more perfect union. Our forefathers knew we could never be perfect, that America is always a process we're working on. That is why 27 amendments have been added since the ratification of the Constitution.

**ABBY:** *(Excited.)* America... the noble experiment I was talking about.

**MARTHA:** I don't get it. What is the noble experiment?

**GEORGE:** Democracy. Every state has a voice, made up of our own individual voices.

**SAM:** Then why doesn't anyone listen to me?

**GEORGE:** What I'm saying is that we can vote.

**SAM:** I vote to adjourn early. *(Turns to leave but is brought back by ABBY and MARTHA.)*

**BETSY:** Come on, guys, we all need to work together on this.

**TOM:** Ahem. Getting back to business. Voting is how the voice of the people is heard.

**MARTHA:** Yes. Well, as long as we're getting a civics lesson here, what do the colors of the flag stand for? Why red, white and blue?

**SAM:** Everybody knows that.

**BETSY:** Then you tell us.

**SAM:** They stand for blood, sweat and tears.

**ABBY:** That's a rock group. *(ALL laugh, except SAM.)*

**SAM:** No! Really, blood, sweat and tears!

**TOM:** Yes. That's right. The red of blood fought for freedom, the white of sweat working to keep our liberties and the blue of tears shed in its perseverance.

**SAM:** Yeah. What he said.

**BETSY:** *(Looks at the flag.)* "In order to form a more perfect union."  
*(LIGHTS FADE OUT on COMMITTEE and COME UP on DAD and DAUGHTER sitting at a table. DAD is reading a NEWSPAPER, and DAUGHTER is looking at her history book.)*

**DAD:** *(Sets down newspaper.)* What are you studying tonight, Katie?

**DAUGHTER:** *(Looks up.)* American history.

**DAD:** Really. So, what exactly?

**DAUGHTER:** The Constitution.

**DAD:** *(Thinks.)* The Constitution. Let's see. "We the people..."

**DAUGHTER:** *(Interrupts.)* "...of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union..."

**DAD:** *(Smiles.)* You mean, like local seven fourteen?

**DAUGHTER:** *(Rolls eyes and smiles.)* Dad. *(Serious.)* You know what kind of union I mean.

**DAD:** Maybe. Why don't you give me a little quiz?

**DAUGHTER:** Are you up to it?

**DAD:** Sure, give me a try.

**DAUGHTER:** Okay. What's a "union"?

**DAD:** *(Raises hand. Like enthusiastic student.)* Miss Katie! Miss Katie! I know! I know!

**DAUGHTER:** Yes, Dad. *(Laughs.)* I mean "Tim."

**DAD:** *(Thinks.)* That's when two or more things are joined together. Connected.

**DAUGHTER:** Go on. What does that have to do with America?

**DAD:** Well, this country is made up of a group of states. And they all got together to form this union, the United States of America. How am I doing?

**DAUGHTER:** Not bad. But how do you explain Alaska and Hawaii? They're not connected.

**DAD:** *(Jokes.)* Do I get extra credit for this one?

**DAUGHTER:** Sure.

**DAD:** A union can be a group that's related to each other even if they're not all together.

**DAUGHTER:** Right. But what makes them a union? Can you give me an example?

**DAD:** Think of it this way. Your Grandpa Fred came from Kentucky. And he married your Grandma Lil, who was from New York. Now, your Grandpa Nathan was from Tennessee and he married Grandma Margaret who was from California. And you know I was born in Texas and your mother...

**DAUGHTER/DAD:** *(Laugh.)* In Alaska!

**DAD:** That's right! We're all from different states, but we all belong to one big happy family.

**DAUGHTER:** I like that part!

**DAD:** And everyone in our extended family is different but related... united. We all have our own personalities, our own beliefs, our own traditions.

**DAUGHTER:** Like when we go to Aunt Julie's house and she serves spaghetti on Thanksgiving.

**DAD:** That certainly is a tradition we've been trying to change for years. But you see what I mean? It's part of what she believes, and we respect that, even though we may not feel the same way.

**DAUGHTER:** Would you call her spaghetti "a noble experiment"?

**DAD:** *(Laughs.)* It's as close as they come. But we're getting off track.

**DAUGHTER:** Back to the quiz! Continue, please.

**DAD:** Okay. Just like our family, the states are unique in their traditions and beliefs, rich in their own heritage and history. Each individual. But as a union they can learn and rely on the others for their strength, endurance and capabilities. *(MUSIC CUE 3: "The Good Ol' U.S. of A.")*

**DAUGHTER:** *(Speaks.)* That's right, Tim. And the way that union originated is also very unique in itself.

**DAD:** *(Speaks.)* The way it originated?

**DAUGHTER:** *(Speaks.)* You know...

*(Sings.)* The people came from all over the world

To the march of the drum and fife.

From the pilgrims to the entrepreneurs,

They longed for a new way of life.

They settled in the East, the North and the South,  
They traveled West by the streams.  
With traditional customs and other beliefs,  
They sought the American dream.

And they all struggled to forge a path  
Down the great American way.  
They became a part of the melting pot  
Called the good ol' U.S. of A.

**DAD:** (*Sings.*) Now, the "Spirit of '76" is alive  
In the fifty United States.  
Though divided, they're a part of the whole,  
That's what makes this country so great.

And every state has a voice of its own,  
And the freedom to make its own laws.  
But they all stand together, united as one,  
Part of a national cause.

And they all struggled to forge a path  
Down the great American way.  
And they're all a part of the melting pot  
Called the good ol' U.S. of A.

**DAD/DAUGHTER:** (*Sing.*) And we all travel the freedom trail  
Down the great American way.

**DAD/DAUGHTER/CHORUS MEMBER(S):** (*Sing.*)  
And we're all a part of the melting pot  
Called the good ol' U.S. of A.

**DAD/DAUGHTER/FULL CHORUS:** (*Sing.*)  
Yes, we're all a part of the melting pot...

**DAD/DAUGHTER/CHORUS MEMBER(S):** (*Sing.*)  
...called the good ol'...

**CHORUS:** (*Sings.*) Good ol'...

**DAUGHTER/DAD/FULL CHORUS:** (*Sing.*) U.S. of A. (*MUSIC OUT.*)

**DAUGHTER:** Great job on the quiz, Dad!

**DAD:** I couldn't have aced it if you weren't such an incredible teacher.

**DAUGHTER:** But now I better hit the books so I can be an incredible student. (*DAD smiles, and they give each other a hug. BLACKOUT.*)

End of Scene Two

Scene Three

We are one! We are the United States of America.  
We are one! We are a nation indivisible.  
We're one! We are the United States of America.  
We are the land of the free! [NOTE: The following TWO STANZAS  
are sung as a DUET.]

**CHORUS ONE:** (*Sings.*)

We are one! We are the United States of America.  
We are one! We are a nation indivisible.  
We're one! We are the United States of America.  
We are the land of the free!

**CHORUS TWO:** (*Sings.*) My country 'tis of thee,  
Sweet land of liberty,  
Of thee I sing.

**ENTIRE CAST:** (*Sings.*) We are the land of the free!

## PRODUCTION NOTES

### PROPERTIES

ONSTAGE: Six chairs, American flag, miscellaneous boxes or chairs and tables that can be used as representational set pieces in the vignettes.

ACT ONE, Scene One: Pens, pencils, notebooks, backpacks (COMMITTEE MEMBERS); purse with Preamble inside (BETSY); table and chair, papers, pencil (TAXPAYER); book (TEACHER).

ACT ONE, Scene Two: Table and chair, history book (DAUGHTER); chair, newspaper (DAD).

ACT ONE, Scene Three: Chair, map (WIFE); chair, wallet, indication of license and registration (HUSBAND).

ACT ONE, Scene Four: Picnic blanket, picnic basket that includes four plates, wrapped sandwiches (MOTHER, FATHER); baseball glove, baseball (MARK); baseball glove (BARRY).

ACT ONE, Scene Five: Black top hat (TOM); chair, shawl, flowers (MOTHER); parchment letter (PROFESSOR); dishcloth (HOUSEWIFE).

ACT TWO, Scene One: Microphone (REPORTER).

ACT TWO, Scene Two: Table, two chairs, checkers set (TWO MEN); shawl, cloth coat (IMMIGRANT).

ACT TWO, Scene Three: Compact disc (TEACHER TWO); world map, small calculator (TEACHER THREE); picture of space station



(TEACHER FOUR); postcard of World Trade Center, newspaper article (TEACHER FIVE).

ACT TWO, Scene Four: Rakes, copy of Bill of Rights (NEIGHBORS).

### FLEXIBLE CASTING

This musical has a highly flexible cast of 12 to 39 plus a CHORUS of any size. Besides the six COMMITTEE MEMBERS, each vignette can be performed by the same ensemble members (A minimum of six are needed.) or by a larger group of any number up to the 33 separate roles. Practically all roles, including the six COMMITTEE MEMBERS, can be played male or female. For more of a “cabaret-style” show, you could even perform this show with only six actors, having them step from their roles as COMMITTEE MEMBERS into the vignette roles.

### ABOUT THE CHORUS

*We the People—The Musical* was written to involve a chorus of any size, which may be onstage or off on either side of the stage. While having them stand on risers would be effective, please consider the length of this musical and keep in mind the safety of your chorus members. It might be best to have chairs available, with the chorus standing whenever they perform.

In the sequence of musical numbers at the front of this play book, only certain songs indicate a CHORUS. While this is how the musical was written, feel free to add choral accompaniment to any music cue, if desired. For the BACKGROUND CHORUS parts in MUSIC CUES 2 and 5a, please refer to the piano score, vocal score or rehearsal CD for the “sha doo bee doos,” “oohs,” “aahs,” and other underscoring lyrics.

### COSTUMING

There are minimal costuming requirements for the show. While the majority of the characters dress in casual, contemporary clothes, the three MINUTEMEN, two POLICE OFFICERS and IMMIGRANT will require specific yet simple, suggestive costuming for their short appearances.

Add color to your production with the costuming for the CHORUS. For instance, the CHORUS can be dressed in many different ways: 1) In red, white and blue. 2) In period costumes representing different eras of American history (colonial, pioneer, flapper, WWII soldier, etc.). 3) In costumes representing various American occupations (farmer,

*We the People—The Musical* had its premiere reading  
at the Actor's Community Playhouse in  
Littleton, Colorado on April 19, 2003.

A gracious thank you to  
director Randy Roberts Souza and  
the following actors and actresses  
for their time and dedication to this project:

Debbie Hogue Souza

Sheila Hogue Heasley

Sarah Souza

Patricia Sasso

Gloria Foster

Jayne Nelson

Bonnie Ackermann

Jason Sare

ZJ Czupor

Mark Nelson

Jared Bess

Trestan Peck

Michael Moore

Sean McGowan

## We hope you've enjoyed this script sample.

We encourage you to read the entire script before making your final decision.

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Thank you for your interest in our plays and musicals. If you'd like advice on other plays or musicals to read, our customer service representatives are happy to assist you when you call 800.333.7262 during normal business hours.



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