

DIXIE

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**SONGS &
SENTIMENTS
OF DIXIE**

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DIXIE COLLEGE BAND AND CHOIR

DIRECTED BY DR. RONALD GARNER (BAND)

DR. WM. PURDY (CHOIR)

SPECIAL CREDITS TO ROENE DI FIORE

Dixie Junior College is located at St. George, Utah, in the central area of the Virgin River Basin. This part of Utah, Nevada, and Arizona was known from an early date as "Dixie" or "Utah's Dixie" because some of the settlements there were founded to produce cotton for the hoped-for self-sufficient empire established in the Great Basin and its approaches by President Brigham Young and the Mormon people when they came west to escape religious persecution during mid-nineteenth century. To process the cotton they produced, they built a factory which still stands at Washington, Utah.

The name "Dixie" has clung to the area. It is used to name numerous local business establishments; the new state park encompassing Snow Canyon and its environs is called Dixie State Park; the junior college bears the name also. To the people who lived here in the past and to those presently inhabiting it, the name "Dixie" is a proud title.

It is spoken with pride and even reverence because of its past history. Dixie was a most difficult land to subdue; but tame it they did, and in the trying process learned to love it. Many of Dixie's founders, like so many others who participated in subduing the West, "crossed the wide Missouri" as the hauntingly lovely folksong "Shenandoah" suggests. A brief stay in Salt Lake Valley, just long enough to get a start in acquiring the comforts of life, and then they were "called to Dixie."

The tribulations of the Dixie Pioneer are set forth with clarity and simplicity, and also with considerable hilarity in George A. Hicks' famous song, "Once I Lived in Cottonwood." Hicks, a Canadian, and his wife Elizabeth (Betsy) came to Dixie in 1862. He wrote the song in 1864 during the "starving time" of the Cotton Mission. At once it found almost universal favor, although Hicks was forbidden to sing the song in public "because it complained too much." But the Dixie pioneers liked it and they sang it, because it gave them a chance to laugh at their misfortunes and misadventures. But beneath its hilarious spirit the sober overtones of tragedy can easily be detected.

"St. George and the Drag-On" is pure fun. Its composer, Charles Lowell Walker, came to St. George in 1862, and like George Hicks, he supplied the tonic that helped the depressed Dixie settlers keep their chins up under the most adverse circumstances. It was first sung at a concert in the St. George Hall (St. George's first permanent public building) in honor of one of Brigham Young's and George A. Smith's periodic visits. In rollicking rhyme Walker showed the progress St. George had made during the five or six years since the valley had been settled.

Dixie College began its career in 1911 as the St. George Stake Academy, the first senior high school in St. George. Its buildings were erected by donations of money, labor, and available means from the members of the St. George Stake and by a cash contribution from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. A limited amount of college work was begun in 1915-1916, and with this start the school soon developed into a teacher-training institution called Dixie Normal College. In 1923 it became a full-fledged junior college.

Because of the Great Depression, the Church in 1933 discontinued its subsidy, and for two years the citizens of St. George, with the help of the Washington County School District, supported the faltering institution. The state legislature was persuaded to make it a state school in 1933 but contributed nothing to its support until 1935. Between 1933 and 1954 Dixie College continued its none-too-secure existence. In the latter year, a referendum of Utah's voters dictated that state support continue. The patrons of the school bought a new thirty-acre campus site in the eastern part of the valley about this time, and the success of the College now appears assured, with four new buildings already erected and two more up for bids (January 1963).

During the more than a half-century of its existence a number of school songs have been composed by its students, teachers, and patrons, some of which are herewith presented.

"We Are Cheering for You, Dear Dixie" was the first school song. Its music was composed by Mayme Jones, a music instructor at the Academy, and its words by Eunice Jacobson, an English teacher. Its stirring march rhythm has always thrilled Dixie students and patrons. "We'll Fight for the Cause of Dixie" ("Dixie Has no Alibi") was adapted by Paul Thurston, a student, from the words and music of "Harvardiana" (Williamson). "Dixie, O Dixie" is set to the old favorite, "Moonlight and Roses," while "Let's Go Down to Dixie" is an adaptation of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." The words of "The Spirit of Old Dixie" were written by H. Lorenzo Reid, Director of the Division of Social Sciences for many years; the music is from the trio strains of the popular march "Lights Out."

The words of the present "Dixie College Song" were written by Arthur K. Hafén, an instructor in the English Department and for many years Director of the Humanities Division. Its lively music is a combination of two band marches—"The Spirit of U.S.A." and "The Jolly Cobbler." The piano arrangement was written by Evelyn Thurston Cornwall, then piano instructor at Dixie College. Earl J. Bleak, instructor in band, orchestra, and instrumental music, prepared the present band arrangement which is heard at all athletic contests and on other frequent occasions.

Dixie's "Just for Now" is her "sentimental song." In a sense it is the heart throb of the institution, giving voice to the attachments formed by students while attending Dixie and becoming part of her famous spirit. Both words and music were written about mid-century by Roene Bigler de Fiore, a Dixie student who is known over Utah for her splendid musical talent and dramatic ability. Incidentally, she is a great-granddaughter of Peter Neilson, Sr., who paid the freight bill—New York City to Wilmington, California, via Cape Horn—on the glass for the famous St. George Tabernacle, using \$600 in gold he had carefully saved and hoarded to improve his home in Washington, Utah.

There are other Dixie songs also. But those included here will perhaps convey something of the "Dixie Spirit" engendered at this tiny rural college, whose influence has reached out into all parts of this great nation.

—A. Karl Larson

SIDE ONE

1. DIXIE COLLEGE SONG BAND - CHOIR
2. THE SPIRIT OF OLD DIXIE BAND - CHOIR
3. DIXIE HAS NO ALIBI BAND - CHOIR
4. DIXIE COLLEGE MARCHING SONG CHOIR
Ilene Harmon, piano
5. DIXIE, O DIXIE CHORAL ENSEMBLE -
Delmont Truman, soloist
6. JUST FOR YOU CHOIR
Roene DiFiore, soloist

SIDE TWO

1. SHENANDOAH
William Purdy, soloist
Roene DiFiore, piano
2. ONCE I LIVED IN COTTONWOOD
A. Karl Larson, soloist
Don Ragon, banjo
3. ST. GEORGE AND THE DRAG-ON
Rudger McArthur, soloist
Roene DiFiore, piano
4. THIS LAND IS OUR LAND
Randy Peterson, Jim McArthur, Dave Moss,
Scott McGregor "THE CONTINENTAL FOUR"
5. LET'S GO DOWN TO DIXIE CHORAL ENSEMBLE
Pearl McAllister, soloist
Roene DiFiore, piano

Dixie College Band	Steven Terry	Randy Peterson
Jerry Aldredge	Paul Weaver	Paul Price
Mick Altmeyer	Garry Wells	Janice Reid
Mary Anne Baker	Laura Wilcock	Dianne Schmutz
James Brearton		Elna Rae Snow
Nellie Brooks	Choral Ensemble	Judy Squires
Nita Brooks	Roene DiFiore	Gail Sheppard
Karl Buhanan	Ray Garner	Lawrence Steed
Roland Carter	Pearl McAllister	Denice Snow
Stanley Everett	Rex McAllister	Alma Truman
Ferron Gifford	William Purdy	Alta Truman
Kaye Hafén	Alma Truman	Delmont Truman
Larry Hafén	Alta Truman	Lonnie Truman
Ina Mae Harmon	Delmont Truman	Margaret Truman
James Harris	Denice Snow	Marshall Williams
Verlee Hughes		Susanne Wintch
Katherine Larkin	Dixie College Choir	Ray Whipple
Roger Larkin	Jay Andrus	Gary Wood
Betty Lou Morris	Roene DiFiore	
David Olsen	Ray Garner	Quartet
Clarence Ott	Ilene Harmon	Randy Peterson
Dona Lu Parkinson	Gerald Holt	Scott McGregor
Shirl Pitchforth	Pearl McAllister	James McArthur
George Sanders	Rex McAllister	David Moss
Douglas Smith	James McArthur	
Stanley Schmutz	Elsie McCullough	Piano Accompanists
Earl Snow	Arlene Nuttall	Roene DiFiore
Steve Stoker	Clarence Ott	Ilene Harmon

Produced by: Brent Crosby

Recorded in the Dixie College Fine Arts Auditorium,
St. George, Utah by Dynamic Sound Studios, Las Vegas,
Nevada. Roy Ward, Engineer

Pressings by Capitol Records

Cover Design by: S. Ralph Huntsman

