

# Dixie



"Dixie" was written by Daniel Decatur Emmett of Mount Vernon, Ohio, and premiered in September of 1859 in New York. According to an article by Mike Petee in the Knox County Observer, Mount Vernon, Ohio, Dan Emmett learned to play various instruments at a young age, including the banjo, fife, fiddle and a small drum. He was enlisted in a Minstrel group when they stopped in Mount Vernon and needed a replacement for a sick player, beginning a long musical career.

Although best known as the song adopted by the Confederacy, "Dixie" was also Abraham Lincoln's favorite song, and it was played at his inauguration. Even though Abe Lincoln loved and supported the song, Dan Emmett was ostracized in the North for writing a song associated with the South. In his last performance in Mount Vernon, it is reported that he cried when he was warmly welcomed and given a standing ovation as it's writer. It is still considered to be one of the top two or three songs associated with the history of this country.

## Lyrics and Music

Oh, I wish I was in the land of cotton,  
Old times there are not forgotten,  
Look away, look away, look away Dixie Land.

In Dixie Land, where I was born in,  
early on one frosty mornin',  
Look away, look away, look away Dixie Land.

I wish I was in Dixie, Hooray! Hooray!  
In Dixie Land I'll take my stand  
to live and die in Dixie.  
Away, away, away down south in Dixie.  
Away, away, away down south in Dixie