

SONG OF AMERICA by Thomas Hampson

Worksheet created by Dr. Mark Clague (University of Michigan)

Song of America is a 13-program radio series by American lyric baritone Thomas Hampson. Use the web to fill in the life dates and birth place blanks and then listen to the associated episode to answer the remaining questions. If you're interested in listening to other episodes, go to <http://songofamerica.net/radio>

SONG OF WALT WHITMAN (Program 3)

Walt Whitman (May 31, _____ — March 26, _____)

Whitman was born in:

Before recording his Whitman CD, Hampson read through about how many different songs using Whitman's words: (circle one) 10, 25, 50, 100, 200, 400, 800, 2000

Whitman wrote about American people such as: (circle all that apply)

the President
the patriarch

the slave
a trapper

a prostitute
a baby

Whitman's ongoing, pioneering, ever-expanding collection of poetry is titled

_____ of _____.

Transcendentalist philosopher and writer Ralph Waldo _____ said that

Whitman's collection of poetry was "American to the _____."

TRUE / FALSE: Whitman encourage Americas to cast off European musical influences.

TRUE / FALSE: Whitman was a fan of the "fiery passions" of "raw authenticity" of opera.

Whitman's poetry offers a psychological portrait of which American military conflict?

Among the most frequently set texts in American music, "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd" is a Whitman poem written in response to what historical event?

According to Whitman, one of the purposes of his poetry (that was "Banned in Boston") was to inspire a "frank discussion of what topic?"