

Delegate Susan McComas
P.O. Box 1204
Bel Air, MD 21014

Dear Delegate McComas,

During the 2021 legislative session the Maryland legislature repealed the status of "Maryland, My Maryland" as Maryland's State Song.

With that in mind, enclosed please find a CD and worksheet of my original song "Come Home to Maryland", with accompanying notes pertaining to the song. The song is being submitted in nomination to be considered to be the new State Song of Maryland.

Since I am a lifelong resident of Harford County I felt it to be submitted to a fellow Harford County resident, the object being that the song will receive a fair and just hearing from friendly ears.

I'm not sure what official channels have to be navigated, but I feel pretty sure that you know, and I would really appreciate any help you could provide for a song written by one of your constituents.

As a note in passing, Senator Bob Hooper, with whom you served in the Maryland State legislature for a number of years until the cancer took him, is my brother. And the song is also submitted in honor of his legacy.

In closing, I hope you like the song and find it worthy. It has drawn high praise from all the audiences that have heard it over the years. It lends itself to visuals and full orchestration as well.

Please let me know your thoughts on the song.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

David Hooper

320 Williams Street

Bel Air, MD 21014

410-838-7845

THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

"Come Home To Maryland" was written a number of years ago, several weeks after a fund-raising event conceived and organized by the author and his band to raise money to buy a state-of-the-art powered wheelchair for a severely-handicapped little boy. The event took on a life of its own, going beyond a strictly local occasion to a semi-regional happening as more citizens, companies and agencies became involved. It drew a large turnout including guest appearances by U.S. Congresswoman Helen Bentley and Mr. Vonzell Ward, special representative of Governor Shaefer. The event raised over \$4,000 and fully funded the wheelchair with a surplus which was donated to the family. It allowed the boy to mainstream through school.

In thinking back on that evening and the way that local, and then regional and statewide Marylanders stepped up to help one little boy, the author was humbled and filled with gratitude and pride in Marylanders and Maryland, "That's what Maryland is about. It's what Marylanders do." The song was the result.

The story continued. The author's father took interest in the boy's progress and paid the boy's way through college and seminary. The young man is now an evangelist, preaching the Gospel.

The song was integrated into the band's songlist and was universally and enthusiastically received by audiences at the various venues where the band performed. Those included the usual bars and clubs as well as outdoor venues such as the Bel Air Festival for the Arts, the Harford County Farm Fair, the Havre de Grace Seafood Festival, the Havre de Grace Art Show, the Cecil County Fair, the Chesapeake City Canal Days, and numerous others in northeastern Maryland, Delaware, and York and Lancaster counties in Pennsylvania.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David Hooper is a life-long resident of Harford County, born in a little house on Tollgate Road just outside of Bel Air. He was educated in Harford County schools. In first grade he attended Greenwood School, a two-room schoolhouse on Churchville Road, in the final year of Greenwood's classes.

He has performed as a solo, and as leader singer in the bands Mark on the Twine and Friendly Fire, all the while writing songs, several of which were about Maryland.

"City By The Bay" was about Havre de Grace and was popular in Havre de Grace venues. The bands played many times in Cecil County and "The Girl From The Eastern Shore" was penned to give those audiences a song they could relate to. A song about Maryland Appalachia, "Mountain Rainin'", was written after a visit to a mining village in Western Maryland. Two songs written about the Gulf War, "Til You Come Home" and "Brother of the Gun" were the hit of the Elkton Independence Day Parade in that time period, drew praise from U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan, and Honorable Mention in the Billboard Songwriting Contest. "Welcome Home Jessica" was written about Jessica McClure, the little girl who fell into a well-hole in Midland, Texas sparking a 2½ day rescue effort that drew world-wide attention. The song became a record that received local airplay, and considerable airplay in Texas. "The Black-Eyed Susans" came out of the 1983 Preakness, when Maryland-bred Deputed Testamony came from off the pace to a life-changing victory. Deputed Testamony lived at Bonita Farm in Creswell in Harford County, and was trained by Bill Boniface. At the time, the author delivered mail to Bonita Farm. The song was played at celebrations at Bel Air and Pimlico Race Course, to enthusiastic praise. The author also wrote songs for Phoenix Festival Theatre productions of "Loose Ends", "The Gin Game", "Buried Child", and "Around The Corner From The White House".

The author is the brother of late Maryland State Senator Bob Hooper. And he is still my hero...