

BACK HOME IN INDIANA

Ballard MacDonald, Lyrics; James Hanley, Music; 1917

This is a three-part arrangement of the 1917 classic, "*Back Home in Indiana*", offering Basic Melody, Harmony, and Backup Chords. The lyrics for this song were written by Ballard MacDonald; the music was composed by James Hanley. Typical to the Tin Pan Alley, it pulls in familiar lines from other 'popular' songs of that era. It contains a musical quotation from the already well known "*On the Banks of the Wabash, Far Away*", as well as repetition of some key words and phrases from the lyrics of the latter: moonlight, candlelight, fields, new-mown hay, sycamores, and of course the Wabash River.

While it is not the official state song of the U.S. state of Indiana ("*On the Banks of the Wabash*", written by Paul Dresser; 1897), it is perhaps the best-known song that pays tribute to the Hoosier State. Since 1946, "*Back Home in Indiana*", often referred to as, "*Indiana*", is also the song always sung by actor/singer Jim Nabors and accompanied by the Purdue University marching band at the start of the famous Indianapolis 500 race.



Additional songs composed by this Tin Pan Alley duo include "*Zing! Went the Strings of My Heart*", "*The Rose of Washington Square*", and "*Second Hand Rose*". Ballard MacDonald also wrote the lyrics for such songs as "*On the Mississippi*", "*The Trail of the Lonesome Pine*", and Mary Earl's "*Beautiful Ohio*", which was subsequently adopted as the official Ohio state song.

~Tull