

AMERICA SO VERY BIG

VUONG ANH

(humble)

I cannot say about you, but I know that I am just grateful to be here.

The OTHERS murmur in agreement.

LAVONNA

Da. Here in America is freedom.

FANYA

Is democracy.

ROSETTA

Is many bery (sic) handsome men.

The others look at ROSETTA as if she's a broken record. VUONG ANH begins to sing.

(up music: America America)

VUONG ANH

AMERICA SO VERY BIG
AMERICA SO GRAND
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL
IT'S EVERYBODY'S LAND

I THOUGHT MY LIFE WAS FADING FAST
WHEN I WAS IN MY COUNTRY
SO MANY WARS THEY CAME AND WENT
AND I WAS LEFT IN MISERY
AND I WEPT

NGUYEN TRAN

FOR DAYS ON END

VUONG ANH

AND SOMETIMES I WOULD
SEE THE BOATS
AS THEY SAILED ONTO THAILAND
AND EVERYDAY I'D HOPE AND PRAY
THAT ONE DAY I'D BE ON 'EM
AND ESCAPE

NGUYEN TRAN

TO THE PROMISED LAND

STUDENTS

AMERICA SO VERY BIG
AMERICA SO GRAND
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL
IT'S EVERYBODY'S LAND

VUONG ANH

AND WHEN AT LAST
I SAW MY CHANCE
MY FAMILY I COLLECTED
AND FINAL BOWS AND HONORS PAID
TO ANCESTORS RESPECTED
AND WE LEFT

NGUYEN TRAN

AT HIGHEST TIDE

VUONG ANH

ON STORMY SEAS
WE TOOK ALOFT
MY FAMILY SCARED AND CRYING
AND PIRATES, SOLDIERS BE ALL DAMNED
AT LAST THE SUN WAS SHINING
AND WE LANDED

NGUYEN TRAN

IN A CAMP

*VUONG ANH throws up his hands in
exasperation.*

STUDENTS

AMERICA SO VERY BIG
AMERICA SO GRAND
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL
IT'S EVERYBODY'S LAND

VUONG ANH

FOR FOUR LONG YEARS WE WAITED
FOR THE RED CROSS TO AGREE
THEY CLASSIFIED MY FAMILY
AS A GROUP OF REFUGEES
AND WE WAITED

NGUYEN TRAN

AND WAITED AND WAITED

VUONG ANH nods in agreement.

VUONG ANH

THEN FINALLY THE DAY IT CAME
WHEN WE WERE ALL SET FREE
AND VISAS, PASSPORTS ISSUED
TO THAT LAND OF LIBERTY
(exalting)
AMERICA

NGUYEN TRAN

AT LAST AT LAST!

STUDENTS

AMERICA SO VERY BIG
AMERICA SO GRAND
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL
IT'S EVERYBODY'S LAND

VUONG ANH

I THANK MY GOD
MOST EVERYDAY
FOR BLESSINGS I'VE RECEIVED
I THANK HIM FOR THE CHANCE TO LIVE
IN TRUE DEMOCRACY
AMERICA

NGUYEN TRAN

IT'S A MIRACLE

VUONG ANH nods again.

VUONG ANH

AND SOMETIMES WHEN I MISS MY HOME
MY HOME ACROSS THE SEA
AMERICA, AMERICA
GOD SHED HIS GRACE ON THEE
AND I SMILE

NGUYEN TRAN

AND THANK AMERICA

VUONG ANH smiles broadly.

ALL STUDENTS

AMERICA SO VERY BIG
AMERICA SO GRAND
AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL
IT'S EVERYBODY'S LAND

*The STUDENTS conclude their
tribute to their newfound
country with a stirring
rendition of the final lines of
"America the Beautiful."*

SOPANNY

AND CROWN THY GOOD

ENRIQUE

WITH BROTHERHOOD

ALL STUDENTS

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

(end song)