

A Place to Stand

A Place to Stand, a Place to Grow (Ontari-ari-ari-o!) was an unofficial anthem of the Canadian province of Ontario. The song was written as the signature tune for a movie of the same name that was featured at the Expo 67 Ontario pavilion.

The song was written by Dolores Claman, who also wrote the "The Hockey Theme", with lyrics by Richard Morris and orchestrations by Jerry Toth. Lyrics for a French version were written by Larry Trudel.

It was commissioned by the Progressive Conservative government of John Robarts for the Ontario pavilion at Expo 67, the World's Fair held in Montreal, Quebec in Canada's Centennial year of 1967, and was used again in the following decades.

The song was featured at the Province of Ontario's exhibit in the short film A Place to Stand, which won the 1967 Academy Award for Live Action Short Film.

Many a campfire has heard renditions of this catchy tune by summer campers, Scouts and Girl Guides for more than a generation of Ontarians. To this day it reminds many of a magical time of innocence and prosperity. Even today the song frequently reverberates in my mind; I often catch myself humming the tune without ever thinking about it consciously.