

European National Anthems

United Kingdom

Europe is one of the seven continents of the world. There are approximately fifty different countries in Europe, which all have their own national anthem. A national anthem is a piece of music that is used to express patriotic sentiment. Various genres of music are chosen to be a national anthem. The music may be a fanfare, a hymn, a march, or a song. The British national anthem, **God Save The Queen**, is one of the oldest national anthems, having been performed since 1745.

God Save The Queen

God save our gracious Queen!
Long live our noble Queen!
God save the Queen!
Send her victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the Queen.



France

La Marseillaise is the French national anthem and was composed in just one night on April 24, 1792 during the French Revolution by Claude-Joseph Rouget de Lisle, who was a captain of the engineers and amateur musician. He had been asked by the mayor of Strasbourg to write a song that would rally troops to defend their homeland. The lyrics of the anthem are certainly defiant, and were sung by the troops as they marched from Marseilles to Paris, leading to its title of **La Marseillaise**. The text in the poem has been translated from the original, which is in French.

La Marseillaise

Arise you children of
the fatherland
The day of glory has arrived
Against us tyranny
Has raised its bloodied banner
Do you hear in the fields
The howling of these
fearsome soldiers?
They are coming into your
midst
To slit the throats of your sons
and wives!
To arms, citizens,
Form your battalions,
Let us march, let us march!
May impure blood
Soak our fields' furrows!



Spain

The **Marcha Real** is the national anthem of Spain, which in English means 'The Royal March'. Amazingly, it is one of only four national anthems in the world to be completely instrumental with no lyrics. This anthem was first printed in a book dated 1761 and Manuel de Espinosa de los Monteros is the composer.



Germany

Today's German national anthem is sung to a melody by composer Joseph Haydn and is based on a poem. The anthem is called **Deutschlandlied**, which means 'Song of Germany' in English. The lyrics below have been translated from the original, which is in German.

Deutschlandlied

Unity and justice and freedom
For the German fatherland!
Let us all strive for this purpose
Brotherly with heart and hand!
Unity and justice and freedom
Are the pledge of happiness;
Flourish in the glow of
this happiness,
Flourish, German fatherland!

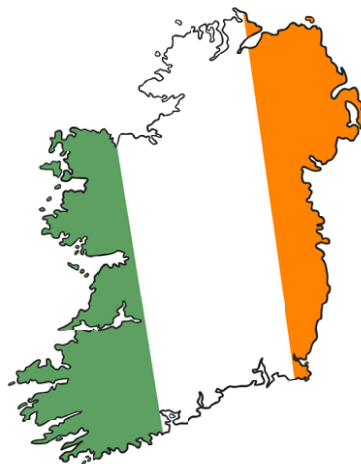


Ireland

The Irish national anthem is called **Amhrán na bhFiann**, which translates to 'The Soldier's Song'. It was written in English by Peadar Kearny in 1907. The same year, Patrick Heeney composed the music to accompany it. The lyrics of the anthem imply that it is a rebel song, encouraging people to stand up for Irish independence. The text below has been translated from the original, which is in Irish Gaelic.

Amhrán na bhFiann

Soldiers are we,
whose lives are pledged to Ireland,
Some have come
from a land beyond the wave,
Sworn to be free,
no more our ancient sireland,
Shall shelter the despot or the slave.
Tonight we man the gap of danger,
In Erin's cause, come woe or weal,
'Mid cannon's roar and rifles' peal,
We'll chant a soldier's song.



Europe

The European Union is a group of 28 countries whose governments work together. In 1972 the European Union adopted the famous orchestral melody **Ode to Joy** by Ludwig Van Beethoven as their anthem. In order to speak only the universal language of music, this anthem is instrumental and expresses the ideals of freedom, peace and solidarity for which Europe fights for.



European National Anthems

1. Approximately how many countries are in Europe?

2. Who composed the French national anthem?

3. How many national anthems are instrumental?

4. What does the name of the German national anthem mean in English?

5. Who wrote the lyrics for the Irish national anthem?

6. In which year was the anthem of Europe first used?

European National Anthems Answers

1. Approximately how many countries are in Europe?
Fifty
2. Who composed the French national anthem?
Claude-Joseph Rouget de Lisle
3. How many national anthems are instrumental?
Four
4. What does the name of the German national anthem mean in English?
Song of Germany
5. Who wrote the lyrics for the Irish national anthem?
Peadar Kearny
6. In which year was the anthem of Europe first used?
1972