

European National Anthems

United Kingdom

Europe is one of the seven continents of the world.

All the different countries in Europe have their own national anthem.

A national anthem is a piece of music that is used to express patriotic sentiment; it can 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. The text opposite has been translated from the original, which is in French.

It was composed in just one night on April 24, 1792 during the French Revolution by Claude-Joseph Rouget de Lisle after he was asked by the mayor of Strasbourg to write a song that would rally troops to defend their homeland.

Marseillaise is a place in France where the soldiers were fighting when the anthem was written.

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 national anthem is played by an orchestra.



Germany

Deutschlandlied is the national anthem of Germany. The lyrics below have been translated from the original, which is in German.

In English, the title means 'Song of Germany'.

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!

You may recognise the tune as it is a famous piece of classical music written by the famous composer Joseph Haydn.

The lyrics of the national anthem are based on a German poem.



Ireland

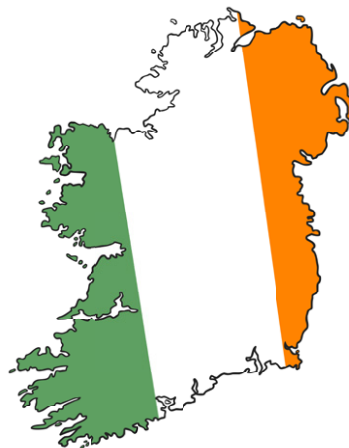
The Irish national anthem is called Amhrán na bhFiann, which translates to 'The Soldier's Song'. The text below has been translated from the original, which is in Irish Gaelic.

It was written in 1907.

The lyrics of the anthem encourage people to stand up for Irish independence.

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 countries whose governments work together.

Since 1972, the European Union have used the famous orchestral melody Ode to Joy by Ludwig Van Beethoven as their anthem.

This anthem is instrumental and expresses the ideals of freedom, peace and solidarity.



European National Anthems

1. In which year was the national anthem God Save The Queen first performed?

2. How long did it take to compose the French national anthem?

3. What does the name of the Spanish national anthem mean in English?

4. What year was the Irish national anthem written?

5. Who composed the music for the Irish national anthem?

6. Which famous composer wrote the music used for the anthem of the European Union?

European National Anthems Answers

1. In which year was the national anthem God Save The Queen first performed?
1745
2. How long did it take to compose the French national anthem?
One night
3. What does the name of the Spanish national anthem mean in English?
Royal March
4. What year was the Irish national anthem written?
Joseph Haydn
5. Who composed the music for the Irish national anthem?
1907
6. Which famous composer wrote the music used for the anthem of the European Union?
Ludwig Van Beethoven