

National Anthems Online

CROATIA: Lijepa Naša Domovino

The lyrics of this anthem were written in 1853 by Antun Mihanović and first published under the title *Horvatska domovina* ("Croatian homeland") in the "Morning Star" newspaper. The melody was possibly composed by Josip Runjanin some years later in 1846. Many sources name Runjanin as the composer but according to Andrija Tomasek, there appears to be no reliable proof. Runjanin was a Croatian Serb and a lieutenant-colonel in the Austro-Hungarian Army. Vatroslav Lichtenegger (1809-1885) was a Croatian poet who claimed to have scored and harmonized the song. It was first sung as the unofficial national anthem at an exhibition held in 1891 by the Croatian-Slavonian Economic Society in Zagreb.

The anthem remained unofficial until until 1972, when it was declared the anthem of the Socialist Republic of Croatia, despite the fact that Croatia at the time was actually a part of Yugoslavia. With the coming of full Croatian independence in 1990, the song became the official anthem of the Republic of Croatia. The words have been translated as, "Our beautiful homeland, O so fearless and gracious, Our fathers' ancient glory, May you be blessed forever".

Attributed to Josip Runjanin (1821–1878)
Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

♩ = 80

6

13

f > > > *mf* < *f* > > >

6

mf

13

f > > > *ff* > > *molto rit.*

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