

National Anthems Online

ESTONIA: Mu Isamaa

The Estonian national anthem has a similar history with that of Finland which lies to the north. The melody for the two national anthems is identical and was written by Frederick Pacius, who was of German origin. The Estonian lyrics were written by the journalist and poet Johann Voldemar Jannsen, a leading figure in the Estonian national movement at around the turn of the nineteenth century. The melody was first sung at the first Estonian Song Festival in 1869 and it became popular during the growing national movement. When both Estonia and Finland became independent after the First World War the melody was recognized as the national anthem by both nations but with different words. Officially, Estonia adopted it in 1920. During the Soviet occupation, the Estonian flag and national anthem were forbidden, and those using them were sentenced to long prison terms, usually in Siberia. However, the melody was broadcast every day on Finnish radio and was never forgotten by the Estonian people. With the restoration of Estonian independence in 1991, the national anthem was restored too.

♩ = 72

Fredrik Pacius (1809 - 1891)
Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

In Bb, F, Eb. *f*

5

mf

10

p cresc. *f*

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