

# National Anthems Online

## FRANCE: La Marseillaise

*National Day: 14 December (Bastille Day)*

Claude Rouget de Lisle was an engineer in the French Army who was well-known in local society as a talented composer, singer, poet and violinist. When at the home of the Mayor of Strasbourg on 24 April 1792, he was urged to compose a patriotic song. That same night he composed *The War Song of the Army of the Rhine* and within two days the tune had been hastily arranged for military band and given its first public hearing. It became popular very quickly and the following June, printed copies were distributed among the volunteers from Marseilles who were about to march to Paris. Hilaire Belloc later wrote that this song sustained the troops during their month-long trek across France. When they reached Paris and enthusiastically sang their song, it became known there as *La Marseillaise*. It was adapted as the national anthem on 15 July 1795.

Claude Rouget de Lisle (1760-1836)

Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

♩ = 120

Part 1  
Part 2  
Part 3  
Part 4  
Part 5  
Part 6  
In Bb, F.  
Timpani  
Cymbals  
Snare drum  
Bass Drum

*You may download the score and the instrumental parts of this arrangement free of charge, making as many copies as you need. However, the score and parts may not be subsequently sold. Most national anthem melodies are public domain but every effort has been made not to infringe copyright. If you are aware of any infringement or find any mistakes in the music, please notify Dr. Colin Kirkpatrick at [doctorcolin@csloxinfo.com](mailto:doctorcolin@csloxinfo.com). Always consult local expertise if you are performing an unfamiliar anthem.*

*If you perform this arrangement, make recordings or broadcast through any media, please notify the Performing Rights Society (UK) or the equivalent organisation in your own country, listing the name of the composer and the arranger.*

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
Timp.  
Cym.  
S.D.  
B.D.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
Timp.  
Cym.  
S.D.  
B.D.

1 *p* *cresc.* *f* *ff*

2 *p* *cresc.* *f* *ff*

3 *p* *cresc.* *f*

4 *p* *cresc.* *f*

5 *p* *cresc.* *f*

6 *p* *cresc.* *f*

Timp. *f*

Cym.

S.D. *p* *cresc.* *f* *cresc.*

B.D.

1 *ff*

2 *ff*

3 *ff*

4 *ff*

5 *ff*

6 *ff*

Timp. *ff*

Cym. *ff*

S.D. *ff*

B.D. *ff*

*ff*

-3-

