

# 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

In Bb, F.

19

23

*ff*

1 2

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