

National Anthems Online

GREECE: Ὕμνος εἰς τὴν Ἐλευθερίαν (*Hymn to Liberty*)

Greece - officially the Hellenic Republic - lies at the southern end of the Balkan peninsula and is bordered by Bulgaria, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania and Turkey. Greece lies at the juncture of Europe, Asia, and Africa. The National Anthem, Ὕμνος εἰς τὴν Ἐλευθερίαν (*Hymn to Liberty* or *Hymn to Freedom*) uses the first two stanzas of an extremely long poem written in 1823 by the distinguished poet Dionýsios Solomós from Zakynthos Island. The poem was inspired by the Greek Revolution of 1821 against the Ottoman Empire. In 1828, the poem was set to music and arranged for four-part male choir by a friend of Solomós: Nikolaos Mantzaros, an eminent local musician and composer from Kerkyra Island.

Hymn to Liberty was adopted as the national anthem in 1864, after the Union of the Ionian Islands with Greece. It later became the national anthem of The Republic of Cyprus. or a national anthem it has an unusual musical style, being influenced by the traditional Greek dance known as the *Tsamiko*. This one of the two popular national dances of Greece, traditionally danced by men. It has a slow triple tempo with emphasis on the attitude and grace of the dancer rather than the steps, which are sometimes improvised. The Greek national anthem is therefore one of the few, in theory at least, that can also be danced.

Nikolaos Halikiopoulos Mantzaros was a Greek composer born in Corfu. He was of noble descent, coming from one of the most important and wealthy families of the area. In 1815, at the age of 20, Mantzaros presented some of his early compositions at a concert in the theatre of San Giacomo of Corfu. The programme included three concert arias and a one-act comic opera entitled *Don Crepuscolo*. From 1819 onwards, Mantzaros regularly visited Italy. He was a prolific composer whose works included incidental music, vocal works in Italian and sacred choral music (including several masses), band music, and instrumental music including many works for piano.

♩ = 76

Nikolaos Mantzaros (1795-1872)

Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick



In F, C and Bb

mf

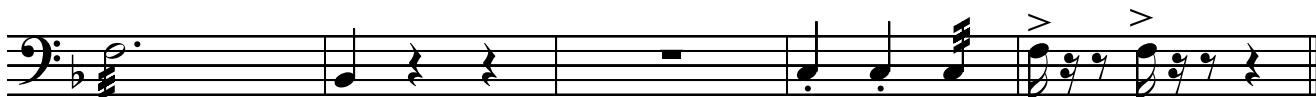
6



14

*p**cresc. poco a poco**f*

21

*p**cresc. molto**f*

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