

INDONESIA: Indonesia Raya (*Great Indonesia*)

Indonesia Raya (known as *Indonesia Raja* in the old Indonesian spelling) was composed in 1924. The song was first heard on 28th October 1928 at a National Youth Convention in Batavia (now Jakarta) and was introduced by its composer, the Indonesian songwriter Wage Rudolf Supratman (also written *Wage Roedolf Soepratman* in the old style). At the time, the islands had been split into several colonies under the Dutch East Indies. The colonial policy of the day was "Divide and Rule", deliberately aggravating linguistic, cultural and religious differences among the people of the different islands.

The song was intended to celebrate the notion of a single Indonesia. In the same year, the text was first published in the Chinese Indonesian weekly paper *Sin Po* and was in open defiance of the prevailing Dutch authorities. Although the colonial Dutch regime did not allow the anthem to be sung, it soon became the national song, which called for the unity of Indonesia. It was performed at Indonesian political rallies, where people stood in solemn observance. Not surprisingly, it was chosen as a national anthem when Indonesia proclaimed its independence at 17 August 1945.

The Dutch composer and conductor Jozef Cleber (1916-1999) wrote an arrangement for orchestra in 1950 which was recorded in early 1951. Although it was generally well received, President Sukarno (1901-1970) thought that the arrangement was too fast and complicated. Cleber's wrote a second arrangement, and while Sukarno preferred it, the President thought that there should be a part in the anthem that expressed beauty, softness, and sweetness, just before the chorus. In his third arrangement, Cleber used the string section playing softly, just before the chorus (measures 18-25). Sukarno considered this arrangement perfect. The anthem is sometimes played at a faster tempo.

♩ = 104

Wage Rudolf Supratman (1903-1938)
Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

10

In Bb, Eb, F and C.

11 *Melody*

16

21 *p*

26 *f*

31

1. 2.

You may download the score and the instrumental parts free of charge, making as many copies as you need. However, these may not be subsequently sold. Feedback from users is always welcomed. If you would like to report any mistakes in the music, make comments or suggestions (in English) please contact Colin Kirkpatrick at doctorcolin@csloxinfo.com. If you perform, record or broadcast this arrangement, please notify the Performing Rights Society (in the UK) or the equivalent performance rights organisation in your own country (e.g. ASCAP in the USA; SOCAN in Canada), listing the name of the anthem and the arranger.

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