

National Anthems Online

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Amhrán na bhFiann

The Soldier's Song was composed in 1907 with lyrics by Peadar Kearney and music by Kearney and Patrick Heeney. It originally consisted of three stanzas and a chorus. The lyrics were first published in *Irish Freedom* by Bulmer Hobson in 1912 and the chorus was formally adopted as the National Anthem in 1926. The song is regarded by many Irish people as the national anthem of the whole island (including Northern Ireland), and it is therefore sung for example, at Gaelic Athletic Association competitions held in Northern Ireland as well as in the Republic. Several authorities during recent years have proposed replacing the anthem, arguing that the current wording is too militant and has a pronounced anti-British flavour. The individuals who favour the anthem's retention argue that its words are no more militant than the British, French or American national anthems. Peadar Kearney was an Irish Republican and amateur composer of numerous rebel songs. Other well-known songs by Kearney include *Down by the Glenside*, *The Three-coloured Ribbon*, *Down by the Liffey Side* and *Erin Go Bragh*. Little is known about his musical collaborator, Patrick Heeney

Peadar Kearney (1883-1942) and Patrick Heeney

Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

♩ = 104

mf In B flat, C and F *mf cresc. f*

15

p cresc. f

21

molto rit. ff

You may download the score and the instrumental parts free of charge, making as many copies as you need. However, the scores and parts may not be subsequently sold. Every effort has been made not to infringe copyright. Most of the melodies of these national anthems are public domain. If you are aware of any copyright infringement or find any mistakes in the music, please feel free to notify Colin Kirkpatrick at doctorcolin@csloxinfo.com.

If you perform any of these arrangements in public, make recordings or broadcast on any media, please notify the Performing Rights Society (UK) or the equivalent organisation in your own country, listing the name of the anthem and the arranger.
This arrangement © Colin Kirkpatrick 2008.