

National Anthems Online

LITHUANIA: Tautiška Giesmė

The music and lyrics were written in 1898 by Vincas Kudirka, when Lithuania was still a part of the Russian Empire. The anthem is unusual in that both the words and the music were written by the same person. Kudirka was born into a village peasant family and eventually studied medicine at Warsaw University. He worked primarily as a doctor but was very active in the struggle for national and democratic rights. For a time, edited the illegal underground journal Varpas (The Bell) and was acknowledged the best journalist, satirist and literary critic of his day. Kudirka began writing verse in 1888. Kudirka published the poem "National Hymn" 1898 in Varpas although at the time he had not intention of it becoming a national anthem. At the time the Lithuanian press published many patriotic poems and songs enabling Lithuanians to understood more deeply the issues of national sentiment and became more aware of the desire to win freedom.

Shortly after his death in 1899, the anthem was publicly performed for Lithuanians living in Russia. The first public Lithuanian performance of the anthem took place in Vilnius in 1905, and it became the official national anthem in 1919, a year after Lithuania first declared its independence. However, In 1950, the Soviet government replaced it with their own. Lithuania was the first republic to break away from the Soviet Union, in early 1990. Upon its independence, it readopted Kudirka's anthem. The title means, "National Song".

Vincas Kudirka (1858-1899)

Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

Maestoso $\text{♩} = 84$

f In Ab, Eb and F.

7 1 2

11 *mf* *cresc.* *mf*

17 1 2 *p* *f*

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