

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.

Amhrán na bhFiann is usually sung or played in march time. In this arrangement, Parts 4, 5 and 6 should be played with clearly articulated notes in the march-like passages. *The Presidential Salute*, played when the President of Ireland arrives at an official engagement, consists of the first four bars of the national anthem immediately followed by the last five.

Peadar Kearney (1883-1942) and Patrick Heeney
Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

♩ = 104

Part 1 *mf*

Part 2 *mf*

Part 3 *mf*

Part 4 *mf* *sim.*

Part 5 *mf* *sim.*

Part 6 *mf* *sim.*

Timpani *mf* In B flat, C and F

Cymbals *e*

Snare drum *e*

Bass Drum *e*

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.

1
2
3
4
5
6
Timp.
Cym.
S.D.
B.D.

f
cresc. *f*
cresc. *f*
cresc. *f*
cresc. *f*
mf cresc. f
p cresc. f

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 6 through 10. It features six string staves (1-6) and four percussion staves (Timp., Cym., S.D., B.D.). The key signature is B-flat major. The first staff (1) has a dynamic marking of *f* at the start of measure 7. Staves 3, 4, 5, and 6 show a *cresc.* (crescendo) leading to a *f* (forte) dynamic in measure 7. Staff 3 includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 7. The percussion staves show a *mf cresc. f* dynamic for the snare drum in measure 7 and a *p cresc. f* dynamic for the bass drum in measure 7.

1
2
3
4
5
6
Timp.
Cym.
S.D.
B.D.

p
p
p
p

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 11 through 15. It features the same six string staves and four percussion staves as the previous block. The key signature remains B-flat major. All string staves (1-6) and the snare drum staff (S.D.) have a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) at the start of measure 11. The snare drum staff also has a *p* marking at the start of measure 12. The bass drum staff (B.D.) has a *p* marking at the start of measure 11.

Musical score for measures 16-20. The score is in 2/4 time and features six string staves (1-6), Timp., Cym., S.D., and B.D. The key signature has two flats. The dynamics range from *p* to *f*, with a *cresc.* marking. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, while the percussion instruments provide a steady accompaniment.

Musical score for measures 21-24. The score is in 2/4 time and features six string staves (1-6), Timp., Cym., S.D., and B.D. The key signature has two flats. The dynamics range from *rit. e molto cresc.* to *ff*, with a *molto rit.* marking. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, while the percussion instruments provide a steady accompaniment. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measures 22-24.