

National Anthems Online

NETHERLANDS: Wilhelmus van Nassouwe

National Day: 30 April (Queen's Day)

This is probably the oldest of all national anthems and its origins are therefore rather obscure. It is probably one of the very few national anthems that changes time signatures from 4/4 to 3/4 half way through. The melody is thought to have been originally a French folk song but it has travelled to other countries. It was known as a national song in both Switzerland and Czechoslovakia and in 1580 German soldiers were evidently singing the tune in Portugal. It evidently first appeared in print in the 1620s. The words may have possibly been written by Philips van Marnix van Sint Aldegonde in 1568, who was a friend and supporter of William of Nassau. In the Netherlands, the anthem is known as *The Wilhelmus*. It was eventually approved as the national anthem in 1932.

Traditional
Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

♩ = 76

f In F, Bb and C

8

mf cresc. *f*

15

ff rit.

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