Knowing Our National Anthem

March of the Volunteers

Music Characteristics

History and Spirit

Development as the National Anthem

Arts Education Section
CDI, Education Bureau
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The national anthem is a **march** in **G major**, written in **duple time**.

The **trumpet** introduction imitates the sound of the bugle, giving a strong sense of rhythm.

**Syllabic** setting of lyrics throughout the song.

**Triplets** enhance the expressiveness of the music.
March of the Volunteers

Originally the theme song of a movie about fighting against Japanese Aggression and saving the country,

Sons and Daughters in a Time of Storm

The lyrics were written by the playwright Tian Han, the music was composed by the composer Nie Er
March of the Volunteers was circulated extensively throughout the country after Sons and Daughters in a Time of Storm premiered in May 1935.

Sons and Daughters in a Time of Storm depicts the heroic stories of young people marching to the front line to defend the Motherland against Japanese occupation in the early 1930s.
March of the Volunteers

Strong regular rhythm, uplifting tune, majestic and spirited

The song captures the **fearless** and **tenacious fighting spirit** of the Chinese nation

The song **boosted morale** and **strengthened solidarity**
Sep 1949  *March of the Volunteers* was adopted as the **provisional national anthem**

Oct 1949  *March of the Volunteers* resonated through the Tiananmen Square for the **first time**

Mar 2004  The *Constitution of the People’s Republic of China* stipulated that *March of the Volunteers* should be the **national anthem** of the People’s Republic of China

Oct 2017  The *Law of the People’s Republic of China on National Anthem* (National Anthem Law) took effect in the country

Nov 2017  The National Anthem Law was added to Annex III to the **Basic Law**

Jun 2020  The *National Anthem Ordinance* came into effect in the **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**