



Knowing Our National Anthem

March of the Volunteers

Music Characteristics

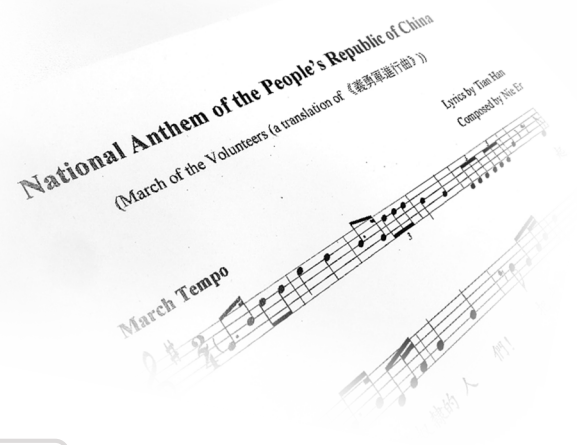
History and Spirit

**Development as the
National Anthem**

Arts Education Section
CDI, Education Bureau
September 2024



March of the Volunteers



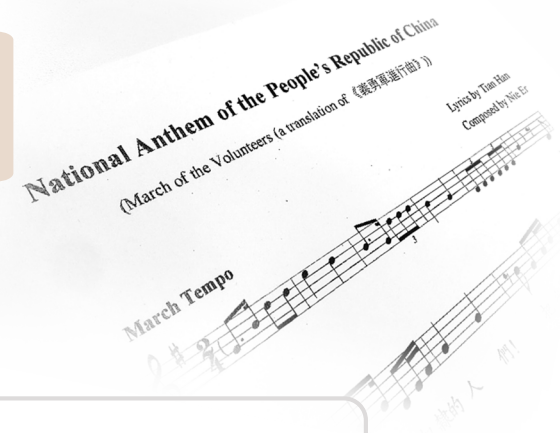
The national anthem is a **march** in **G major**,
written in **duple time**, ♩=96

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



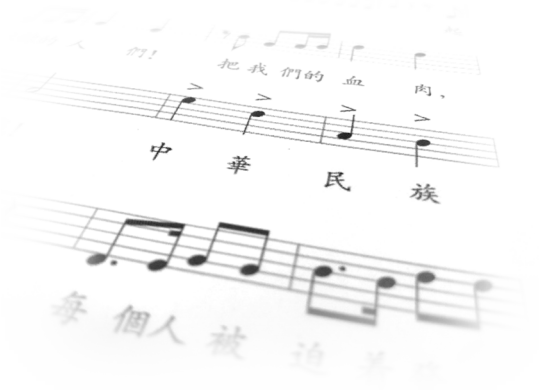
Originally the theme song of a movie about
fighting against Japanese Aggression and saving the country,

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



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



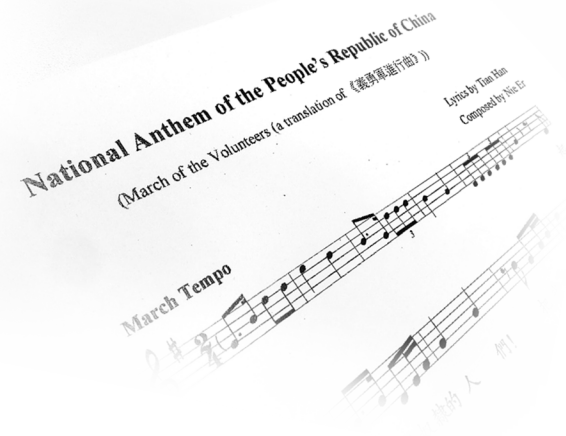
Strong regular rhythm, uplifting tune, majestic and spirited

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

The song **boosted morale** and **strengthened solidarity**



March of the Volunteers



- 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**