



Knowing Our National Anthem

March of the Volunteers

Music Characteristics

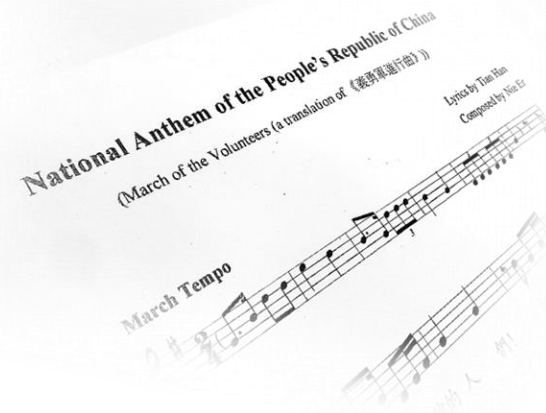
History and Spirit

**Development as the
National Anthem**

Arts Education Section
CDI, Education Bureau
November 2021



March of the Volunteers



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

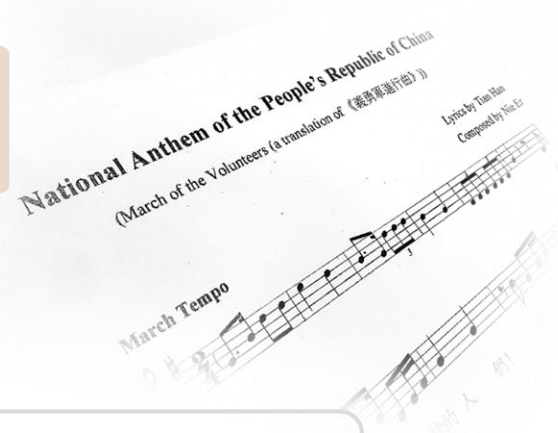
The **trumpet** introduction imitates the sound of the bugle,
giving a strong sense of rhythm

Syllabic setting of lyrics throughout the song

Triplets enhance the expressiveness of the music



March of the Volunteers



National Anthem of the People's Republic of China
(March of the Volunteers (a translation of 《义勇军进行曲》))

March Tempo

Lyrics by Tian Han
Composed by Nie Er

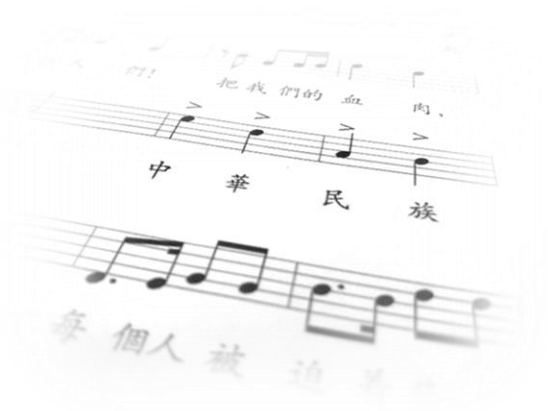
Originally the theme song of a movie about
fighting against Japanese Aggression and saving the country,

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



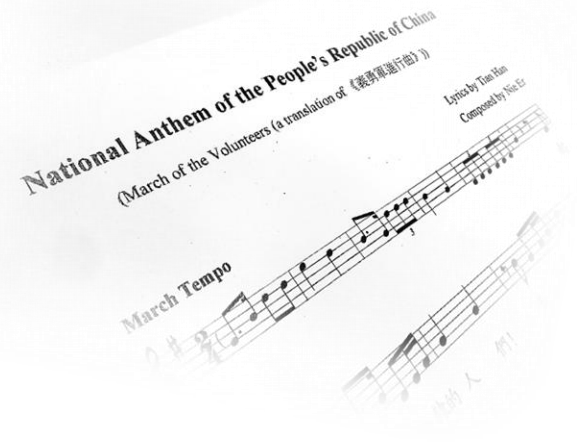
Strong regular rhythm, uplifting tune, majestic and spirited

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**