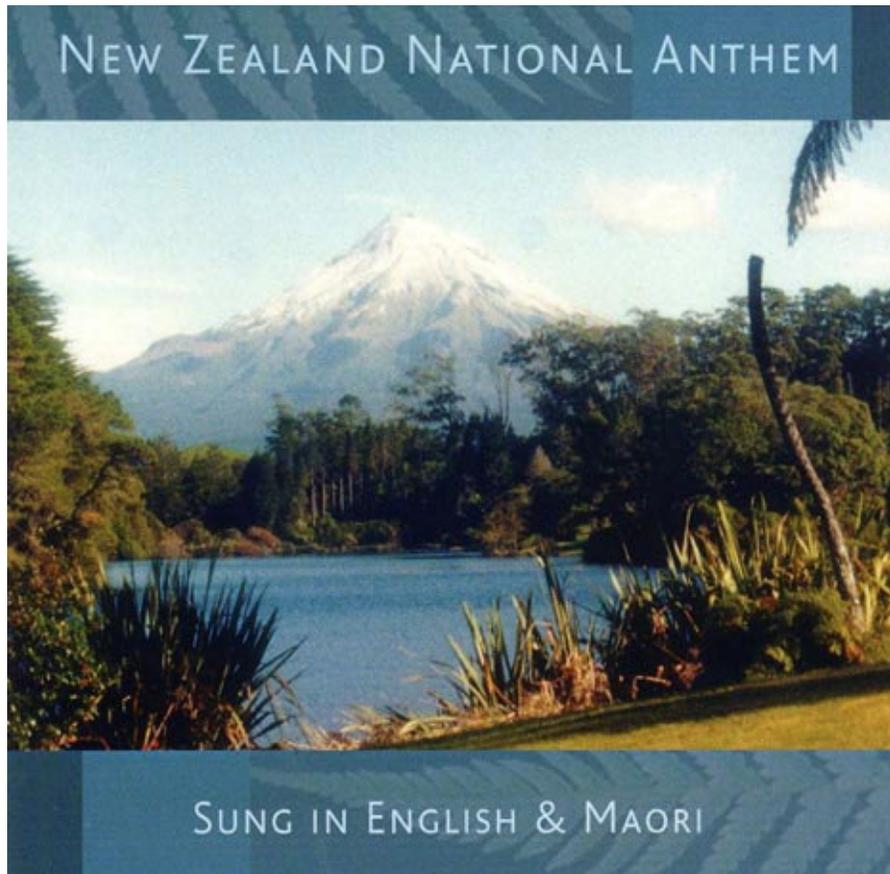


National Anthem

God Defend New Zealand



Background Notes & OHP Lyrics

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Māori language verified and back-translation kindly provided by Prof. Timoti S. Kāretu, Māori Language Commissioner.

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Background Notes

Thomas Bracken, an immigrant to Dunedin from Australia, wrote *God Defend New Zealand* as a poem. John Joseph Woods, a schoolteacher who settled in Lawrence, Otago, composed the music. The time was early in the 1870's, and the sentiment of the poem was a sincere prayer from a colonial's perspective. Sadly though, some of the content may be seen as ironic when viewing the true status of New Zealand at the time.

In 1934, copyright of the song passed from Charles Begg & Co to the N.Z. Government, and in 1940, "God Defend New Zealand" was declared by the government to be the national hymn. Its popularity grew until, in the 1970's it was as popular, if not more so, than "God Save the Queen". It was approved by the Queen to be used as a second and equal National Anthem in 1977.

Archdeacon Sir Kingi Ihaka skilfully translated it into Māori in 1975. His translation is not literal, so UCA asked Prof. Timoti S. Kāretu for a back-translation to help English speakers appreciate the Māori language more deeply – our thanks to him for this. Each line in the back-translation corresponds in meaning to the line in the Māori version.

Thomas Bracken

Registration of Bracken's baptism surfaced in Ireland for the first time in 2002 and a copy is now held in the Alexander Turnbull Library. It shows that he was born on 30 Dec. 1841 in Clonee, County Meath, Ireland. He was of Protestant descent. An orphan by the age of nine, he was sent to Australia to be cared for by his uncle. He became known for his poetry, and at age twenty-six he sailed to Dunedin and was employed as a journalist. He did notable selfless service to literature by opening his columns to new writers, and he offered himself as a political candidate for Dunedin in 1879.

John Joseph Woods

This school-teacher from Central Otago won the ten guinea prize offered by Bracken for the best musical setting of the poem. Born in Tasmania in 1849, the son of a soldier, he was a sportsman, played 12 musical instruments, and was County Clerk for Tuapeka for 55 years.

Sir Kingi Ihaka

Ngati Kahu, born in Te Kao in 1921, devoted his life to working for Māori people through the Anglican ministry. He was a licensed interpreter and translator who also served in the Māori Affairs Dept, and in 1990 as Māori language commissioner. He was founding member of many cultural groups and choirs, and was knighted in 1989. He died in Feb.1993 and now lies in Purewa cemetery, Auckland.

God Defend New Zealand

1. God of nations, at thy feet, In the bonds of love we meet,
Hear our voices we entreat. God defend our free land.
Guard Pacific's triple star, From the shafts of strife and war,
Make her praises heard afar. God defend New Zealand.

2. Men of every creed and race, Gather here before thy face,
Asking thee to bless this place. God defend our free land.
From dissension, envy, hate, And corruption guard our state,
Make our country good and great. God defend New Zealand.

3. Peace, not war shall be our boast,
But, should foes assail our coast,
Make us then a mighty host. God defend our free land.
Lord of battles, in thy might, Put our enemies to flight.
Let our cause be just and right. God defend New Zealand.

4. Let our love for thee increase. May thy blessings never cease
Give us plenty, give us peace. God defend our free land.
From dishonour and from shame,
Guard our country's spotless name.
Crown her with immortal fame. God defend New Zealand.

5. May our mountains ever be, Freedom's ramparts on the sea,
Make us faithful unto thee. God defend our free land.
Guide her in the nation's van, Preaching love and truth to man.
Working out they glorious plan, God defend New Zealand.



E Ihoa Atua

1. E Ihoa Atua. O ngā iwi mātou rā
Äta whakarongona, Me aroha noa
Kia hua ko te pai, Kia tau tō atawhai
Manaakitia mai, Aotearoa
2. Öna mano tängata, Kiri whero, kiri mä
Iwi Māori, Pākehä, Rūpeke katoa
Nei ka tono ko ngā hē, Māu e whakaahu kē
Kia ora märire, Aotearoa
3. Tōna mana kia tü, Tōna kaha kia ü
Tōna rongu hei paku, Ki te ao katoa
Aua rawa ngā whawhai, Ngā tutu e tata mai
Kia tupu nui ai, Aotearoa
4. Waiho tōna takiwä, Ko te ao mārāma
Kia whiti tōna rā, Taiāwhio noa
Ko te hae me te ngangau, Meinga kia kore kau
Waiho I te rongomau, Aotearoa
5. Tōna pai me toitü, Tika rawa, pono pü
Tāna noho, tāna tü, Iwi nö Ihoa
Kaua möna whakamä, Kia hau te ingoa
Kia tü hei taurira, Aotearoa



Back Translation

Prof. Timoti S. Kāretu

1. O Lord, God, Of all people
Listen to us, Cherish us
May good flourish, May your blessings flow
Defend Aotearoa

2. Let all people, Red skin, white skin
Māori, Pākehā, Gather before you
May all our wrongs, we pray, Be forgiven
So that we might say long live, Aotearoa

3. May it be forever prestigious, May it go from strength to strength
May its fame spread far and wide, Let not strife
Nor dissension ensue, May it ever be great
Aotearoa

4. Let its territory, Be ever enlightened
Throughout the land, Let envy and dissension
Be dispelled, Let peace reign
Over Aotearoa

5. Let its good features endure, Let righteousness and honesty
Prevail, Among the people of God
Let it never be ashamed, But rather let its name be known
Thereby becoming the model to emulate
Aotearoa

