

Rule Britannia, Ceremonial March

This well-known march was composed by Dr. T. A. Arne in the period following the Napoleonic wars when Great Britain truly dominated the world's oceans. Its very patriotic lyrics by James Thomson express the pride of the British people after Napoleon's defeat. It was very important for the island nation to maintain its lifeline of sea routes to keep Britain supplied and to prevent any more aggressive acts. "Britannia" refers to the fair lady with helmet, trident and shield representing Great Britain. This march could be used as a slow march or inspection piece on ceremonial occasions.

Lyrics

When Britain first, at heav'n's command, arose from out the azure main,
Arose from out the azure main, the azure main,
This was the charter, the charter of the land,
And guardian angels sang this strain:

Chorus

Rule Britannia! Britannia rule the waves!
Britons never will be slaves

The nations not so blest as thee, must in their turn to tyrants fall,
Must in their turn to tyrants fall, to tyrants fall,
While thou shalt flourish, shalt flourish great and free,
The dread and envy of them all.

Still more majestic shalt thou rise, more dreadful from each foreign stroke,
More dreadful; from each foreign stroke, each foreign stroke,
As the loud blast that tears the skies,
Serves but to root thy native oak.

The muses still with freedom found, shall to thy happy coast repair,
Shall to thy happy coast repair, thy coast repair,
Blest Isle! with beauty, with matchless beauty crowned,
And manly hearts to guard the fair.