

The Anthems of the Allies

I. The British Empire

God Save the King

God save our gracious king,
Long live our noble king,
God save the king;
Send him victorious,
Happy and glorious,
Long to reign over us,
God save the king!

O Lord, our God arise,
Scatter his enemies,
And make them fall;
Confound their politics,
Frustrate their knavish tricks,
On him our hopes we fix,
God save us all!

Thy choicest gifts in store
On him be pleased to pour,
Long may he reign!
May he defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the king!

Concerning the National Anthem

"The most celebrated of all national anthems is the English "God Save the King," which is said to have been first sung as his own composition by Henry Carey in 1740; and a version was assigned by W. Chappell (*Popular Music*) to the *Harmonica Anglicana* of 1742 or 1743, but no copy exists and this is now doubted. Words and music were printed in the *Gentlemen's Magazine* for October, 1745. There has been much controversy as to the authorship, which is complicated by the fact that earlier forms of the air and the words are recorded. Such are an "Ayre" of 1619, attributed to John Bull, who has long been credited with the origin of the anthem."

"The question was discussed in Richard Clarke's *Account of the National Anthem* (1822), and has been reinvestigated by Dr. W. H. Cummings in his *God Save the King* (1902). Carey and Bull, in the general opinion of musical historians, divide the credit; but in his *Minstrelsy of England* (1901) Frank Kidson introduced a new claimant, James Oswald, a Scotsman, who settled in London in 1742, and worked for John Simpson, the publisher of the early copies of *God Save the King*, and who became chamber composer to George III."

"What appears to be certain is that 1745 is the earliest date assignable to the substantial national anthem as we know it, and that both words and music had been evolved out of earlier forms. Bull's is the earliest form of the air; Carey's claim to the remodelling of the anthem rests on an unauthoritative tradition; and, on general probabilities, Oswald is a strong candidate."—*The Encyclopaedia Britannica*.