

# National Anthems Online

## PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA: Yiyonggjun Jinxingqu

*March of the Volunteers*

*Yiyonggjun Jinxingqu (March of the Volunteers)* is not only the national anthem of China but also that of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the Macau Special Administrative Region. The lyrics were written in 1934 by the noted poet and playwright Tian Han. The song, with music by Nie Er, was first adopted as the national anthem when the Communists took power in 1949.

During the dark years of the Cultural Revolution, "The March of the Volunteers" was forbidden. Instead, "The East Is Red" became the national anthem. In 1978, after Chairman Mao's death, "The March of the Volunteers" was restored with new words that referred to Mao and the Communist Party. The new lyrics were never popular and caused considerable confusion, with the result that the original 1935 lyrics by Tian Han were eventually restored. In 2004, a provision that the March of the Volunteers be the national anthem was added to the Constitution. The anthem was performed in an official capacity in Hong Kong for the first time following the handover in 1997, and the handover of Macau in 1999. Most people in China just call it the "Zhongguo Guoge" (Chinese National Song).

The composer, Nie Er was born in Yunnan and from an early age displayed an interest in music. In his spare time at school, he learnt to play traditional instruments. Later, he learnt to play the violin and the piano. In June 1931, he entered the *Mingyue Musical Drama Society* as a violinist. He joined the Lianhua Film Studio in November 1932 and in 1934, he not only joined the Baak Doi record company but also founded the Pathé National Orchestra. On July 17, 1935, he drowned while swimming in Japan, at the age of twenty-three. He wrote a total of 37 pieces mostly in the two years before his death. The Introduction may be played as a trumpet solo or soli if required. The anthem is usually played in G major but has been transposed here to F major, for ease of use with wind instruments.

Nie Er (1912-1935)  
Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

♩ = 100

Part 1 *f* Tpt. Solo (Opt.) *mf* Tutti

Part 2 *f* Tpt. Solo (Opt.) *mf* Tutti

Part 3 *f* Tpt. Solo (Opt.) *f* *mf*

Part 4 *f* Tpt. Solo (Opt.) *f* *mf*

Part 5 *f* *mf*

Part 6 *f* *mf*

Timpani In F, C and Bb *f*

Cymbals *f*

Snare drum *f*

Bass Drum *f*

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1 *cresc.*

2 *cresc.*

3 *cresc.*

4 *cresc.*

5 *cresc.*

6 *cresc.*

Timp. *mf cresc.*

Cym.

S.D. *mf cresc.*

B.D.

1 *f* *mf*

2 *f* *mf*

3 *f* *mf*

4 *f* *mf*

5 *f* *mf*

6 *f* *mf*

Timp. *f* *mf*

Cym. *f* *mf*

S.D. *f*

B.D. *f*

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
Timp.  
Cym.  
S.D.  
B.D.

Musical score for measures 22-29. The score includes six string staves (1-6), Timpani (Timp.), Cymbal (Cym.), Snare Drum (S.D.), and Bass Drum (B.D.). The strings play a melodic line with triplets and accents, marked with 'cresc.' and 'f'. The percussion parts include a snare drum pattern with triplets and cymbal accents, marked with 'mf' and 'f'.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
Timp.  
Cym.  
S.D.  
B.D.

Musical score for measures 30-37. The score includes six string staves (1-6), Timpani (Timp.), Cymbal (Cym.), Snare Drum (S.D.), and Bass Drum (B.D.). The strings continue their melodic line with triplets and accents. The percussion parts include a snare drum pattern with triplets and cymbal accents.