

THE ISLAND HYMN

Words by Lucy Maud Montgomery

Music by Lawrence W. Watson



COMPLIMENTS OF THE

Prince Edward Island 1973 Centennial
Commission and by kind permission of
Dr. E. Stuart MacDonald and Mr. John
H. Morris.

The Island Hymn

Words by L. W. MONTGOMERY
Tune: INSULA BEATA

Music by L. W. WATSON
Newly arranged by C. GLEDHILL

The first system of musical notation consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves have a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The music is written in a homophonic style with chords and simple melodic lines.

The second system of musical notation continues the piece with two staves in treble and bass clefs. The key signature remains one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The arrangement features a steady harmonic accompaniment.

The third system of musical notation concludes the piece with two staves in treble and bass clefs. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The system ends with a double bar line.

1. Fair Island of the sea,
We raise our song to thee,
 The bright and blest;
Loyally now we stand
As brothers, hand in hand,
And sing God save the land
 We love the best.

2. Upon our princely Isle
May kindest fortune smile
 In coming years;
Peace and prosperity
In all her borders be,
From every evil free,
 And weakling fears.

3. Prince Edward Isle, to thee
Our hearts shall faithful be
 Where'er we dwell;
Forever may we stand
As brothers, hand in hand,
And sing God save the land
 We love so well.

HISTORY OF THE ISLAND HYMN

In the winter of 1906-07, at a banquet in Charlottetown, it was suggested that Lucy Maud Montgomery be requested to write a hymn or verse of poetry. This was done, and she consented. The first performance of the words, to the melody of God Save the King, took place on Arbor Day 1907 at the Charlottetown Public School. Later that year Mr. Watson, who was a druggist and also organist of St. Peter's Cathedral, was asked to provide original music.

A fuller account of the origins of the Hymn may be found at Green Gables, Cavendish.

Since those days the simple and unaffected dignity of this Hymn, with its strong and deep love of the Island, has endeared itself to Islanders.