

Spain

La Marcha Real

Anon 1761

♩ = 76



5



The Spanish national anthem is the only anthem in the world to have no lyrics, by law. This tune, originally called "La Marcha Granadera" was first published in 1761 in a book of military bugle calls .

In 1770 King Philip III declared it the official "honour march" and it was played at events attended by the royal family.

It soon became known as the Royal March ("La Marcha Real").

After the Spanish Civil War of 1936 - 39 ended the victorious Falange party commissioned new lyrics which were unpopular with some Spaniards.

On the death of the Falange dictator General Franco in 1975 Juan Carlos became King and in 1997 brought in a law making "La Marcha Real" the official anthem but banning the use of any lyric.

So, by Spanish law the tune can only be played in the key of Bb at the tempo of MM 76 without repeats (unless the King is present) and with singing along NOT allowed.