

## **Tautiška giesmė** **Lithuanian National Anthem**

*Music and lyrics: Vincas Kudirka*

Vincas Kudirka (1858 – 1899) published the work in 1898 in “Varpas”, a bimonthly newspaper dedicated to literature, science, and politics. From that time on the anthem was sung at various informal gatherings. It was officially sung for the first time on June 6, 1905 at the evening concert prior to the opening session of parliament. From 1917 onwards, it was sung at various meetings and political demonstrations. There were discussions in 1917 – 1918, suggesting that the words and music be modified. However, in 1919 it was officially designated as Lithuania’s national anthem.

The anthem was banned in 1940 immediately after the Soviet occupation. “The Internationale” was required to be sung in its place. However, in 1944 it was reestablished as the hymn of the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic (LSSR). The anthem was once again banned in 1950 and severe penalties enforced for its performance or singing. Regardless, the anthem continued to be sung in private gatherings. It was sung in public in 1956 during the feast of All Souls in Kaunas, in 1977 during midsummer eve festivities at Kernavė, and in 1987 at the memorial for Adomas Mickevičius. In 1988, just prior to Lithuania regaining its independence, it once again became the official national anthem.