



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01541

Name of petitioner

Chris Cromar

Petition title

'Flower of Scotland' to be officially recognised as Scotland's national anthem

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to Officially recognise 'Flower of Scotland' as Scotland's national anthem.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

In my time as a Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) I discussed this issue with many young people who believed that 'Flower of Scotland' should be officially recognised as Scotland's national anthem. Also, I have spoken to friends and family members who already think that 'Flower of Scotland' is Scotland's official national anthem, just like many others across Scotland.

I have also looked into the history of the Scottish Parliament's role in recognising a national anthem for Scotland and realise that there has been much demand for Scotland to have an officially recognised national anthem for many years now.

This year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow showed why 'Flower of Scotland' should be recognised as Scotland's national anthem as the incredible passion of the athletes and spectators singing the song was unbelievable. Also, 'Flower of Scotland' is performed with passion before and during football and rugby union matches at Hampden and Murrayfield respectively.

I have also looked at many opinions polls regarding an official national anthem for Scotland and these show that 'Flower of Scotland' is by far the most popular choice and now is the time to officially recognise it as Scotland's national anthem.

Petition background information

'Flower of Scotland' also known as 'Flùr na h-Alba' in Scottish Gaelic and 'Flouer o Scotland' in Scots is widely recognised as Scotland's unofficial national anthem. The song is used as Scotland's national anthem in the Commonwealth Games and also for Scotland's football, rugby union and rugby league teams and was sung at the opening ceremony of the 2012 Summer Olympics in London.

'Flower of Scotland' was written by the late Roy Williamson of The Corries in 1965 and became the official anthem of the Scotland rugby union team in 1990, the national

football team in 1997 and the Commonwealth Games team in 2010. Many famous singers have sung 'Flower of Scotland' before Scotland national football team matches at Hampden Park, including Ronnie Browne of The Corries, Julie Fowlis, Amy Macdonald and Donnie Munro, amongst others.

Other unofficial Scottish national anthems include 'Scotland the Brave', 'Highland Cathedral', 'Scots Wha Hae' and 'A Man's a Man'. However, none of these have the support that 'Flower of Scotland' has in becoming Scotland's official national anthem. In 2006, a poll conducted by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) showed that the people's choice for the national anthem of Scotland is 'Flower of Scotland', as the song topped the list. It came first with 41% of the 10,000 votes, ahead of 'Scotland the Brave' on 29%, and 'Highland Cathedral' on 16%.

In March, 2006, the then First Minister, Jack McConnell said that the issue over Scotland's national anthem may have to be resolved to strengthen Scotland's global brand. Also in March, 2006, MSP Michael Matheson said: "We must be one of the few nations in the world without a specified anthem."

In May, 2011, the BBC had an article titled 'Will Scotland ever have a national anthem?' This looked at the prospects of Scotland getting its own official national anthem. One commenter, dundonian lad summed it up perfectly by commenting: "I think 'Flower of Scotland' is a perfect national anthem for Scotland. Every Scot knows it, 9 out of 10 love it, and it does stir up emotions in everyone I know. I think that the song is a top class choice and should be named 'the official national anthem of Scotland'."

The Scottish Parliament has the powers to legislate on choosing a national anthem for Scotland as this was confirmed by the Scottish Parliament's lawyers in November, 2004. 'Flower of Scotland' was performed with passion by gold medal winning athletes and spectators at this year's Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and this showed just how popular that the song is.

I believe that 'Flower of Scotland' is a perfect choice for Scotland's official national anthem and this was summed up perfectly by Scotland football fan Ian Pow, who said: "There is nothing like hearing 50,000 people sing this song. The No vote in the referendum has nothing to do with it and I read the lyrics as meaning we can rise up and be a better nation, be more successful and victorious." This comment shows that this song is about Scotland and brings people together regardless of their political beliefs or backgrounds. A spokesman for the Scottish Football Association (SFA) said: "The Scotland fans have shown a fondness for 'Flower of Scotland' in football, rugby and other sports and it is the established national anthem."

At this time in Scotland's history, it is vital that we have a song to pull us all together and I believe that there is none better than 'Flower of Scotland' to do this. Therefore, I call on the Scottish Parliament to legislate to ensure that 'Flower of Scotland' becomes Scotland's official national anthem.

NOTES: This is not asking to replace 'God Save the Queen' which will still remain the national anthem of the United Kingdom.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01541>

Related information for petition

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/5138340.stm>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/4837078.stm>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-13520689>

<http://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/top-stories/scots-win-right-to-choose-own-national-anthem-1-561466>

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

NO

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion
