



NATIONAL ANTHEM OF DOMINICA

Isle of Beauty, Isle of Splendour, Isle to all so sweet and fair, All must surely gaze in wonder, At thy gifts so rich and rare, Rivers, valleys, hills and mountains, All these gifts we do extol, Healthy lands so like all fountains, Giving cheer that warms the soul.

Dominica God hath blest thee, With a clime benign and bright, Pastures green and flow'rs of Beauty, Filling al with pure delight, And a people strong and Healthy, Full of Godly reverent fear, May we ever seek to praise Thee, For these gifts so rich and rare.

Come ye forward, sons and daughters, Of this Gem beyond compare, Strive for honour sons and daughters, Do the right be firm be fair, Toil with the hearts and hands and voices, We must prosper! Sound the call, In which everyone rejoices, "All for Each and Each for All".

History of the National Anthem (Isle of Beauty): As a symbol of nationhood, the National Anthem takes its place beside the National Flag. Many Dominicans remember the pre-eminence given to "God Save the Queen", the British National Anthem. All self-respecting citizens within hearing stand in silence, with heads bared, where appropriate, while the National Anthem is being rendered, on ceremonial and official occasions. Only a degenerate would dream of showing disrespect to his/her own Flag or National Anthem since by doing so he/she would be severing the one link that exists between himself and every national. It is expected that every citizen will treat our National Anthem with the same respect and patriotism as is shown to theirs by other nationals throughout the civilized world.

The Dominica National Anthem, popularly referred to as "The Isle



of Beauty” was retained on achieving Independence; during the period proceeding Associated Statehood with Britain, it was referred to as the National Song. The words were composed by the late Reverend W.O.M Pond and put to music by L.M Christian; they who were both subsequently honored.

On ceremonial occasions the National Anthem should be rendered on the arrival of the President as a sign of respect.

It is important to note that the National Anthem should never be parodied in verse or in song, neither should it be played in any tempo other than the officially recognized one. Particularly, the tune should never be played as a dance number, or for the purpose of advertisement.

In some countries, including the Caribbean, persons who contravene or fail to comply with regulations in this regard are guilty of an offence and are liable on summary conviction to a fine or imprisonment.

There should be no objections to the use of the National Anthem at the completion of any public function, or when toasts are proposed at official functions.

*"Commonwealth of Dominica: The Symbols of Nationhood", Published by the Ministry of Community Development & Social Affairs. Information provided by the Permanent Mission of the Commonwealth of Dominica to the OAS.