

**The information in this article was obtained (and is largely unchanged) from:  
<http://www.nationalanthems.info/kr.htm>**

**This Rotary year's RI President, D.K. Lee, is from South Korea**

#### KOREAN LYRICS

Donghae mulgwa Baekdusani mareugo daltorok  
Haneunimi bo-uhasa uri nara manse

#### CHORUS:

Mugunghwa samcheolli hwaryeo gangsan  
Daehan saram Daehan euro giri bojeonhase

Namsan wie jeosonamu cheolgapeul dureundeut  
Baram seori bulbyeon naneun uri gisang ilse

#### CHORUS

Gaeul hanal gonghwal hande nopgogu reumeopsi  
Byalgeun dalgeun uri gasim ilpyeon dansim ilse

#### CHORUS

Igi sangnwa imam euro chungseongeul dahayeo  
Goero una jeulgeo una nara sarang hase

#### CHORUS

#### ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Until the East Sea's waves are dry, (and) Mt. Baekdusan worn away, God watch o'er our land  
forever! Our country forever!

#### CHORUS:

Rose of Sharon, thousand miles of range and river land! Guarded by her people, ever may Korea  
stand!

Like that Mt. Namsan armored pine, standing on duty still, wind or frost, unchanging ever, be  
our resolute will.

#### CHORUS

In autumn's, arching evening sky, crystal, and cloudless blue, Be the radiant moon our spirit,  
steadfast, single, and true.

CHORUS

With such a will, (and) such a spirit, loyalty, heart and hand, Let us love, come grief, come gladness, this, our beloved land!

CHORUS

**HISTORY OF THE SONG**

**South Korea**  
**"Aegukka" (Patriotic Song)**

*Words by:* Yun Ch'i-Ho or An Ch'ang-Ho

*Music by:* Ahn Eaktay

*Adopted:* 1948

First performed in 1896, it was well-known by all Koreans by 1910. (It was not the national anthem at this time however, as an [imperial anthem](#) was in use at the time.)

In 1937 composer Ahn Eaktay wrote the music that's currently in use for the anthem (he wanted the song to have a Korean melody and not that of a folk song of a foreign nation). It was adopted by the government in exile and then, when South Korea was founded in 1948, three years after the Japanese occupation ended, it was officially adopted by that government.

Interestingly, not only does the music of the South Korean anthem sounds vaguely like the North Korean anthem's music, but they also share a title. There has also been a "united Korean anthem" created by blending the melodies of the two nations' anthems seamlessly, used by some to promote Korean re-unification.

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