

Rule Britannia

Thomas ARNE (1710 - 1778)

The musical score consists of eight staves of music in G major, common time. The vocal line is provided with lyrics below each staff. The melody features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, with several grace notes and slurs. The lyrics describe the historical and mythical origins of Britain, mentioning the "Heaven's command," the "azure main," and the "charter of the land." The score concludes with a call to arms for the British people.

When Bri - tain first at Heaven's com -
mand A - rose from out the
a - - - zure main, A - rose from out, a -
rose from out the a - zure main, This was the
char - ter, the char - ter of the land, And guar - dia -
an - - - gels sang this strain:
“Rule, Bri - tan-nia! Bri - tan-nia rule the waves;
Bri - tons nev - er, nev - er, nev - er shall be slaves.”

(1869) II/ Englisch

WHE

- 1 When Britain first at Heaven's command,
Arose from out the azure main,
arose, arose, arose from out the azure main,
This was the charter the charter of the land,
And guardian angels sang the strain,
 Rule, Britannia! Britannia, rule the waves,
 Britons never, never, never shall be slaves.
- 2 The nations not so blest as thee,
Must in their turn to tyrants fall,
While thou shalt flourish great and free,
The dread and envy of them all.
 Rule, Britannia ...
- 3 Still more majestic shalt thou rise,
More dreadful from each foreign stroke,
As the loud blast that rends the skies,
Serves but to root thy native oak.
 Rule, Britannia ...
- 4 Thee haughty tyrants ne'er shall tame,
All their attempts to bend thee down
Will but arouse thy generous flame;
But work their woe, and thy renown.
 Rule, Britannia ...
- 5 To thee belongs the rural reign;
Thy cities shall with commerce shine;
All thine shall be the subject main,
And every shore it circles thine.
 Rule, Britannia ...
- 6 The muses, still with freedom found,
Shall to thy happy coast repair,
Blest Isle with matchless beauty crowned
And manly hearts to guard the fair.
 Rule, Britannia ...

Rule, Britannia

When Bri-tain first ____ at Heav'n's com-mand,
A - rose _____ from out the a - - zure main,
a - rose, a-rose, a-rose fromout the a - zure main,
This was the char-ter the char-ter of the land,
And guar-dian an ____ gels sang the strain,

CHORUS

Rule, Bri-tan-nia! Bri - tan-nia, rule the waves,
Brit - ons nev - er, nev - er, nev - er shall be slaves.

(1869s) II/ Englisch

WHE

Rule, Britannia

1

When Britain first
at Heaven's command
Arose from out the azure main,
arose from out the azure main,
This was the charter of the land,
And guardian angels
sang the strain,
Rule, Britannia!
Britannia, rule the waves,
Britons never shall be slaves.

Als Britanniens erstmals
auf Geheiß des Himmels
aus der azurblauen See entstieg,
war dies der Freibrief des Landes,
und Schutzengel
sangen die Weise:
Herrsche, Britannien!
Britannien, beherrsche die Wellen,
Briten werden niemals Sklaven sein.

2

The nations,
not so blest as thee,
Must in their turn
to tyrants fall,
While thou shalt flourish
great and free,
The dread and envy of them all.

Die Nationen,
die nicht so gesegnet sind wie du,
sollen mit der Zeit
Tyrannen anheimfallen,
während du blühen sollst
groß und frei,
von allen gefürchtet und beneidet.
(*wörtl.* die Furcht und Neid
von ihnen allen.)

Rule, Britannia ...

3

Still more majestic
shalt thou rise,
More dreadful
from each foreign stroke,
As the loud blast
that rends the skies,
Serves but to root
thy native oak.
Rule, Britannia ...

Noch majestätischer
sollst du aufsteigen,
noch schrecklicher
nach jedem fremden Schlag,
weil der starke Windstoß,
der die Himmel zerreißt,
nur dazu dient zu verwurzeln
deine eingeborene Eiche.

4

Thee haughty tyrants
ne'er shall tame,
All their attempts
to bend thee down
Will but arouse thy generous flame;

But work their woe,
and thy renown.
Rule, Britannia ...

5

To thee belongs
the rural reign;
Thy cities shall
with commerce shine;
All thine shall be
the subject main,
And every shore it circles thine.
Rule, Britannia ...

6

The muses,
still with freedom found,
Shall to thy happy coast
repair,
Blest Isle
with matchless
beauty crowned
And manly hearts
to guard the fair.
Rule, Britannia ...

Hochmütige Tyrannen
sollen dich nie zähmen,
alle ihre Versuche
dich zu beugen
werden nur deine starke Flamme
[entfachen,
aber ihr Leiden schaffen,
und dich rühmen.

Dir gehört
die Herrschaft über das Land;
deine Städte sollen
erstrahlen mit Handel;
und dein soll sein
die untertane See
und jedes Gestade, das sie umgibt.

Die Musen,
noch mit Freiheit gefunden,
sollen zu deiner glücklichen Küste
sich begeben,
gesegnete Insel
mit unvergleichlicher
Schönheit gekrönt
und mit mannhaften Herzen,
um zu schützen das Schöne.