

EIGHTH NOTE PUBLICATIONS

O Canada

Calixa Lavallee
Arranged by David Marlatt

THE WORK: *O Canada* was not officially declared the national anthem until 1980 but had been the most popular national song since it had been written 100 years earlier. The need for a national song had been felt for some time and many people had attempted to compose such a piece.

Calixa Lavallée, a pianist and composer, was asked in early 1880 to write music for national song to be performed at the French-Canadian National Festival. After the music was written, the festival president Ernest Gagnon asked Judge AB Routhier to write appropriate words for this new composition. It is also a fact that Gagnon suggested the first line to Routhier “O Canada, terre des nos aieux”. Even before its first public performance, the Quebec press proclaimed: “at last we have a truly French Canadian National Song”.

Although originally intended for French Canadians, it became popular all over the country and accepted as a national song. Following the first English performance in Toronto in 1901 there have been several English texts, the most widely used being the version by Stanley Weir written in 1908.

PREVIEW ONLY

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DURATION: 1:10

DIFFICULTY RATING: Easy
Percussion Ensemble

Tricia's good idea
O CANADA

Calixa Lavallée
(1842-1891)
Arranged by David Marlatt

Maestoso ♩ = 92

1 2 3 4

Bells 1 *mf*

Bells 2 *mf*

Timpani
G - C *mf*

Snare Drum
Bass Drum *mf*

Triangle
Suspended Cymbal
Crash Cymbals

Musical score for measures 1-4. The score is in 4/4 time and marked Maestoso with a tempo of 92. It features five staves: Bells 1, Bells 2, Timpani (G-C), Snare Drum/Bass Drum, and Triangle/Suspended Cymbal/Crash Cymbals. Measures 1-4 show the beginning of the piece with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic.

5 6 7 8 9

Bells 1 *p*

Bells 2

Timpani

S.D.
B.D.

Tri.
S.C.
C.C.

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Musical score for measures 5-9. Measures 5-8 continue with the main melody. Measure 9 features a piano (p) dynamic. A large 'PREVIEW ONLY' watermark is overlaid across the middle of the page.

10 11 12 13 14

Bells 1 *mf* *p* *mf*

Bells 2 *mf* *mf*

Timpani *mf* *p*

S.D.
B.D. *mf* *p* *p*

Tri.
S.C.
C.C. *p*

Musical score for measures 10-14. Measures 10-11 are mezzo-forte (mf). Measure 12 is piano (p). Measure 13 is mezzo-forte (mf). Measure 14 is mezzo-forte (mf). The Snare Drum/Bass Drum and Timpani parts show dynamic changes from mf to p.

15 16 17 18 19

Bells 1

Bells 2

Timp

S.D.
B.D.

Tri.
S.C.
C.C.

p *f* *f*

Susp Crash

20 21 22 23 24

Bells 1

Bells 2

Timp

S.D.
B.D.

Tri.
S.C.
C.C.

f *f* *p*

Susp

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25 26 27 *molto rit.*

Bells 1

Bells 2

Timp

S.D.
B.D.

Tri.
S.C.
C.C.

ff *ff* *f* *f*

Crash