

= My Belarusy =

" We Belarusy " ( Belarusian : ?? , ????????? ( My , Bielarusy ) ; " We Belarusians " ) is the unofficial title of the national anthem of Belarus and the first line of its lyrics . Officially , " My Belarusy " is titled " the State Anthem of the Republic of Belarus " ( Belarusian : ?????????? ????, ?????????? ????????? , Russian : ?????????????????? ????, ?????????????? ????????? ) . The anthem was originally written and adopted in 1955 for use in the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic . The music of the Byelorussian SSR anthem was composed by Niescier Saka?o?ski and the lyrics were written by Mikhas Klimkovich . After the dissolution of the Soviet Union , the music composed by Saka?o?ski was kept and the lyrics were discarded . New lyrics , which were written by Klimkovich and Uladzimir Karyzny , were adopted by a presidential decree issued on July 2 , 2002 . The lyrics of the anthem now sing of a friendly Belarus , honoring past military battles and looking forward to the future . The music was kept due to the historical connections it has to Belarus .

= = Anthem of the Byelorussian SSR = =

" My Belarusy " was originally used as the anthem of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic ( Belarusian : ????, ?????????????? ?????????? ?????????????????? ????????????? , Russian : ????, ?????????????? ?????????? ?????????????????? ????????????? ) starting from February 24 , 1955 . The original anthem was composed by Saka?o?ski and the lyrics were written by Maxim Klimkovich . It was presented in front of a jury in 1944 , but it took 11 years of modifications before it was officially adopted . Soon after Belarus became an independent country , the national anthem was modified to drop the Communist @-@ era lyrics . An attempt was made in 1995 to adopt Natalla Arsiennieva 's poem " O God Almighty " as the national anthem , but the suggestion was not acted on even though it was supported by a parliamentary committee .

= = Anthem of the Republic of Belarus = =

The only legal mention of the national anthem before 2002 is in the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus . Section One , Article 19 of the constitution states that " The symbols of the Republic of Belarus as a sovereign state shall be its national flag , national emblem and national anthem . " While the constitution only mentioned the use of the flag , anthem and arms as national symbols , each symbol had to be defined by law . A law introducing an anthem was not enacted until Presidential Decree 350 took effect , on July 18 , 2002 , the day before Belarus 's independence day . The decree 's main objective was to establish lyrics for the anthem and introduce musical notation along with the new lyrics . Moreover , the decree designated when , where , and how the anthem was to be performed .

According to the newspaper Soviet Byelorussia , President Lukashenko decided on the anthem on June 12 , 2002 and chose to have its first performance on July 3 , Belarusian independence day , the anniversary of the date in 1944 when the Wehrmacht was driven away from Minsk by the Red Army . However , the first performance actually took place on July 2 at a concert organized by the government as part of the Belarusian independence festivities .

Belarus did not have an anthem before one was adopted in the Soviet @-@ era . When Lukashenko issued his decree selecting a new national anthem , only slight changes were made to the Soviet @-@ era hymn . While the references to Russia , the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and Vladimir Lenin were replaced ; the overall theme of " friendship of peoples " and the original music composed by Saka?o?ski were preserved . The government decided to keep Saka?o?ski 's music in order to maintain historical continuity , and also on account of its popularity and musical quality . After the national anthem was adopted , the process of adopting national symbols was completed .

= = = Reaction = = =

The organization Freedom House commented on the adoption of the anthem in a report about the country , published in 2003 . On page 125 of the " Country Report of Belarus " , Freedom House says that President Lukashenko has " reintroduced the state symbols used by the old Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic . In 2002 , the president approved a streamlined version of the Soviet @-@ era anthem " My Belarusy " ( " We Belarusians " ) , as the country 's new national anthem . " The report also mentioned President Lukashenko 's ban of the symbols that were used since Belarus 's independence in 1991 , such as the Pahonia arms and the white , red , white flag , which Lukashenko claims are associated with fascism ( because the pro @-@ Nazi Belarusian Central Rada in World War II used these symbols ) . In 2003 , Dr. Taras Kuzio wrote in Radio Free Europe that President Lukashenko " is the quintessential Soviet Belarusian patriot who presides over a regime steeped in Soviet nostalgia . " Kuzio said that the motives of Russia and Belarus in re @-@ adopting Soviet @-@ era symbols are part of restoring that nostalgia .

= = = Regulations = = =

The anthem must be performed in accordance with the lyrics and sheet music established by law . Every day , state @-@ owned Belarusian television and radio stations are required to play the national anthem upon signing on at 6 a.m. and again upon signing off ( usually around midnight ) . The anthem can also be performed on certain occasions , such as at government meetings , before sporting events and presidential inaugurations . While the anthem is being performed , citizens are required to stand at attention and those in military or police uniform must salute .

= = Other songs = =

A favorite in the anthem competition was the poem called " Young Belarus " ( ???????? ???????? ) by Janka Kupala . However , the poem was never set to a musical composition so Young Belarus could not be selected as the anthem .

Belarus and Russia have been working towards a closer relationship with each other , resulting in the proposed Union of Russia and Belarus . While Belarus and Russia will be able to keep their own symbols , a song called " Sovereign Union of Nations " ( Belarusian : ?????????? ????? ????????? , Russian : ?????????? ????? ????????? , Derzhavny soyuz narodov ) has been proposed as the Union 's unofficial anthem . The song , which was modified from the National Anthem of the Soviet Union , refers to a wider union of the two nations .

Some Belarusian emigrants use " Vajacki mar? " and " Mahutny Bo?a " as their anthem . " Vajacki Mar? " was the official anthem of the Belarusian National Republic , a state that was created in 1918 but lasted only 10 months , during the German occupation of Belarus in World War I. " Mahutny Bo?a " is a religious hymn , but is now used as a song by those who oppose the Lukashenko Government .

= = Official lyrics = =

= = Anthem of the Byelorussian SSR = =

For comparison , below is a part of the anthem of the Byelorussian SSR .

= = Media = =

= = Sheet music = =