

29. New Zealand National Anthem

New Zealand has two national anthems of equal standing – ‘God Defend New Zealand’ and ‘God Save the King.’

29.1 Protocol for using New Zealand’s National Anthems

The following practice is observed when using the National Anthems:

‘God Save the King’ is used at any formal occasion where His Majesty The King Charles III, or a member of the Royal Family, or the Governor-General is officially present, or when loyalty to the Crown is to be emphasised. On all other occasions ‘God Defend New Zealand’ is used.

Both anthems may be presented at the same occasion, but the normal situation will be for one or the other to be played or performed as appropriate to the occasion.

There are no set guidelines when performing ‘God Defend New Zealand’ in both English and Māori. Either version can be sung in any order. However, when singing the first verse in Māori it is practice to repeat the same verse in English.

Further details on the history of New Zealand’s National Anthems can be found on the Ministry for Culture and Heritage website at www.mch.govt.nz.

29.2 Foreign National Anthems

It is accepted practice for the relevant foreign national anthem to be played at a National Day Celebration or on other appropriate occasions.

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