L’Inno di Mameli Il Canto degli Italiani · Music and citizenship education

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. A song of the Risorgimento Words: Goffredo Mameli (1827–1849). Music: Michele Novaro (1818–1885). Il Canto degli Italiani was written in 1847, before the Unification of Italy (1861), during a period of struggles for independence and unification. Mameli wrote the words and Novaro set them to music: “Inno di Mameli” honours the poet, but we should not forget the composer.

On 12 October 1946, the Council of Ministers provisionally adopted it as the anthem of the Republic. Law No. 181 of 4 December 2017 gave final recognition to its words and original score as the National Anthem. It is a shared symbol: a sense of belonging and respect do not justify feeling superior to other peoples.

First verse and chorus

Brothers of Italy, Italy has awoken, with Scipio’s helmet she has crowned her head. Where is Victory? Let her bow her head to Italy, for as a slave of Rome God created her.

Let us join together in a cohort, we are ready to die. We are ready to die, Italy has called. Let us join together in a cohort, we are ready to die. We are ready to die, Italy has called! Yes!

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What do the images mean? Scipio: Scipione l’Africano, a reference to Roman history. Victory: a personified figure; “offering her hair” suggests symbolic submission in the imagery of the ancient world. Cohort: a unit of the Roman army; here it means joining together and staying united. “Ready to die”: the language of the nineteenth-century struggles for independence, not a present-day call to violence. The other verses include unity against division and historical references (Legnano, Ferruccio, Balilla, the Sicilian Vespers). Read them in the Quirinale source: identify the references without treating the language of 1847 as a description of other peoples today.

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2. The rhythm of a song sung together Official recording and score: Presidency of the Council of Ministers · National Anthem. If available, compare the Quirinale’s choral and band versions.

Observe What to listen for

Metre and rhythm A 4/4 time signature and a march-like character; energetic rhythms, with dotted notes and crisp beginnings to notes and phrases.

Melody Recognisable phrases and repetition make the song easy to remember. Follow the rising phrases of the melody without straining your voice.

Structure Instrumental introduction, verse and chorus: in official performances, the selection of words is shorter than the full poem.

Tone colours and dynamics A choir and a band produce different tone colours. The brass instruments support the ceremonial character; notice changes in volume and accents.

Music workshop · 20 minutes

A. Follow the beat (4 min). Count 1–2–3–4 during a passage chosen by your teacher. Then indicate when the singing comes in and where “Let us join together in a cohort” begins.

B. Words and rhythm (5 min). Say the chorus aloud, first as speech, then to the rhythm of the recording. Mark two places in the words where it is important to coordinate the consonants.

C. Let’s sing with care (7 min). Sing in a comfortable key, with a relaxed posture and coordinated breathing. Do not shout on the high notes: listen to the others. You can also take part by following the score, pointing out the sections or conducting the beat.

D. Two tone colours (4 min). Compare a choral performance and a band performance: which changes the most—the melody, the tone colour or the words? Give an example to support your answer.

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Comparison with Va’, pensiero Va’, pensiero Il Canto degli Italiani

Opera chorus from 1842: exiles remember their homeland. Patriotic song from 1847, later the national anthem: a call Slow, smooth and reflective. for unity. Energetic and march-like.

A group expresses longing and hope on stage. It is not A public symbol accompanies ceremonies of the the national anthem. Republic.

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3. Unity, rights and peace Knowing a symbol does not mean singing it without understanding it. The words were written during the Risorgimento, the movement for Italian unification; today, let’s read them alongside the principles of the democratic Republic. The call for unity can become cooperation and responsibility, not exclusion.

Constitution Connection and question

Art. 1 A democratic Republic and power belonging to the people: what does it mean to take part while respecting the rules?

Arts. 2 and 3 Solidarity and equal dignity: how can we make sure that “we” includes everyone in the class?

Art. 11 Italy rejects war as a means of aggression and of settling disputes: distinguish historical language from today’s constitutional principle.

Art. 12 The tricolour flag is defined by the Constitution; the anthem is recognised by Law No. 181/2017. Do not say that the anthem is established by Article 12.

Citizenship activity · 25 minutes

1. Timeline (5 min). Put 1847, 1861, 1946 and 2017 in order and write down an event for each date: the song’s creation, Unification, provisional adoption, final recognition.

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2. Evidence-based debate (10 min). “How can we respect a national symbol and also respect other peoples?” Each group presents an argument, quotes an article and suggests an action showing good citizenship. Do not judge your classmates’ patriotism; assess their listening and the reasons they give.

3. Our agreement (10 min). Write three class commitments: taking part without excluding anyone, resolving conflicts without violence, and working together. Choose one commitment and state a practical way to check your progress in a week’s time.

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Review and self-assessment • Who wrote the words? Who composed the music? • What is the difference between what happened in 1946 and in 2017? • Which article rejects war? Which defines the flag?

☐ I can distinguish between the writer of the words and the composer of the music. ☐ I can follow the rhythm. ☐ I respect differences by connecting history with the present. ☐ I can support my reasoning with a source.

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For the teacher: Mameli/Novaro; provisional adoption/final recognition; Art. 11/Art. 12. Assess historical accuracy, cooperation and reasoning, not personal beliefs.

Sources: Quirinale, words and history of the anthem (quirinale.it/allegati_statici/inno/InnoTesto.PDF); Presidency of the Council of Ministers, National Anthem (presidenza.governo.it/ufficio_cerimoniale/cerimoniale/inno.html); Law No. 181 of 4 December 2017; Constitution, Arts. 1, 2, 3, 11, 12 (senato.it). The original words and music are in the public domain; modern recordings and editions may be subject to separate rights.

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