



## ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO



### LA BANDERA DE PUERTO RICO

La bandera que la Asamblea Legislativa adoptó en 1952 como emblema oficial de Puerto Rico es una antigua bandera diseñada por un grupo de patriotas en el año 1895. Es esta bandera símbolo del espíritu del pueblo ante su propio destino y el conjunto de América. Se ve en ella reflejada la confianza que Puerto Rico tiene en sí mismo y el respeto fraternal que hacia todos siente. Aparece en la bandera una blanca estrella solitaria que es símbolo del Estado Libre Asociado y reposa sobre un triángulo azul que en sus tres ángulos evoca la integridad de la forma republicana de gobierno representada por tres poderes, el legislativo, el ejecutivo y el judicial. Las tres franjas rojas simbolizan la sangre vital que nutre a esos tres poderes de Gobierno, los cuales desempeñan funciones independientes y separadas. La libertad del individuo y los derechos del hombre mantienen en equilibrio a los poderes y su misión esencial la representan dos franjas blancas.

### THE FLAG OF PUERTO RICO

The flag that the Commonwealth Legislative Assembly adopted in 1952 as official emblem of Puerto Rico is an ancient flag designed by a group of patriots in 1895. It is a symbol of the spirit of the people facing their own destiny and that of America as a whole. It reflects the confidence that Puerto Rico has in itself and its fraternal respect towards all. The lone white star that appears in the flag symbolizes the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and rests on a blue triangle, whose corners are reminiscent of the republican form of government with its three branches, the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. The three red stripes symbolize the blood that feeds those three branches of the government, which function separately and independently. The two white stripes represent the rights of man and freedom of the individual, which maintain a sound balance between the three branches of the Commonwealth Government.

# HIMNO

## LA BORINQUEÑA

Por FELIX ASTOL  
Arreglo por Ramón Collado

*SOLEMNE.*

*PIANO.*

The musical score is written for piano and consists of five systems of music. The first system includes the tempo marking "SOLEMNE." and the dynamic marking "PIANO." The score is in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first system features a melodic line in the right hand with a long note followed by a series of eighth notes, and a bass line with a similar rhythmic pattern. The second system continues the melodic and bass lines, with a dynamic marking of "mf" (mezzo-forte) appearing in the bass line. The third system shows further development of the melodic and bass lines, with a dynamic marking of "p" (piano) appearing in the bass line. The fourth and fifth systems complete the piece, maintaining the melodic and bass lines with various dynamic markings and phrasing.

This is a handwritten musical score for the Puerto Rican national anthem. It consists of six systems of music, each with a piano accompaniment on the left and a vocal line on the right. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 2/4.

- System 1:** The piano part begins with a series of chords. The vocal line starts with a whole note chord, followed by a half note chord, and then a whole note chord. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is placed above the vocal line.
- System 2:** The piano part features a *f* (forte) dynamic. The vocal line continues with a whole note chord, a half note chord, and a whole note chord. The tempo is marked *A tempo.*
- System 3:** The piano part has a whole note chord followed by a half note chord. The vocal line has a whole note chord, a half note chord, and a whole note chord.
- System 4:** The piano part has a whole note chord followed by a half note chord. The vocal line has a whole note chord, a half note chord, and a whole note chord. The dynamic is marked *P legato.*
- System 5:** The piano part has a whole note chord followed by a half note chord. The vocal line has a whole note chord, a half note chord, and a whole note chord. The dynamic is marked *ff* (fortissimo).
- System 6:** The piano part has a whole note chord followed by a half note chord. The vocal line has a whole note chord, a half note chord, and a whole note chord. The dynamic is marked *ritto* (ritardando).

The score concludes with a double bar line and the word *Adios* written vertically on the right side of the page.

Adoptado oficialmente como Himno de Puerto Rico el 24 de julio de 1952.  
 Officially adopted as the Anthem of Puerto Rico on July 24, 1952.

# LA BORINQUEÑA

## HIMNO DE PUERTO RICO

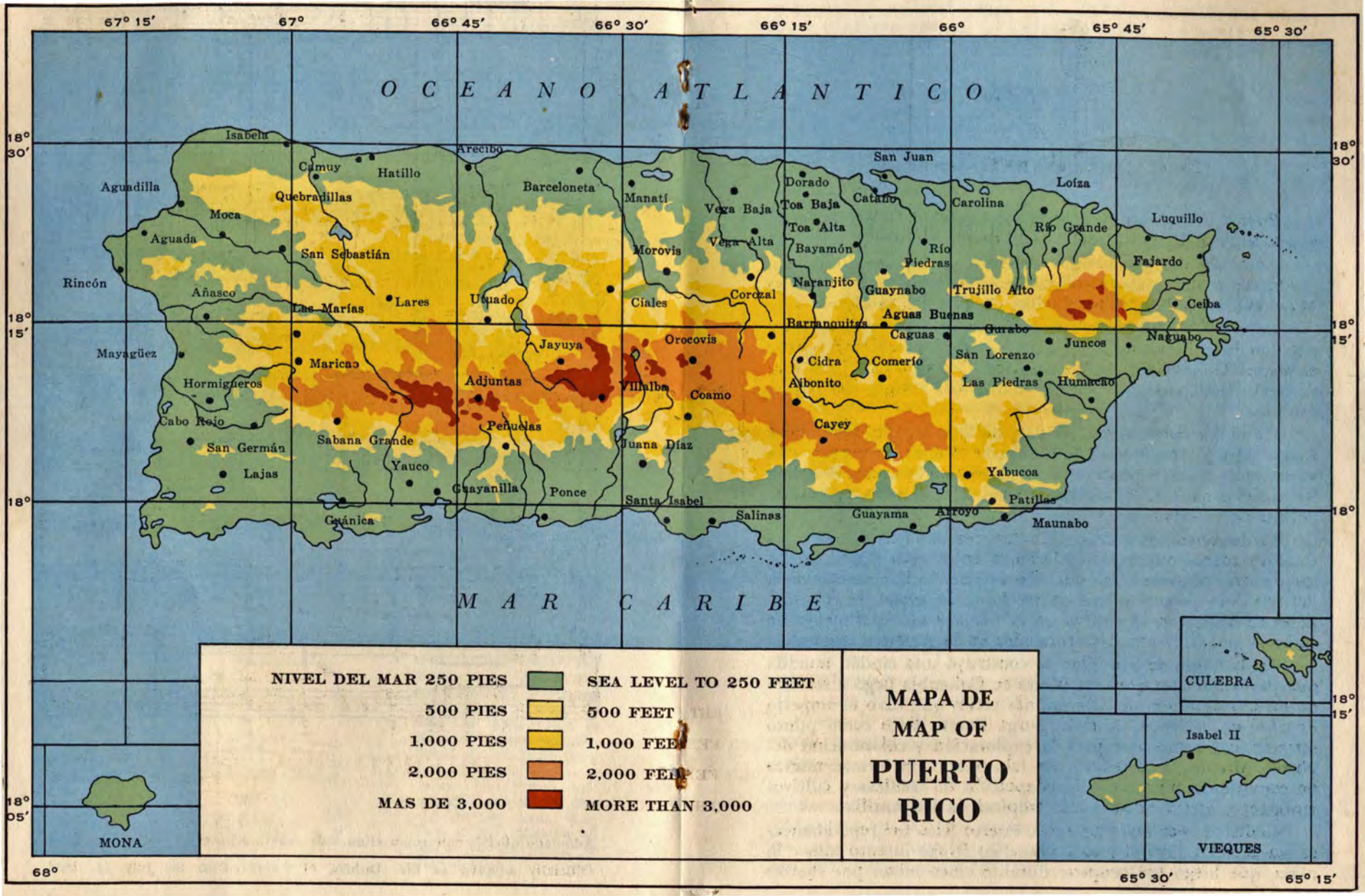
Se desconoce la fecha en que se compuso la antigua melodía titulada La Borinqueña, y no hay la certeza de quien fué su autor. Las primeras impresiones conocidas datan de fines del Siglo 19 y figura en ellas el distinguido músico Don Félix Astol como el compositor de la melodía. La letra fué obra de la poetisa sangermeña Doña Lola Rodríguez de Tió, cuyos versos impartieron a la melodía el cálido sabor patriótico que con los años convirtiéronla en el himno de Puerto Rico. Antes de ser himno se interpretaba como danza, una expresión musical del país que cobró auge durante aquella segunda mitad del Siglo 19 en que se perfiló con mayor claridad la personalidad de Puerto Rico.

La melodía que es hoy himno puertorriqueño es conocida y querida en muchos lugares del Hemisferio. En Cuba fué habanera, en Perú canción, en Chile charanga, en Haití, merengue, en Brasil canción de cuna y en Puerto Rico danza. En las serenas y armoniosas notas de esta vieja melodía, que ha sido cantada por tantos países hermanos de América, están estrechamente ligadas experiencias y recuerdos patrios que tienen amoroso arraigo en lo más profundo del ser colectivo de Puerto Rico.

## LA BORINQUEÑA ANTHEM OF PUERTO RICO

It is not known when the old melody titled La Borinqueña was written, nor is there any certainty as to who was the author. The earliest printed publications, which date from the late 19th Century, attribute the score to the distinguished musician Don Félix Astol. The lyrics were written by a poetress from San Germán, Doña Lola Rodríguez de Tió, who placed such warm patriotic feeling in the words that the song was popularly acclaimed as the anthem of Puerto Rico. Before being played as an anthem, La Borinqueña was interpreted as a danza, a musical expression of Puerto Rican origin that flourished in the second-half of the 19th Century when the regional personality of Puerto Rico became more clearly defined.

La Borinqueña is known and beloved in many countries throughout the Hemisphere. In Cuba it was played as an habanera, in Peru as a song, in Chile as a charanga, in Haiti as a merengue, in Brazil as a cradle song and in Puerto Rico as a danza. The serene, harmonious strains of this old melody have deep roots in the collective affection of the people of Puerto Rico.



67° 15'      67°      66° 45'      66° 30'      66° 15'      66°      65° 45'      65° 30'

O C E A N O   A T L A N T I C O

18° 30'      18° 30'

18° 15'      18° 15'

18°      18°

M A R   C A R I B E

|                        |  |                       |
|------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| NIVEL DEL MAR 250 PIES |  | SEA LEVEL TO 250 FEET |
| 500 PIES               |  | 500 FEET              |
| 1,000 PIES             |  | 1,000 FEET            |
| 2,000 PIES             |  | 2,000 FEET            |
| MAS DE 3,000           |  | MORE THAN 3,000       |

MAPA DE  
MAP OF  
**PUERTO  
RICO**

CULEBRA

Isabel II

VIEQUES

18° 05'      18° 05'

68°      65° 30'      65° 15'

MONA



## NOTAS HISTÓRICAS DE PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico fué descubierto por Cristóbal Colón en su segundo viaje al Nuevo Mundo, el 19 de noviembre de 1493.

Antes del descubrimiento, Puerto Rico era una frontera o punto de contacto entre los pacíficos Taínos de las Antillas Mayores y las feroces tribus Caribes de las Antillas Menores.

En el 1508 llegó un grupo de Conquistadores capitaneados por don Juan Ponce de León quien inició la colonización y fué el primer Gobernador de Puerto Rico. Cerca de San Juan fundaron Villa Caparra, la segunda ciudad más antigua del Nuevo Mundo.

De su encuentro con la cultura india el español aprendió a fumar tabaco y enriqueció su dieta con el maíz, la yuca, y una variedad de frutos y peces tropicales. Conoció la canoa, el bohío, las maderas nativas, las bebidas a base de maíz y las delicias de dormir en una hamaca al vaivén de la brisa tropical.

El descubrimiento de oro en los ríos llenó de júbilo a los Conquistadores quienes establecieron en Puerto Rico uno de los primeros centros mineros del Hemisferio. La intensa búsqueda del oro duró poco y al extinguirse los yacimientos los colonizadores se dedicaron al cultivo de la tierra y al experimento de elaborar una vida social y económica en la América tropical.

En la bahía de San Juan se construyó una ciudad murada que junto con Cartagena de Indias en Colombia llegó a ser uno de los dos bastiones de defensa más recios que tuvo el Imperio Español en el Nuevo Mundo. Surge Puerto Rico como punto estratégico y como base para la exploración y colonización del Nuevo Mundo. Se convierte en laboratorio de formas nuevas de convivencia humana y de adaptación de técnicas y cultivos europeos y africanos al medio tropical de las Antillas.

Codiciado por reyes y piratas, Puerto Rico fué repetidamente atacado. En 1595 el pirata Francisco Drake intentó tomar la plaza, que luego fué ocupada durante cinco meses por fuerzas

inglesas al mando del Conde de Cumberland en 1598; fué saqueada y quemada por los holandeses en 1625, y atacada en otras ocasiones hasta sufrir un último ataque inglés en el 1797.

El desarrollo rural en el interior del país se caracterizó por cierta libertad rústica con pocas tensiones y quebrantamientos. Los pobladores de orígenes variados que vivían en las regiones del interior intercambiaban sus productos agrícolas con los marineros, contrabandistas, traficantes y piratas que visitaban las comunidades que empezaban a desarrollarse en las costas de esta frontera tropical.

Durante el siglo 19 se expande el comercio exterior y aumenta la población. Los productos agrícolas, el azúcar y el café alcanzan un gran incremento. La isla se enriquece con nuevos elementos culturales y se nota que Puerto Rico ya es mucho más que un bastión estratégico del imperio español. En 1810, Puerto Rico envía su primer representante a las Cortes de España, y logra la abolición de la esclavitud en el año 1873.

En 1897 se otorgó una Carta de Autonomía que dió gobierno propio al país e incluyó el derecho a elegir un Parlamento y a negociar tratados comerciales con otros países. No obstante la provincia autóctona puertorriqueña siguió mandando representantes a las Cortes de España.

Como resultado de la Guerra Hispanoamericana Puerto Rico fué cedido a Estados Unidos en el 1898. El Acta Jones del 1917 hizo a los puertorriqueños ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos.

El 25 de julio de 1952 se inauguró el Estado Libre Asociado, una nueva forma de libertad política en asociación voluntaria a la Unión Norteamericana. El pueblo de Puerto Rico ratificó este convenio en elecciones populares. Los puertorriqueños redactaron y aprobaron su propia Constitución, que incluyó una Carta de Derechos y mantuvo la forma republicana de gobierno. La Constitución abolió las últimas trazas de colonialismo y satisfizo un antiguo anhelo de autodeterminación. Al mismo tiempo robusteció una tradición de Puerto Rico, que, situado en la frontera cultural del Hemisferio, aspira hoy como en siglos pasados a servir a la causa de la civilización de América.

En noviembre de 1953 las Naciones Unidas aprobaron una resolución reconociendo al Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico como un país con gobierno propio, libremente asociado a los Estados Unidos a base de común ciudadanía por medio de un convenio que no puede ser alterado por acción unilateral.



## HISTORICAL NOTES ON PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico was discovered on November 19, 1493 by Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to the New World.

At the time of the discovery, Puerto Rico was a frontier, a point of contact, between the Taino Indians of the Greater Antilles and the ferocious Carib tribes that inhabited the Lesser Antilles.

In 1508 a group of Spanish Conquistadores arrived under the leadership of Don Juan Ponce de León, who started the colonization and became the first Governor. Near San Juan harbor they founded Caparra, the second oldest city in the New World.

From the indian culture the Spaniards learned to inhale the smoke of tobacco and added to their diets corn, yucca, and a rich variety of tropical fruits and fish. They made the acquaintance of canoes, bohíos, corn liquor, iguanas, Caribbean woods, and the delights of sleeping in hammocks that swayed in the tropical breeze.

The discovery of gold beads in the river beds overjoyed the Conquistadores who established in Puerto Rico one of the first mining centers in the Hemisphere. After a few decades of feverish mining activity, the gold deposits were exhausted and the Spaniards settled down to cultivate the land and to experiment in building a social and economic structure suitable to tropical America.

On the harbor of San Juan they built a walled city that together with Cartagena de Indias in Colombia became the two great strongholds of the Spanish Main and a leading defensive bastion of the vast empire. Puerto Rico was a point of departure for expeditions to colonize and explore America. It became a laboratory where new forms of human coexistence were tested, a busy center of experimentation where men, animals, plants and agricultural techniques became adapted to the tropical medium of the New World.

Coveted by kings and pirates, this strategic island was attacked in 1595 by Sir Francis Drake; occupied for five months by English forces under the Earl of Cumberland in 1598; burnt and plundered by the Dutch in 1625 and suffered other sieges until a last futile attempt by the British in 1797.

The rural development of the interior of Puerto Rico was characterized by some rustic freedom and less tensions and breakdowns that in regions where opulent sugar plantations predominated. The varied groups that had settled in the country traded their agricultural produce with the seafarers, merchants and smugglers that visited the communities that began to spring along the coasts of this tropical frontier.

The 19th Century brought expansion in foreign trade, growth in population, increased sugar and coffee production, and a consciousness that Puerto Rico was becoming something more than a strategic outpost of the Spanish Main. In 1810 Puerto Ricans sent their first representatives to the Spanish Parliament, and slavery was abolished in 1873 at the request of the slave owners themselves. During this century the cultural personality of the country became more clearly defined.

The liberal movement of the 19th Century was crowned with success when a Charter of Autonomy was granted by Spain in 1897. It gave Puerto Rico self-government and included among other things a Parliament elected by the people, a means of negotiating commercial treaties with other countries, and vote for Puerto Rican Representatives in the Spanish Parliament.

As a result of the Spanish American War, Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States in 1898. The Jones Act of 1917 made the people of Puerto Rico citizens of the United States.

On July 25, 1952, Puerto Rico became a Commonwealth voluntarily associated to the United States by means of a compact which the voters of Puerto Rico approved at the polls. The Puerto Ricans wrote their own Constitution, which embodied a new type of political freedom, had a Bill of Rights and provided a republican form of government. It abolished the last traces of colonialism and fulfilled a long historical urge for self-determination.

On November, 1953 the United Nations passed a resolution recognizing the Commonwealth as a self-governing country, freely associated to the United States on the basis of common citizenship by means of a compact that cannot be unilaterally changed.

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## EL SELLO DE PUERTO RICO

Las figuras que aparecen en el Sello del Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico son inspiradas en las que figuran en el escudo que la Corona Española otorgó a Puerto Rico a principios del siglo 16.

Aparte su riguroso simbolismo heráldico podemos interpretarlo de este modo: en el centro verde aparece un cordero que se usa para representar paz y confraternidad. Sobre el cordero hay un haz de flechas simbólico de la fuerza creadora. Más arriba aparece un yugo que en este Sello representa la unión y armonía de esfuerzos para grandes logros. Las letras F e I, iniciales de Fernando e Isabel, Reyes de España al descubrirse Puerto Rico, evocan un gran esfuerzo pionero. La inscripción reza "Juan es su nombre", pues Puerto Rico se llamó originalmente San Juan. En la bordura blanca aparecen torres de Castilla, leones de León, cruces Potenzadas de Jerusalén y banderas españolas que nos evocan las antiguas raíces culturales hispánicas de Puerto Rico y forman marco a los símbolos centrales del Sello.

## THE SEAL OF PUERTO RICO

The devices in the official Seal of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico were inspired in those that appear in the coat of arms which the Spanish Crown gave Puerto Rico in the early 16th Century.

Besides its rigorous heraldic symbolism, it can also be interpreted in the following manner: the lamb in the green center of this Seal is used to represent peace and brotherhood. Above the lamb appears a cluster of arrows which symbolizes creative strength. The yoke above the arrows represents unity and harmonization of efforts for great achievements. The letters F and I, initials of Ferdinand and Isabella, Kings of Spain at the time of the discovery of Puerto Rico, evoke a great pioneer effort. The motto reads "John is his name" because Puerto Rico was originally named St. John. On the white border appear towers of Castille, lions of León, crosses of the Conquest of Jerusalem, and Spanish banners, which are reminiscent of the cultural roots of Puerto Rico and surround the central devices of the Seal.