

# SONG “RULE BRITANNIA”

**BRITANNIA** – ORIGINAL NAME BY  
ROMANS FOR **ENGLAND**  
& **WALES**

AFTER ROMANS, NAME FELL INTO DISUSE  
DURING DAYS OF BRITISH EMPIRE, CAME  
TO REPRESENT **SPIRIT** OF BRITAIN  
SINCE **1672** BRITANNIA SEEN AS A **WOMAN**  
WEARING HELMET, SHIELD &  
TRIDENT [3 PRONG SPEAR WEAPON  
& USED FOR FISHING]  
-SYMBOLISM OF **BLENDING** EMPIRE  
MILITARISM & ECONOMICS

[[WWW.BRITANNIA.COM](http://WWW.BRITANNIA.COM)]

**TOPIC -**

**" STILL INITIAL DRAFT ONLY "**

**“ SONG “RULE BRITANNIA”**

**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & SOCIETY**  
**{ “STS” }**

**BY**

**FRANK J. GADEK, PH.D.**

**POEM** “RULE BRITANNIA” BY JAMES  
**THOMPSON** [1700 – 48]  
PUT TO **MUSIC** BY THOMAS AUGUSTINE  
**ARNE** [1710 – 1778] AROUND 1740  
SUNG AS **UNOFFICIAL NATIONAL ANTHEM!**

**WORDS TO POEM AND SONG VERY SIMILAR**  
**MOST FAMOUS STANZA:**

**“RULE BRITANNIA! BRITANNIA RULE  
THE WAVES: BRITONS NEVER WILL BE  
SLAVES”**

[[WWW.BRITANNIA.COM](http://WWW.BRITANNIA.COM), [HTTP://COMPOSERS DATEBOOK.PUBLICRADIO.ORG](http://COMPOSERS DATEBOOK.PUBLICRADIO.ORG)]

# TRIDENT:

**3 PRONGED SPEAR CARRIED BY NEPTUNE  
OR POSEIDON**

**POSEIDON SPLITS A ROCK WITH A TRIDENT  
THAT AJAX CLINGING TO & AJAX  
SWEPT AWAY BY WAVES – GREEK  
MYTHOLOGY & TROJAN WAR**

**SUBMARINE / MISSILES**

**ROMAN GLADIATORS “RETIARUS” [NET MAN]  
USED NET TO ENTANGLE OPPONENT  
& THEN KILL HIM WITH A TRIDENT  
[ABOUT 325 TO 500 AD]**

[MS ENCARTA / BOOKSHELF]

# JAMES THOMSON 1700 – 1740

SCOTTISH POET, SON OF MINISTER,  
EDUCATED U. EDINBURGH

FORERUNNER OF ROMANTICISM IN  
AGE OF CLASSICISM

BEST **KNOWN** POEM

“THE SEASONS” 1726-1730

BEST POEM

“THE CASTLE OF INDOLENCE”  
1748 – PLEASURES & PITFALLS  
OF IDLENESS

PREFIGURED ROMANTIC IDEALIZATION  
OF NATURE

**OFFERED UNIQUE IMAGE OF NATURE  
IN HIS TOPOGRAPHICAL  
POETRY BUT USED HIGHLY  
ARTIFICIAL DICTION**

**INSPIRED WORDSWORTH & COLERIDGE**

**ALSO NUMBER TRAGIC PLAYS**

**MASQUE “ALFRED” 1740 WITH FRIEND  
DAVID MALLET CONTAINS  
“RULE BRITANNIA”**

[MS ENCARTA / BOOKSHELF]

MASQUE = ALSO MASK [MASQUERADE]

DRAMATIC ENTERTAINMENT  
USUALLY PERFORMED BY MASKED PLAYERS  
MYTHOLOGICAL OR ALLEGORICAL FIGURES  
POPULAR 16<sup>TH</sup> & EARLY 17<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

[MS ENCARTA / BOOKSHELF]

THOMAS AUGUSTINE ARNE 1710 – 1778

BORN IN LONDON

ENGLISH COMPOSER DRAMATIC MUSIC  
& MODEL FOR NEARLY A CENTURY

SONGS, ORATORIOS & OPERAS

OVERSHADOWED BY HANDEL

BEST WORKS COMUS 1738, THE JUDGEMENT  
OF PARIS 1740 & ALFRED 1740  
WHICH CONTAINS BRITISH PATRIOTIC  
SONG “RULE BRITANNIA”

ALSO DID 1740 SERIES OF SONGS FOR  
SHAKESPEAREAN COMEDIES

[MS ENCARTA / BOOKSHELF]



## BRITISH ANNUAL CULTURAL EVENTS

BEST KNOWN OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

FESTIVALS “HENRY WOOD PROMENADE  
CONCERTS [“THE PROMS”] AT ROYAL  
ALBERT HALL JULY TO SEPTEMBER  
A TRADITION FOR OVER 100 YEARS,  
RELATIVELY LOW PRICES

AT LAST NIGHT, CAN SING “RULE BRITANNIA”  
ALONG WITH LAND OF HOPE & GLORY  
OR JERUSALEM

IN NOSTALGIA FOR FORMER BRITISH EMPIRE

EVEN ON PBS TV RECENTLY

[MS ENCARTA / BOOKSHELF]

## **OTHER USES OF WORD BRITANNIA**

**BRITANNIA BRIDGE - TUBULAR RAILROAD OVER  
MENAI STRAIT WALES BY ENGLISH  
ENGINEER ROBERT STEPHENSON 1849–1850**

**BRITANNIA'S PASTORALS – LONG PASTORAL  
POEMS BY ENGLISH WILLIAM BROWNE  
1613 & 1616, BEAUTIFUL DESCRIPTION OF  
PASTORAL LIFE**

**BRITANNIA – FIRST ROAD ATLAS 1675 BY  
ENGLISHMAN JOHN OGILVY – SHOWS A  
“WAYWISER” – A FORM OF ODOMETER  
WITH GEARING TO RECORD DISTANCE  
TRAVELED**

[MS ENCARTA / BOOKSHELF]

BRITANNIA METAL – “SHAM” – GERMAN SILVER –  
SILVERY-WHITE ALLY CONTAINING TIN &  
ANTIMONY – MOST COMMON FORM 90% & 10% -  
CAN BE MADE IN VARIETY OF COLORS – HARDER  
THAN PEWTER & REPLACED IT – NOW USED FOR  
BASE FOR SILVER PLATING – USED IN BEARINGS  
& CAN BE CAST & WORKED INTO SHAPES BY  
STAMPING & SPINNING

BRITANNIA – FIRST COMPREHENSIVE TOPOGRAPHICAL  
SURVEY OF ENGLAND BY ENGLISH WILLIAM  
CAMDEN 1586

BRITANNIA – HISTORY OF BRITAIN 1586 BY ENGLISH  
HISTORIAN WILLIAM CAMDEN

HISTORIA REFUM BRITANNIAE ABOUT 1139

BY GEOFFREY OF MONMOUTH, ENGLISH  
PRELATE & CHRONICLER,  
A SOURCE OF ARTHURIAN LEGEND,  
SEMIHISTORICAL KING OF BRITONS, TALES  
DEVELOPED IN MIDDLE AGES [5<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup>  
CENTURIES] & ADAPTATIONS CONTINUED  
THROUGH 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

BRITANNIA – SHIP 14 DAY & 8 HOUR VOYAGE BEGAN  
REGULAR TRANSATLANTIC SERVICE BY  
FIRST STEAMSHIP 1840 FROM LIVERPOOL TO  
BOSTON – OF CUNARD LINE, LTD WITH  
SIR SAMUEL CUNARD 1787 – 1865 AT THE  
HELM!!! – MADE A BARONET BY QUEEN  
VICTORIA IN 1859 IN RECOGNITION OF  
CONTRIBUTION TO BRITISH SHIPPING &  
HENCE PRESIGE IN WORLD

[MS ENCARTA / BOOKSHELF]

OTHER RELATED CLASSICAL MUSIC

TOM CLANCY "SUM OF ALL FEARS"  
BOOK MADE INTO MOVIE

GIACOMO PUCCINI 1858 – 1924  
"NESSUN DORMA"  
FAMOUS TENOR ARIA FROM  
OPERA TURANDOT

BENJAMIN BRITTEN 1913 – 1976  
WAR REQUIEM 1962  
CONTAINS WAR POEMS BY WILFRED OWEN  
& CATHOLIC MASS FOR THE DEAD

MOVIE PLATOON DIRECTED BY OLIVER STONE  
SAMUEL BARBER 1910 - 1981  
ADAGIO FOR STRINGS

OTHER MUSIC:

TITANIC - RAGTIME

**TO BE CONTINUED AS**

**INTEREST &**

**RESOURCES PERMIT**

**JUST LET ME KNOW !**