

# The Olympic Anthem



**T**he lyrics written by the poet Costis Palamas were set to music by Spiros Samaras in 1896 and sung during the opening ceremony of the Games in Athens.\*

*“Immortal spirit of antiquity,  
Father of the true, beautiful and good,  
Descend, appear, shed over us thy light  
Upon this ground and under this sky  
Which has first witnessed thy unperi-  
shable flame.*

*Give life and animation to those noble  
games!*

*Throw wreaths of fadeless flowers to the  
victors*

*In the race and in the strife!*

*Create in our breasts, hearts of steel!*

*In the light, plains, mountains and seas  
Shine in a roseate hue and form a vast  
temple*

*To which all nations throng to adore  
thee,*

*Oh immortal spirit of antiquity!”*

\* Free translation of the Greek into English.