The French Revolution Through the Lens of Music

By: Gracie Palmore

History



Revolutionists from the Third Estate rose out of their anger of being exploited by a corrupt government.

A young French military officer was sent to Egypt in 1798 for his campaign in the Ottoman territories. Less than a year later, he would return to overthrow the Directory of France in the coup d'etat in 1799.

The Revolutionists continued their fight for freedom from Napoleon.

People

Napoleon Bonaparte only allowed music to be performed, composed, and played if it was in support of him.





However, he enjoyed *Etienne Nicholas Méhul's* music, giving a bridge of advantageous influence for this young composer.

Music

Méhul was a Revolutionist himself, but used his relationship to Napoleon as a progressive platform.

Chant du Depart was used as a
Revolutionary Hymn, but
Napoleon commissioned it to
become the Frist Empire's first
national anthem without knowing
its history.

