

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem is performed twice at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby Day.

### Celebrity Performance

A 21st century Derby tradition – one that has been a long-standing and well-accepted part of other major sporting events – was introduced in 2009 when Churchill Downs welcomed celebrities to sing the National Anthem prior to the race with millions of television viewers watching NBC’s coverage of the event:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Celebrity Singer(s)</u>
2023	Carly Pearce
2022	Brittney Spencer
2021	Tori Kelly
2020	(no celebrity because of pandemic)
2019	Jennifer Nettles
2018	Pentatonix
2017	Harry Connick Jr.
2016	Lady Antebellum
2015	Josh Groban
2014	Jo Dee Messina
2013	Martina McBride
2012	Mary J. Blige
2011	Jordin Sparks
2010	Rascal Flatts
2009	LeAnn Rimes

The high-profile National Anthem performance originates from the Kentucky Derby Presentation Stand, which is often called the “Cupola” or “Pagoda,” and is usually sung just after 5 p.m. ET.

### 113<sup>th</sup> Army Band Performed Until 2015

The 113th Army Band performed an instrumental version of the National Anthem at Churchill Downs for many years before it decommissioned. Their final performance at Churchill Downs took place at the 2015 Kentucky Derby with a special presentation of colors between Races 7-8 at approximately 2:20 p.m. ET.

The 113th Army Band was proud of its long history as the second oldest active duty Army Band after the United States Military Academy Band. It was formed on July 8, 1840 as the Band, First Regiment of Dragoons, earning the band’s official nickname “Dragoons”. The band has been awarded 25 campaign participation credits, ranging from the Indian Wars in 1855 to the end of World War II. Another historical moment for the band was a performance in President Lincoln’s second inaugural parade on March 4, 1865.

The 113th Army Band served Fort Knox and the surrounding communities throughout Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio under the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Knox until its decommission.

There were 39 authorized enlisted positions in the band, directed by a warrant officer. At the time of its decommission, the 113th Army Band was comprised of a Ceremonial Band, Show Band, Jazz Band and Brass Quintet. All of the music performance teams of the 113th Army Band were dedicated to serving soldiers and their families as well as the surrounding Fort Knox communities and partnerships.

The performance of the National Anthem at Churchill Downs on Kentucky Derby Day was the highlight of their annual performance calendar.