

University of Washington  
THE SCHOOL OF MUSIC

*presents*

COMPACT  
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# SONGS OF WAR AND PEACE

UNIVERSITY SINGERS

Gary D. Cannon, *conductor*

*featuring*

E. Brendan Tuohy, *tenor*

*and*

Jessica Hall, *piano*

7:30 PM

June 3, 2004

MEANY THEATER

DATA #14,654

CD # 14,655

PROGRAM

1 **Dona nobis pacem** 2:25 **Traditional Round**

2 Amos 9:1-5, 13-15 2:02  
read by Rebecca Carlson

3 'Agnus Dei', from *Mass in Time of War* 5:30 **Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)**  
with Melinda Wall, *soprano*  
and Christina Strand, *alto*

4 "Alle Tage", by Ingeborg Bachmann 1:00  
read in the original German by Katherine Hirt  
(see translation below)

5 'Reconciliation', from *Dona nobis pacem* 5:40 **Ralph Vaughan Williams**  
(1872-1958)  
featuring E. Brendan Tuohy, *tenor*  
and Jessica Hall, *piano*

6 "Tommy", by Rudyard Kipling 2:41  
read by Caitlin Lustig

7 **Soldier, Soldier, Won't You Marry Me?** 2:30 **arr. Robert De Cormier**

8 **Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye** 3:46 **arr. Alice Parker**

9 "The Next War", by Wilfred Owen 1:00  
read by Gary D. Cannon

10 **Ballad of Heroes** 15:48 **Benjamin Britten**  
(1913-1976)  
I. Funeral March  
II. Scherzo (Dance of Death)  
III. Recitative and Choral — Epilogue  
featuring E. Brendan Tuohy, *tenor*  
and Jessica Hall, *piano*

11 Everyone Sang - Siegfried Sassoon  
read by Gary Cannon

12 *Dona nobis pacem*

NOTES

When this program was titled and first publicized over a year ago, the world—and especially our own country—was a rather different place. A war was on the verge of completion, and lasting peace looked both inevitable and immediate. Even as recent as our first rehearsal in early April, the fear arose that this concert might have become obsolete, if such a thing were possible. Recent events have, however, galvanized national interest. It is our greatest hope that this evening's concert will be seen not as a political or social statement, but simply as commentary on this ongoing facet of our existence, and as tribute to the honorable men and women who do their best to accomplish those events with minimal loss of humanity.

The spiritual side begins, with the poetical prose of the King James Bible and a selection from Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*. One hears the rumble of distant warfare in the piano's bass accompaniment, but also the composer's personal joy in eventual peace. Vaughan Williams's setting of Walt Whitman, entitled 'Reconciliation' and composed between the two World Wars, consists of three melodic settings which encircle an intimate picture of one soldier's tribute to the fallen enemy.

Two stories follow of a soldier's life. First is the light-hearted "Soldier, Soldier, Won't You Marry Me?", in which a woman attempts to gain a soldier's affections by procuring anything he requests, only to find a surprise awaits her! Alice Parker's masterful arrangement of the old Irish tune, "Johnny, I Hardly Knew Ye", paints a poignant picture of a soldier returning home, having lost a portion of himself—both emotionally and physically—while fighting abroad.

Benjamin Britten's striking *Ballad of Heroes* concludes the program, to texts of W. H. Auden and Randall Swingler. Britten composed this cantata in memory of the British soldiers who fell in the Spanish Civil War of the 1930s, but certainly the cry to "you numberless Englishmen" is a call to survivors everywhere. The unison funeral march launches a violent 'Dance of Death'. Notwithstanding such a macabre litany of loss, the final movement's recitative and chorale exude a utopian view of an eventual world without war. But we are left, rather, with an exhortation to honor those individuals who would make such a world possible.

## TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

### *Dona nobis pacem*

Dona nobis pacem.

Grant us peace.

### 'Agnus Dei', from *Mass in Time of War* — Joseph Haydn

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the  
sins of the world, grant us peace.

### "Alle Tage". Translated by Katherine Hirt

The war is no longer declared  
but continued on. The unprecedented  
has become ordinary. The hero  
stays far from the fighters. The weak  
has moved into the firing-zone.  
The uniform of the day is patience,  
The decoration the wretched star  
of hope over the heart.

He is awarded  
when nothing more happens,  
when the drum-fire ceases,  
when the enemy has become invisible  
and the shadow of eternal armor  
covers the sky.

He is awarded  
for the flight from the flags,  
for the bravery facing the friend,  
for the betrayal of unworthy secrets  
and the disobedience  
of any command.

— Ingeborg Bachmann

### 'Reconciliation', from *Dona nobis pacem* — Ralph Vaughan Williams

Word over all, beautiful as the sky,  
Beautiful that war and all its deeds of carnage must in time be utterly lost;  
That the hands of the sisters Death and Night incessantly, softly wash again and  
ever again this soiled world;  
For my enemy is dead, a man divine as myself is dead,  
I look where he lies white-faced and still in the coffin—I draw near,  
Bend down and touch lightly with my lips the white face in the coffin.

— Walt Whitman

### Ballad of Heroes — Benjamin Britten

#### I. Funeral March

You who stand at your doors, wiping hands on aprons,  
You who lean at the corner saying "We have done our best",  
You who shrug your shoulders and you who smile  
To conceal your life's despair and its evil taste,  
To you we speak, you numberless Englishmen,  
To remind you of the greatness still among you  
Created by these men who go from your towns  
To fight for peace, for liberty, and for you.  
They were men who hated death and loved life,  
Who were afraid, and fought against their fear.  
Men who wish'd to create and not to destroy,  
But knew the time must come to destroy the destroyer.  
For they have restored your power and pride,  
Your life is yours, for which they died.

— Randall Swingler

#### II. Scherzo (Dance of Death)

It's farewell to the drawing room's civilised cry,  
The professors' sensible where-to and why,  
The frock-coated diplomat's social aplomb,  
Now matters are settled with gas and bomb.  
The works for two pianos, the brilliant stories  
Of reasonable giants and remarkable fairies,  
The pictures, the ointments, the frangible wares,  
And the branches of olive are stored upstairs.  
For the Devil has broken parole and arisen,  
He has dynamited his way out of prison;

Out of the well where his Papa throws  
 The rebel angel, the outcast rose.  
 The behaving of man is a world of horror,  
 A sedent'ry Sodom and slick Gomorrah,  
 I must take charge of the liquid fire,  
 And storm the cities of human desire.  
 Charge fire — storm desire.  
 For it's order and trumpet. And anger. And drum!  
 And power and glory command you to come.  
 Come! Come! Come!  
 The fishes are silent deep in the sea,  
 The skies are lit up like a Christmas tree,  
 The star in the west shoots its warning cry  
 "Mankind is alive but mankind must die".  
 So good-bye to the house with its wallpaper red,  
 Good-bye to the sheets on the warm double bed,  
 Good-bye to the beautiful birds on the wall,  
 It's good-bye, dear heart, good-bye to you all.

— W. H. Auden

### III. Recitative and Choral

#### *Tenor:*

Still though the scene of possible Summer recedes,  
 And the guns can be heard across the hills  
 Like waves at night: though crawling suburbs fill  
 Their valleys with the stench of idleness like rotting weeds,  
 And desire unacted breeds its pestilence.  
 Yet still below the soot the roots are sure  
 And beyond the guns there is another murmur,  
 Like pigeons flying unnotic'd over continents  
 With secret messages of peace: and at the centre  
 Of the wheeling conflict the heart is calmer,  
 The promise nearer than ever it came before, than ever before.

— W. H. Auden

#### *Chorus:*

Europe lies in the dark.  
 City and flood and tree;  
 Thousands have work'd and work  
 To master necessity.  
 To build a city where  
 The will of love is done

And brought to its full flower  
 The dignity of man.  
 Pardon them their mistakes,  
 The impatient and wavering will.  
 They suffer for our sakes,  
 Honour, honour them all.  
 Dry their imperfect dust,  
 The wind blows it back and forth,  
 They die to make man just  
 And worthy of the earth.

— Randall Swingler

## Dona nobis pacem

Traditional Round  
 ed. Gary D. Cannon

[1]

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

[2]

Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

[3]

Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

## UNIVERSITY SINGERS

Gary D. Cannon, *director*

### Sopranos

Katherine Bosch  
Nicole Britain  
Stephanie Bulick  
Emily Champoux  
Lizzie Flick  
Christen Foehring  
Koko Kobayashi  
Barbara MacDonald  
Teresa Ng  
Jessica Sbei  
Naomi Adele Smith  
Erica Turner  
Melinda Wall

### Altos

Margo Arnold  
Rebecca Carlson  
Katherine Hirt  
Aftin Ikeda  
Gurpreet Kaur  
Meggie Kerin  
Angela Y. Lee  
Yuen-Jong Liu  
Caitlin Lustig  
Mimi Ma  
Lindsay Maynard  
Janet Oliver  
Maya Prawirodijoyo  
Michelle Respicio  
Tabitha Roemish  
Jutta Seligmann  
Christina Strand  
Greer Sullivan  
Laura Swindlehurst  
Lori Tomonari

### Tenors

Michael Brennan  
Jonathan Fukushima  
Peter Murray  
Pradeep Shenoy

### Basses

Joshua Little  
Bill Owen  
John Williams  
Jun Yi

A special thanks to our various rehearsal accompanists: Melody Chen, Jessica Hall, Andrew Seifert, Tom Joyce, and Heather MacLaughlin Garbes. Also our gratitude to Linda Gingrich, Abraham Kaplan, and the Singing Men of East Texas.