

Carillon Book Club

CARILLON SOCIETY
OF AUSTRALIA

◆
April 2025



Welcome to the fourth CSA Carillon Book Club: Music for Peace!

Thanks to all the participants who contributed to this Book Club.

In this edition we have collected a variety of suggestions to represent 'Music for Peace'.

There are piece recommendations, free resources and websites.

Did you know that the Bathurst and Sydney carillons are part of the Network of War Memorial and Peace Carillons (WMPC)?

They have a threefold mission:

- keeping the memory alive of the thousands of men and women who are memorialized by war memorial and peace carillons;
- honoring the initiators and benefactors of these carillons and the persons who have maintained and played them over the years;
- promoting the peace idea in general.

Have a look at their website:

<https://www.peacecarillons.org/>

Piece Recommendations



Agnus Dei from The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace – Karl Jenkins

My music for Peace is Agnus Dei from Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man - A Mass for Peace. The Armed Man is Jenkins' most celebrated work, with more than 3000 performances to date since its premiere in year 2000. The anti-war mass includes a Muslim Call to Prayers, and one of the movements Angry Flames is set to a poem by Japanese writer and peace advocate Sankichi Toge who survived the Hiroshima bombing. Conventional texts from the Latin Mass is also used in this work, including Kyrie, Sanctus, and the popular Benedictus. However, my favourite movement is Agnus Dei with its yearning melodies, pleading to "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us".

As a chorister I performed The Armed Man the first time last year (2024) with my choir Sydney Philharmonia Choirs in their annual ChorusOz. ChorusOz is a mass choir spectacular that the community gets to together to sing at Sydney Opera House a choral work that professional choirs would usually rehearse for months to prepare. People from around the world of all ages and singing abilities can participate, and they are sent scores and learning tracks in advance. The ensemble choir meets for the first time and rehearse all day on a Saturday, and then perform, to a sold-out crowd at Sydney Opera House, the next day! It is always a lot of fun to sing in ChorusOz, and I invite everyone to join us some day.

I have made my own arrangement of Agnus Dei for the carillon. You can get in touch with me if you'd like a copy.

Isaac Wong

Healing Bells for Carillon – Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra and Jet Schouten

Healing Bells was written to acknowledge health care workers and those who lost their lives or suffered during the pandemic but I think it is equally relevant as a peace piece.

"Bells have long functioned as signals and timekeepers, notifying residents of deaths, commemorations and celebrations. During the time of the Black Plague some people believed that bells had powers to ward off the disease. When bells were confiscated by Nazis, melted and repurposed into military equipment during the Holocaust, villagers were haunted by the absent presence or present absence of the bells which had guided the rhythm of their daily lives."

The piece came into being by Dutch investigative journalist Jet Schouten and carillonist and composer Pamela Ruiter - Feenstra teaming up and basing it on the Ukrainian folk tune " Plyve Kacha". The introductory and repeated bell sequence called 'viral spirals' sounds to me like the small bells which were rung at the time of Consecration during the Latin Mass of my childhood. The folk song was also used to commemorate 100 protesters who were killed by snipers in Kiev's Independence Square in 2014.

Carillonists worldwide were invited to join in a global premier of Healing Bells at noon local time on 21 May 2020. This composition is quite easy to play and is contemplative and well suits the theme of Music for Peace which is needed globally now more than ever.

Free download from <https://pamelaruiterfeenstra.com/compositions>

Veronica Lambert

Dance of a Peaceful Heart – Liesbeth Janssens

This is a great composition that goes through different moods and emotions, finally ending in calmness. It is well-written, shows off our instrument, and has that contemporary tonality that is attractive to audiences. Also, it's a Flemish composition that's not too heavy on the pedals (always a consideration for our Taylor bells).

Free as part of the 2021 Trinity Commissions.

Daniel Guo

Anzac Echoes – Geert D'hollander

ANZAC Day, observed on April 25, commemorates the service and sacrifice of Australian and New Zealand servicemen who suffered and died in all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping efforts but particularly the sacrifice of those who died in the landing on Gallipoli in 1915 during World War I. Anzac Echoes was commissioned by the University of Sydney to mark the 100th anniversary of this landing. It is a beautiful and poignant work and rings out parts of many tunes known to Australian military including Morning Reveille and the Last Post and wisps of Advance Australia Fair.

The Carillon at Sydney University is a war memorial carillon and commemorates undergraduates, graduates and staff of the University who died in World War I and many of their names are inscribed on the 54 bells so it could not be a more appropriate piece to include in this Music for Peace collection. The piece was premiered by Amy Johansen in 2015 at the Anzac Day dawn service and has been played at every dawn service since.

Anzac Echoes is available for sale from Sydney University via this link <https://sydneyuniversitypress.com/products/82846>

Veronica Lambert

In Memoriam – John Courter

John wrote this piece in the wake of September 11 2001, and really should be a staple in carillonists peace repertoire. Very accessible, with versions in C minor, (which is bad for Bathurst), D minor and a 2 octave version in C minor.

Free download from https://www.carillon.org/eng/dynamic_frame_eng.htm?https://www.carillon.org/eng/actueel/ann_arbor_1.htm

Wendy Murphy

In Memoriam – Thomas Laue

This piece holds special memories for me as Thomas wrote it for Bathurst and it was premiered by him at the 2021 Festival of Bells. It is dedicated to the women and children of Bathurst and Wiradjuri Country, who suffered through wars in the last 200 years. I remember thinking I would never be able to play this, but it is now part of my peace program.

True to Thomas' style, it has some quirky rhythms, that are actually easier to play than at first glance. I thank Thomas for this piece, and for supporting me to learn it in various workshops over the years.

Wendy Murphy

Dona Nobis Pacem – arr. Carsten Gerlitz (for piano)

I was looking for an arrangement of Dona Nobis Pacem for International Peace Day (21 September) last year, and found a Youtube clip of Koen van Assche performing this arrangement:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bel68jmSjrE>.

It is just so beautiful, I had to seek it out. The piano arrangement transfers easily to carillon, and I think sits quite well.

https://www.sheetmusicnow.com/products/dona-nobis-pacem-p492792?srsltid=AfmBOopYz3BweznF6ZYuUZ6cU99bqmA-_8YQqb9KiOqWZMWGUUDGqgzX

Hymn Arrangements – John Courter

'Abide With Me (Eventide)' and Old Hundredth (Doxology). These are also both beautiful arrangements by the late John Courter (1941-2010) and I think the tunes are well recognised in Anzac Day / Remembrance Day and peace events. The variations have some delightful contrast and challenge which allows for interest for both the listener and performer.

https://americancarillonmusiceditions.com/index.php?main_page=product_book_info&cPath=4&prev_page=index&manufacturers_id=28&sort=3a&products_id=543&zenid=nc6sjm55371507h7us84u5mna5

Wendy Murphy

Kia Hora Te Marino (Let Peace be Widespread) – Christopher Tin

The music of Christopher Tin is special to me because it was through his 'Baba Yetu' (2005) that I first discovered a love of music when I was 9 years old. Since then, I have listened to album after album (donating to his Kickstarters along the way – most of his albums were crowdfunded) and he has now become one of the most popular contemporary classical composers in the world.

Kia Hora Te Marino was my favourite song from his first album, Calling All Dawns (2009), which won two Grammys. It is a Maori blessing for peace and features the haka. Unfortunately on the carillon, we lose the vocals, but the melody is still very nice.

Daniel Guo

We all know Eventide and Old Hundredth, but for something different, how about these two hymns?

- 'When Peace Like a River' (It is well)
- 'Fierce Raged Over the Tempest Deep' (St. Aelred), based on Jesus stilling the storm with the famous words, "Peace, be still"

Ted Grantham

Websites and Resources



Peace Music for Carillon

<https://www.peacecarillons.org/music/>

This publication was put together by the War Memorial and Peace Carillons network in 2020, to mark the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. It features original compositions as well as some great arrangements.

Amy Johansen contributed an arrangement of **'When the Peace Bells Ring'** by Clarence Lyndon, there is an arrangement of Holst's **'I Vow to Thee, My Country'** by Luc Rombouts, and my personal favourite is a medley of **'The Last Post and Abide With Me'** arranged by Jim Nicholls, which is a poignant addition to any Peace recital program.

Peace Tower Canada

<https://www.ourcommons.ca/heritage/en/carillon/music-scores>

Andrea McCrady works hard to keep adding a variety of music to this site of free music scores hosted by the Dominion Carillon Library of the Peace Tower.

In terms of peace music, on her Australian tour Andrea played her arrangement of the **'Airman's Prayer'** which can be found here, along with arrangements of a number of songs associated with war such as **'Returning from War'** and **'It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary'**.



Songs for Ukraine – compiled by Koen Van Assche

<https://tinyurl.com/54x7vz8x>
<https://www.bells.org/blog/songs-ukraine-sheet-music-carillon>

Over the past years, carillons have been united in playing in solidarity of the Ukraine people, particularly close to the 24 February which marks the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Through various blogs and websites, carillonists have contributed arrangements of national songs of Ukraine, songs for peace and original compositions to share around the world.

The google drive Koen Van Assche has put together holds many pieces, but I point you to **'Marigolds'** of which there are 2 very accessible versions and the **'Prayer for Ukraine'**, also known as the 'Prayer of the children'.



Music for Healing

<https://connect.mayoclinic.org/blog/center-for-humanities-in-medicine/tab/carillon-music/>

The Music for Mayo Carillon Music Series, sponsored by the Mayo Clinic Dolores Jean Lavins Center for Humanities in Medicine, is an annual initiative that commissions one new composition for solo carillon each year.

The work, when completed, is premiered at Mayo Clinic and then made available to carillonists around the world. The program seeks not only to expand the repertoire of quality modern compositions for the carillon, but to ensure they remain accessible to all members of the carillon community.

Composers come from varied backgrounds across the world, making each piece unique and highlighting the diversity of patients, staff, and guests at Mayo Clinic. Many notable carillon composers have original compositions available here such as Scott Orr, Joey Brink, Pamela Ruiter-Feenstra and Geert D'hollander.



Thank you for reading!
We hope to hear from you for our next issue!

Did you know that there are so many opportunities to Play for Peace?

21 March	Harmony Day. While an Australian Day it is also the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
25 April	Anzac Day
8 May	Victory in Europe (VE) Day
27 July	Korean Veterans' Day
15 August	Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day
18 August	Vietnam Veterans' Day
31 August	Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day
14 September	National Peacekeepers' Day
11 November	Remembrance Day
