Cantus - Prelude

God Rest You Merry  As Joseph Was A-Walking  The First Noel  The Lord at First  Coventry Carol  I Saw Three Ships

- brief pause -

Cantus and Theater Latté Da present

All Is Calm
The Christmas Truce of 1914

by Peter Rothstein

with musical arrangements by Erick Lichte and Timothy C. Takach

Prologue

Will Ye Go to Flanders?  Scottish Folk Song, arr. Erick Lichte

The Optimistic Departure

Come on and Join (Alexander's Ragtime Band)  Irving Berlin, harm. Cantus
God Save the King  English Traditional
It's a Long Way to Tipperary  Jack Judge and Harry Williams, harm. Cantus
Les Godillots  Paul Briollet and Eugene Rimbault, based on Traditional French song

The Grim Reality

Pack Up Your Troubles  George Henry and Felix Powell, harm. Cantus
The Old Barbed Wire  English Traditional, harm. Cantus
I Want to Go Home  Lieut. Gitz Rice, harm. Cantus
Deutschlandlied  Franz Joseph Haydn
Keep the Home-Fires Burning  Ivor Novello, harm. Cantus
O Come, O Come Emmanuel 12th c. plainchant

Christmas

Christmas in the Camp  Harrington and Scott
We Wish You a Merry Christmas  English Traditional Carol
Die Wacht am Rhein  Karl Wilhelm
Christmas Day in the Cookhouse  Traditional English, harm. Cantus
O Tannenbaum  German Carol, arr. Timothy C. Takach

The Truce

Silent Night  Franz Gruber, arr. Erick Lichte
Angels We Have Heard on High  French Traditional, harm. Cantus
Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella  French Carol, harm. Cantus
In Dulci Jubilo  German Carol, harm. Cantus
Wassail  Erick Lichte, based on traditional texts
Minuit chrétiens (O Holy Night)  Adolphe Adam, harm. Erick Lichte
Will Ye Go to Flanders? (Reprise)  Scottish Folk Song, arr. Erick Lichte
Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern  Philip Nicolai, arr. Erick Lichte
Good King Wenceslas  Piae Cantionis, harm. Cantus

The Return to Battle

Auld Lang Syne  Scottish Folk Tune, arr. Timothy C. Takach

Epilogue

The Last Post  English Bugle Call
Silent Night (Reprise)  Franz Gruber, arr. Erick Lichte
by Peter Rothstein

I studied World War I in high school and college, but I don’t remember reading about the Christmas Truce in any of my textbooks. If I had, I certainly would have remembered. This extraordinary event took place in 1914, the first year of the war, and was never repeated. Thousands of men put down their guns and left their trenches to meet their enemies in No Man’s Land. They exchanged gifts of tobacco, rum and chocolates; even photographs of love ones. They sang songs, played a game of soccer, and buried each other’s dead. Upon orders from above, they eventually returned to their trenches and re-instigated a war that would last four more years.

So why did I not learn of this remarkable event? The propaganda machine of war is powerful, and news of soldiers fraternizing across enemy lines would put a human face on the Germans and readily undermine public support for the war. The heroes of this story are the lowest of the ranks – the young, the hungry, the cold, and the optimistic – those who acted with great courage to put down their guns, overcoming a fear that placed a gun in their hands in the first place. Their story puts a human face on war, and that’s the story I hope to tell.

In 2005 I attended a Cantus Christmas concert. I was struck by not only their remarkable sound, but also how their work was pushing the boundaries of chamber music in the ways Theater Latté Da was pushing the boundaries of musical theater. I approached Cantus about collaborating on a piece about the Christmas Truce. They immediately said yes, and our work began.

I am interested in creating performance where the content dictates the form. In the creative process I continually ask myself: If the characters were left to their own devices, how would they tell their story? What language, what tools were available to them? There was our answer – radio. Radio was critical to military operations; it was the primary means of mass communication and mass entertainment. Our piece would be a radio musical drama, using only the tools of radio: music and text. The music ranges from trench songs to patriotic and sentimental tunes, as well as Christmas music from the participating countries. The text is taken from a wide range of sources including letters, journals, official war documents, poetry, grave stone inscriptions – even an old radio broadcast.

One of the reasons I love working in the theater versus film or television, is because the theater is a two-way street. It asks the audience to engage their imagination in order to complete the story. So, here are the words and the songs of these remarkable men. Completing the story, putting a human face on war – well, that’s up to you.

To the thousands of men who changed history, thank you. May we do your story justice.

People Cited

Private Frank Bass, 9th Battalion Norfolk Regiment
Robert Burns, 7th Queens Own Cameron Highlanders
Dick Barron, 2nd London Mounted Brigade
Winston Churchill, First Lord of the Admiralty
Private W. T. Colyer, Artists’ Rifles
Corporal John Fergusen, Seaforth Highlanders
Count Gleichen, Brigadier General, 15th Brigade
Captain Sir Edward Hulse, Scots Guards
Hugo Klemm, 133rd Saxon Regiment
Maurice Laurentin, Commandant 6e Compagnie
Francis Edward Ledwidge, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers
Second Lieutenant Geoffrey Lillywhite, Royal Engineers
George Littlefair, Durham Light Infantry
Private Tom Macdonald, 9th Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment
Patrick MacGill, London Irish Regiment
Lt. General C.F.N. Macready, British Army
Private Peter McGregor, 14th Battalion Argyle & Sutherland Highlanders
Albert Moren, 2nd Queen’s Regiment
Sgt. G. H. Morgan, Royal Warwickshire Regiment
Oberleutnant Johannes Niemann, 133rd Royal Saxon Regiment
Wilfred Owen, Manchester Regiment
Second Lieutenant Arthur Pelham-Burn, 6 Gordon Highlanders
Pope Benedict XV
Jack Rogers, Sherwood Foresters
Siegfried Sassoon, Royal Welch Fusiliers
Private Frank Sumpter, London Rifle Brigade
Private Jack Sweeney, 1st Battalion, Lincolnshire Regiment
G. T. Forrestier-Walker, Brigadier General
Frank and Maurice Wray, London Rifle Brigade

- Imperial War Museum, London
The Company

**Actors**

**Matt Rein**  
Hometown: Minneapolis, MN  
Stage Credits: The Guthrie Theater, Park Square Theatre, Illusion Theater, and Children's Theater Company.

**David Roberts**  
Hometown: St. Paul, MN  
Stage Credits: Jungle Theater, Theater Latté Da, Commonweal Theatre, Minnesota Jewish Theatre, Plymouth Playhouse, Theater Mu, Children's Theater Company, and Illusion Theater.

**Alan Sorensen**  
Hometown: Minneapolis, MN  
Stage Credits: Mixed Blood, Park Square, Gremlin, Frank Theatre, Minneapolis Musical Theatre, History Theatre, Starting Gate, Bloomington Civic Theatre, TRP and the Minnesota Opera.

**Peter Rothstein**  
Hometown: Grand Rapids, MN  

**Writer/Director**

**Paul J. Rudoi**  
Hometown: Keene, NH  
Education: BM Vocal Performance, The Hartt School

**Gary Ruschman**  
Hometown: Erlanger, KY  
Education: MM San Francisco Conservatory of Music; BM Northern Kentucky University

**Shahzore Shah**  
Hometown: Chicago, IL; then Stillwater, MN  
Education: BM Vocal Performance, BM Music Education, BA French: Lawrence University Conservatory of Music

**David Walton**  
Hometown: Nashville, TN  
Education: MM Vocal Performance, University of Mississippi; BME Music Education, Harding University

**Baritones**

**Adam Reinwald**  
Hometown: Eugene, OR  
Education: BM Vocal Music Education, St. Olaf College

**Matthew Tintes**  
Hometown: Fargo, ND  
Education: MM Vocal Performance, University of Wisconsin - Madison; BM Secondary Vocal Music Education, North Dakota State University

**Bass**

**Chris Foss**  
Hometown: Council Bluffs, IA  
Education: MM Choral Conducting, University of Nebraska; BM Commercial Music, Millikin University

**Timothy C. Takach**  
Hometown: Lake Zurich, IL; then Eden Prairie, MN  
Education: BA Music Theory/Composition, BA Studio Art, St. Olaf College

**Arranger**

**Erick Lichte**  
Hometown: Appleton, WI  
Education: BM Music Education, St. Olaf College

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**Support**

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.
Cantus is the recipient of numerous awards, including Chorus America’s highest honor, the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence (2009), as well as Chorus America’s Education Outreach Award (2011). Cantus was also the 2010-2011 Artist in Residence on Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media’s Performance Today. The ensemble is heard frequently on public radio including their annual Thanksgiving program “Thanksgiving with Cantus,” and two recent performances on “A Prairie Home Companion” with Garrison Keillor.

Integral to the Cantus mission is its commitment to preserve and deepen music education in the schools. Cantus works with more than 5,000 students each year in masterclass and workshop settings across the country. Now in its fifth year, the award-winning High School Residency program brings Cantus into Minnesota schools several times a year at no charge for mentoring with a culminating public concert in the spring.


For additional information contact:
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Recordings available at today’s concert

Christmas with Cantus (2011) The men of Cantus bring the sounds of the holidays to you and your family. Including audience favorites “Do You Hear What I Hear,” “Carol of the Bells,” “Noël Nouvelet,” “Ave Maria,” this collection of songs old and new is full of light and life.

That Eternal Day (2010) This recording is a wonderful collection of American sacred music. Including audience favorites “There’s a Meetin’ Here Tonight,” “Wanting Memories,” and new arrangements of “Keep Your Lamps,” “Simple Gifts,” this program is emotionally invigorating and musically fulfilling.


Theater Latté Da Staff
Peter Rothstein, Artistic Director
Denise Prosek, Music Director
John Thew, Managing Director
Dylan Wright, Production Manager
Tiffany K. Orr, Production Stage Manager
Abby Zimmer, Marketing Associate
Betsy Husting, Development Consultant
Michael Hefty, Graphic Designer
Michael Hanisch, Videographer
Neal Evert, Accountant
Jeff Turner, Dramaturg
Patrick Bailey, Dialect Coach

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