

THE PEOPLE'S PASSION



A CHORUS OF WOMEN
11 NOVEMBER 2018

Notices

Pre-concert talk

The advertised pre-concert talk has been combined with the performance narration.

Applause

Please reserve your applause for the end of the work (and please wait until after the peace bell has stopped ringing).

Supper

Please join us for supper and drinks after the performance. A gold coin donation would be welcome to cover costs.



A Chorus of Women are a community group with no ongoing public funding. However we are extremely grateful for the significant support provided to us by the Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture (ACC&C) where we are at home. Our residency provides meeting, rehearsal and performance venue spaces, access to equipment, and support and encouragement for our projects.

THE PEOPLE'S PASSION

by Glenda Cloughley
Musical Direction by Johanna McBride

**An inspirational story for Peace on Earth now
on the centenary of the WW1 Armistice**

Sunday 11 November 2018 at 5pm
Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
Canberra

On this Remembrance Day
we tell a great story of hope for people's movements today.
Our inspiration is the forgotten story of the worldwide web of
women whose passionate actions during WW1 gave international
leadership to the irrepressible human longing for peace and freedom.

a note from **A CHORUS OF WOMEN**

A Chorus of Women has made hundreds of public presentations of original music and drama, often weaving them with civic conversations, giving voice to the great issues of our time. We first learnt the story of the 1915 International Congress of Women in 2015 through our work and friendships with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) because it is their foundation story. It captivated our hearts and minds and was the basis for Glenda's community oratorio *A Passion for Peace* which we performed in 2015. We feel kindred spirits with the women who travelled to The Hague in 1915 for the only peace conference of WW1. The story has layer upon layer of inspiring information about who the women were, how they organised and conducted themselves, their passion and their humanity. And all of this has been largely lost to history.

When we come to make this work together, we are more than a group of performers – we are a chorus of citizens, speaking and singing with one voice and with many voices. We are all in it together, giving our hearts and voices to a story that we feel has great relevance to our predicament in the world today.

from the **POET COMPOSER**

The People's Passion tells two stories of the world. One story portrays the natural law of harmony: that peace is the nurture of life, and not merely an absence of war. The other story portrays a law of discord and trauma that produces repeated scapegoating, revenge and war when it infects social institutions.

As poet composer I set out to re-sound the harmony story that I found in the century-old archives of WILPF. The truth and beauty of the women's ideas and language felt like a poetic remedy for the gross brutality of world war. Listening into some of the historical texts I heard melodies, harmony and rhythms that became songs. The main compositional task was to tune into the way they wanted to sound so the chorus could express what is trying to come into being now.

SYNOPSIS

Peace?

The peace bell rings. 'Never again' is the cry. 'Nie wieder Krieg.' If only the Armistice had halted The Traumatime March. If only the Terms of Peace had nurtured life. If only we could hear the Harmony we long for.

HARMONY (instrumental)

Acknowledgement & Invocation

Jane Addams said that 'Peace is not merely an absence of war. Peace is the nurture of human life.' Sally Blake's drawing 'The Ancient One' recalls a 30,000-year European heritage of living by that law. We acknowledge all Indigenous peoples and wisdom traditions for their nurture of life through human history.

THE CIRCLES OF LOVE

We call through time
the memories and dreams
of the circles of love
that sing our lives around and round ...

HARMONY

PEACE IS THE NURTURE OF LIFE

Two Stories of the World

One story negates life. The other nurtures life. Three young Anzacs rush off to war and The Traumatime March rises. Our Young Great Grandmother, their mother, sings to her new baby in the night.

TRAUMA LAW

... The compassionless law of
trauma breeds trauma —
war after war
within and without ...

THE CANTICLE OF NIGHT

... and when the shining young moon
lifts the old one high
lament will turn to lullaby
and hope will turn the night

Worldwide Wisdom Web

Christmas 1914

Patriotism is the only message in the Australian press for the first Christmas of the war. But everyone dreams of Peace on Earth and the women's web resurfaces. Women in warring countries write greetings to each other.

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD CHRISTMAS EDITORIAL

WOMEN'S NIGHTMARES

WOMEN OF WISDOM

THE AUSTRALIAN CHORUS *led by Vida Goldstein*

... Two thousand years of the gospel of peace

and men have again rushed to war

We women must lead We must show the way

to harmony and peace

THE GERMAN CHORUS *led by Clara Zetkin, Anita Augspurg*

and Lida Gustava Heymann

War does not separate women joined

in striving for peace and freedom

and the stream of blood must not divide

what need and hope unite

THE BRITISH CHORUS *led by Emily Hobhouse*

We will let no bitterness

taint the sorrow of our lament

Neither will we mar with hate

the sacred lifeblood of our men

The Nurses

The relentless, exhausting horror of death and hideous wounds silences many young nurses. But Mary Borden's pen is sharpened by extremity and insomnia.

CONSPIRACY

Everything's arranged carefully arranged

that men should be mangled and men should be mended ...

THE COFFIN OF NIGHT

... And how shall so much lament

turn to lullaby

War has no midwife

to deliver new life ...

Spring 1915

In Amsterdam, amid the human catastrophe of war, Dr Aletta Jacobs calls a meeting of Dutch, German, British and Belgian women who decide to hold an International Congress of Women in late April 1915. Dr Aletta's 'Call to the Women of the World' dit dit dahs round the world, keeping Dutch telegraph boys and girls very busy!

SPRING 1915

THE PLEAS

THE CALL TO THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD

REGISTRATION RUN

The Travels

Travels to the Congress are not easy. The Australians can't leave home. The hostile British Government strands 180 delegates. One of the Germans is jailed for sedition. The Belgians are a day late as they have to walk some of the way. The renewing, kind spirit of the Congress moves among 42 delegates sailing from Chicago to Rotterdam.

A VAST HARMONY

THE EARS OF THE SOUL

THE LAWS FOR PEACE

The Congress

In the same week as the disastrous campaign begins at Gallipoli a chorus of 1300 women from 12 warring and neutral nations gather in The Hague for the only international peace conference of the war.

RESOLUTIONS PRELUDE

RESOLUTION ONE

IN 1915

MEETINGS WITH GREAT MEN

FROM 1918 TO 2018

OUR CHILDREN

THE CHILDREN'S DREAMS

In our dreams our mums and dads
are sitting in the parliament
Singing harmony for us
Bringing nurture for our future ...

Yes, peace is the hearing of harmony
Singing nurture for our great great great grandchildren!

THE CHARACTERS

As our story unfolds tonight, you will meet some of the wonderful women in the 100-year-old worldwide wisdom web who are like spiritual great grandmothers to the women of the Chorus. In order of appearance:



JANE ADDAMS of Chicago — social reformer, visionary and leader in women's suffrage and world peace. She received a Nobel Peace Prize for her role as President of the 1915 International Congress of Women in The Hague and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom that was founded there. In Canberra we have a special connection to Jane Addams through her influence on Walter and Marion Griffin, who embedded her ideas and urban planning reforms in the design of our city.



This is the YOUNG GREAT GRANDMOTHER on her wedding day in 1892. Her name is Margery Munro Cloughley. She lives with her husband Alexander in the southern New Zealand town of Riverton. Three of their sons go to fight and the youngest will be killed. We meet her with their eighth baby one quiet night during the war. Margery represents all of us who nurture the children so they grow up able to trust and love, and care that the world continues to be a safe place. People like her renew the possibility of social as well as individual wellbeing in every generation.



Suffragist, pacifist, networker extraordinaire VIDA GOLDSTEIN is an Australian hub in the worldwide web of wise women. She leads the Women's Peace Army and is publisher-editor of the Melbourne newspaper, *Woman Voter*. Vida was also the first woman candidate for the Australian Senate.



KLARA ZETKIN of Berlin, DR ANITA AUGSPURG and LIDA GUSTAVA HEYMANN of Munich are leading German activists for women's rights. They write Open Letters to women in enemy nations at Christmas 1914. Anita was Germany's first woman Doctor of Laws and a leader, with Scottish barrister Chrystal McMillan, in preparing the 1915 Congress resolutions. Lida's passionate 'Appeal to Women from a German Woman' was widely read in English and helps galvanise momentum towards the Congress.

EMILY HOBHOUSE of London write the Christmas 1914 Open Letter to the women of Germany and Austria that 101 British women sign. Her position as a leader in human rights and peacemaking was established during the Boer War, when she single-handedly exposed Britain's concentration camps in South Africa where more than 4000 women and 22,000 children died of starvation and disease.



MARY BORDEN of Chicago, poet, nurse, philanthropist, author of the short story 'Conspiracy' and *The Forbidden Zone*, where she vividly portrays life in her Flanders field hospital.



DR ALETTA JACOBS of Amsterdam, The Netherlands' first woman doctor, international suffragist, women's health advocate and pacifist. Dr Aletta was the European centrepiece of women peacemakers' philosophical and practical action. Her 'Call to the Women of the World' in February 1915 initiated the Congress and the now 103-year-old Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

JULIA GRACE WALES of Canada writes the world's first continuous mediation peace plan while working as a university English lecturer and Shakespeare scholar in Wisconsin.



THE CAST

In order of appearance:

NARRATOR Miriam Pickard

STORYTELLERS Meg Rigby, Judith Clingan, Glenda Cloughley

JANE ADDAMS Louise Page

THE YOUNG GREAT GRANDMOTHER Jenny Sawyer

VIDA GOLDSTEIN Julia Wee

KLARA ZETKIN, DR ANITA AUGSPURG AND LIDA GUSTAVA HEYMANN

Meg Rigby, Judith Clingan, Glenda Cloughley

EMILY HOBHOUSE Judith Clingan

THE POET NURSE MARY BORDEN Jenny Sawyer

DR ALETTA JACOBS AJ America

JULIA GRACE WALES Maartje Sevenster

A CHORUS OF WOMEN

AJ America, Alanna Maclean, Barbara Sutherland, Barbara Moore, Elisabeth Patz, Gill Christie, Gill King, Glenda Cloughley, Helen Pilkinton, Hiroko Kurita, Irene Pellegrino, Jackie Stepanas, Jan Perry, Janet Kay, Janet Salisbury, Jenny Sawyer, Judith Clingan, Julia Wee, Karin Schulz, Kate Champion, Kaveri Chakrabarty, Lynne Thomson, Maartje Sevenster, Meg Rigby, Merilyn Jenkins, Natalie Cooke, Nola McKeon, Rae Jacobson, Rebecca Horridge, Robyn Pender, Sara Robinson, Sarah Stitt, Sue Armstrong, Sue Hoffmann, Tanya Mark, Wilma Davidson

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Abbey Lawton, Andriel Hernandez, Annabella Goodchild, Anjea Byrne, Elsa Latham, Fynnbar Clode, Jane Jouravlev, Josephine Bilson, Lewis Jenkins, Lucy Pellegrino, Matilda Jenkins, Sophie Gobbitt, Sylvan Mougel, Tessa Pocock

INSTRUMENTALISTS

FLUTES Fiona Dickson and Brian Yi (Alto Flute)

VIOLA Tim Hollo

CELLOS Gillian Pereira and Anna Johnstone

DOUBLE BASS Max McBride

PIANO Lucus Allerton

PERCUSSION Andrew Purdam, Noah Aziz-Parker, Danny Pratt

PRODUCTION TEAM

MUSICAL DIRECTION Johanna McBride, assisted by Meg Rigby
PREPARATION OF CHILDREN'S CHORUS Judith Clingan AM
EVENT DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT Glenda Cloughley,
Janet Salisbury, Johanna McBride, Meg Rigby, Miriam Pickard, Sarah Stitt
SLIDE SHOW Ivo Lovric
FRONT OF HOUSE Sarah Stitt, Debbie Cameron, Lone Thwaites,
Marguerite Castello, Tom Champion,
GRAPHIC DESIGN Barbie Robinson – Living Arts
PUBLICITY Janet Salisbury, Barbie Robinson, Danni Abou-takka
PHOTOGRAPHY Lynnette Audsley
AUDIO RECORDING Bernard Parker
CATERING Sara Robinson, Sarah Stitt

THANKS ...

Our thanks to the ACC&C Director, Stephen Pickard, for his encouragement and support, and to Hazel Francis for her patient assistance with logistics.

Heartfelt thanks to our friends Barbie Robinson for generous help and support with graphic design and publicity advice, Danni Abou-takka for writing press releases, Ivo Lovric for preparation and presentation of the slide show, Sally Blake for allowing us to use her numinous artwork *The Ancient One*, Margaret Bearlin for sharing her library, Kenneth Spiteri for advice on the dramatic presentation and David Pereira for being Glenda's musical mentor. And a special thanks to our ever-supportive friend and singing mentor Louise Page for all her encouragement over the years. We wish her well in her retirement.

Fond grateful remembrance of our Chorus elders Zahira Madeleine Bullock and Ester Gaia, and our teachers on the Indigenous European heritage Marija Gimbutas and Dorothy Cameron.

CONTACTS

WEBSITE www.chorusofwomen.org
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JANET SALISBURY 0416 167 280 janet.salisbury@iinet.net.au

A Chorus of Women's Mission

We stand in the ancient sacred lineage of the Chorus.

As women citizens we sing out in the theatre of life,
commenting and telling what must happen.

We affirm the citizens' place in the public life of our country.

We give voice to matters at the heart of our communities,
weaving integrity, compassion and respect for the Earth into
Australian democracy.

Honesty, clarity and wisdom are our aims,

Artistic expression a means to these ends.

The chorus spirit is independent of any religious or political affiliation. We are an open group and welcome new members.

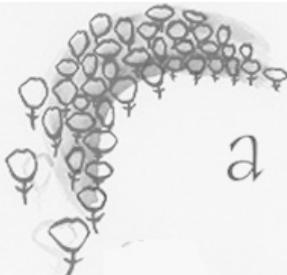
Donations are welcome at any time via our website.

www.chorusofwomen.org

Date for your diary

The next performance of *The People's Passion* will be on
28 June 2019 to mark the centenary of the signing of the
Treaty of Versailles.

Details at www.chorusofwomen.org



a chorus of women