

The Great War - Why Remember?

Produced by Peter Gardner, for 3MBS Illuminations

A music and discussion series that remembers the parts played in the Great War by classical music composers, explores how and why the Great War still today colours our art and our perspectives on history, politics, and international affairs, and asks why it is important to remember.

Each edition comprises approximately one hour of classical music and one hour of script and discussion.

Two themes run through the series. The first is the music of composers who took part in the conflict or who represent the various countries of the Allies who fought to preserve our freedoms. The composers range from Australian Arthur Benjamin, the Belgian Joseph Jongen and Frenchman Jacques Ibert, to American Charles Ives, and composers of today including New Zealander Andrew Ritchie and American Stephen Bryant, plus many others from the Allies.

The second theme is a question, why remember? But commemoration, although obviously primary, is not the purpose of these programs, which is to seek answers to questions like why did the Great War happen? Why did 100 years of peace come to an end? What does the experience tell us about preventing or containing war in future? Oxford historian Margaret MacMillan wrote last year that 'perhaps the most we can hope for is to understand as best we can.' If we do that, we may understand better our situation today, for example the tensions between China and Japan.

Program guests are Dr Christopher Clark, visiting fellow in the School of Humanities & Social Sciences at the Australian Defence Force Academy, and Professor Ross Babbage, Managing Director of Strategy International and founder of the Kokoda Foundation.

Series designed, scripted and presented by Peter Gardner as part of 3MBS' Illuminations series. The 3 x 1'59'50 minute editions will broadcast on the Community Radio Network in the Fine Music Live slot on Sunday 5, 12 and 19 April.

Part one

Sunday 5 April - in Fine Music Live - 18:00 to 20:00 EST

100 years of peace in Europe - the rise and fall of empires - failures and deceptions of diplomacy - aims and motivations - declarations of war - first shot in Melbourne - expectations - British and French led global coalition - war aims - fall of Belgium - Ireland - from manoeuvre to stalemate on the Western Front - India - industrialised warfare - Verdun.

Guest: Dr Chris Clarke, School of Humanities & Social Sciences at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Music composers: Anthony Ritchie, Sir Edward Elgar, Arthur Benjamin, Sir Henry Wood, Joseph Jongen, George Butterworth, Sir Arnold Bax, Sir Arthur Bliss, Rehiras Sahib (Sikh Gurbani music), Maurice Ravel.

Part two

Sunday 12 April - in Fine Music Live - 18:00 to 20:00 EST

Turkey enters the war - Gallipoli campaign - cinematic and theatrical mythology - prolongation of the war - Italy enters the war - defeat at Caporetto - binding the Allied coalition together - the Somme 1916 - learning, adaptation and innovation - industrial development - new technologies - mutiny - conscription in Britain, Australia and Canada - German, British and French war aims - what price peace or victory? - America enters the war - the mounting cost - reinforcements denied - end of stalemate on the Western Front - final German offensives - outbreaks of humour - John Monash - Australian troops withdrawn Sep/Oct 1918 - Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders - the war's impact on Australia.

Guest: Dr Chris Clarke, School of Humanities & Social Sciences at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Music composers: Frederick Kelly, Gian Francesco Malipiero, Sir Arthur Bliss, Sir George Dyson, Sir Ernest Macmillan, Arthur Benjamin, Charles Ives, Jacques Ibert, Nigel Westlake, Ernest Farrar, John Antill.

Part three

Sunday 19 April - in Fine Music Live - 18:00 to 20:00 EST

Outcomes and consequences - relating the war to our affairs today. Romania - Greece- Ottoman Turkey - Mesopotamia - calculations for Germany's defeat - the armistice - Poland's rebirth - Russia's defeat, revolution and civil war - Paris Peace Conference - the League of Nations - Treaty of Versailles, myths, reality and psychology, a cause of the Second World War? - were the allied war aims achieved? - efficiency of the German war machine - costs of the war - commemoration - continuing wars - Japan - China - lessons for today in international affairs, particularly for Australia - have we progressed?

Guests: Dr Chris Clarke, School of Humanities & Social Sciences at the Australian Defence Force Academy, and Prof Ross Babbage, Managing Director of Strategy International and founder of the Kokoda Foundation.

Music composers: Georg Enescu, Karol Szymanowski, Nikolay Myaskovsky, Sergei Rachmaninov, Sir Edward Elgar, Lilian Elkington, Xinghai Xian, Ralph Vaughan-Williams, Ivor Gurney, Charles Ives, Steven Bryant.

