

My composition is intended to be a piece for Remembrance Day that uses the words of the famous poem *In Flanders Fields* by John McCrae as lyrics. It is influenced by the military bugle call, *The Last Post* (traditionally played at festivals of remembrance) making repeated use of the interval of a 5th which gave the piece a militaristic and heroic feel to honour those who served.

I made the choice to use a full SATB choir as I intend it to be an impactful work that can silence a crowd. It gives the work a sense of melancholy and isolation that with the incorporation of other instruments I believe wouldn't have been possible.

Melodic lines are repeated and varied throughout the piece like is done in Danny Elfmann's *Batman Returns* with the leitmotifs. The opening where the lyrics are split between the tenors and basses that have a difference of a 5th – basses "in Flan-", tenors "ders field" – is repeated with a slight variation later in the piece, last beat of bar 52, but it is doubled by the soprano and alto acting as unifying device within the song. The interval of a 5th while being majorly influenced by *The Last Post*, is also influenced by Kate Bush's *And Dream of Sheep* which also used the interval but to create a sense of loneliness which further strengthens the melancholic nature of my composition. I also have used the technique word-painting as when the choir sings "with us who die" the melodic line mainly descends, bar 78 to 81, this was inspired by Bach's use of word painting in his choral cantata *Ein Feste Burg* using a seventh chord when the lyrics were about the devil.

I end my piece by using a chain of suspensions that resolves on the last note, I felt that this created an atmosphere of melancholy which is perfect for commemorating the lives lost during the 2 world wars. Dissonance is also used but as an aspect of word painting for lyrics like "foe" reminiscent of Kate Bush's *Under Ice*.

Another feature of my piece was the time signature changes, this created an unpredictability in the music which I have done to reflect the unpredictable nature of war – that these men fought and died in – time signature changes was something used by Danny Elfman in *Batman Returns: The Circus* also to reflect unpredictability. I also used metrical displacement, a technique used by Stravinsky in *Rites of Spring*, which added to the unpredictability created by the time signature changes.