

THE PEOPLE'S PASSION



A CHORUS OF WOMEN

28 and 30 June 2019

Notices

Applause

Please reserve your applause for the end of the work.

Refreshments

Sunday 30 June: 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

**A timeless story of the transforming potential of
compassionate wisdom and women's leadership**

Friday 28 June 2019, 7.30 pm

Sunday 30 June 2019, 5 pm

Australian Centre for Christianity and Culture
Canberra

On the centenary of the disastrous Treaty of Versailles, we continue our story of a worldwide web of women who met during WW1, developed a plan to end the war, set an agenda for human rights and saved the lives of millions of starving children affected by ongoing Allied food blockades after the Armistice.

It is a great story of hope for people's movements now about the irrepressible human passion 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 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 attended the only peace conferences of WW1, developed far-reaching principles for permanent peace, met more world leaders than anyone else in the war years, and saved the lives of millions of children starving due to the Allied food blockades. These stories have layers of inspiring detail 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.

Janet Salisbury and Johanna McBride

... 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.

I set out to re-sound the harmony story that I found in the century-old archives of WILPF and in stories about Eglantyne Jebb, founder of the Save the Children Fund. The truth and beauty of the ideas and language of these women offer 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.

Glenda Cloughley

SYNOPSIS

Invocation

The peace bell tolls for the terms of peace 100 years ago and 100 years ahead. It tolls to wake us up for two stories of the world. One nurtures life. The other negates life. Our songs of invocation sing the harmony on ...

HARMONY

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

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 ...

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

THE WELLSPRINGS

...The Spirits of the Wellsprings never die away
They are the mothers of the Songs of Life ...

A Women's Wisdom Web

In 1913

Before the war, wise women around the world are spinning a great global web of political action. Amid civil war in the Balkans, Eglantyne Jebb's lifework begins with a dream.

EGLANTYNE'S DREAM

... The children are our sanctuary
of the kindly ones we long to be

And so I make a promise to all the children ...

Christmas 1914

Of course everyone dreams of Peace on Earth in the first Christmas of the war. The worldwide web of women has been underground. Now it resurfaces as women in warring countries write greetings to each other.

WOMEN'S NIGHTMARES

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*

True humanity does not know
National hatred or national contempt...

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 ...

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 1915 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.

RESOLUTION ONE
IN 1915
MEETINGS WITH GREAT MEN
IN 1918 AND 1919

People's Passion Now

How to turn from hatred and strife?

How to protect the cycles of life for a hundred years ahead?

What messages do our spiritual great grandmothers send us from the first story of the world in 1919?

IN 2019
We hear billions of us so diverse
billions in harmony promising the children
People all around the Earth
promising to sing the Songs of Life
OUR CHILDREN
THE CHILDREN'S DREAMS

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.



JANE ADDAMS of Chicago — social reformer, visionary and leader in women's suffrage and world peace. She will receive 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 (WILPF) that was founded there. In Canberra we have a special connection to Jane Addams through her influence on Walter and Marion Griffin, who embeds her ideas and urban planning reforms in the design of our city.



This Is Margery Munro Cloughley, the YOUNG GREAT GRANDMOTHER, on her wedding day in 1892. She lives with her husband Alexander in the southern New Zealand town of Riverton. Three of their sons go to fight. One will be killed. The other two never dream, never sing again. We meet her with their eighth baby one quiet night during the war. Margery represents all of us who nurture children so they grow up able to trust and love, and care about the world they inherit. People like her renew the possibility of social as well as individual wellbeing in every generation.



EGLANTYNE JEBB, founder of the Save the Children Fund whose legacy includes saving the lives of millions of children left starving after the First World War in Belgium, Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Balkans, Turkey and Russia. She will change the way the world acts towards children through her initiation of the international agreement that became the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.



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 is 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' is widely read in English and helps galvanise momentum towards the Congress.

EMILY HOBHOUSE of London writes 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.



Suffragist, pacifist, networker extraordinaire VIDA GOLDSTEIN leads the Women's Peace Army and is publisher-editor of the Melbourne newspaper, *Woman Voter*.

She is one of the three Australian pacifist leaders who travel for 10 weeks to attend the 1919 WILPF International Congress of Women in Zurich, where they make significant contributions.



The other two are: ELEANOR MAY MOORE, Secretary of the Sisterhood of International Peace, and CECILIA JOHN co-founder of the Women's Peace Army who would later open Australia's first Save the Children Fund office.

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



DR ALETTA JACOBS of Amsterdam, The Netherlands' first woman doctor, international suffragist, women's health advocate and pacifist. Dr Aletta is the European centrepiece of women peacemakers' philosophical and practical action. Her 'Call to the Women of the World' in February 1915 initiates the Congress and the now 104-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, Maartje Sevenster, Glenda Cloughley

JANE ADDAMS Julia Wee

THE YOUNG GREAT GRANDMOTHER Jenny Sawyer

EGLANTYNE JEBB Kate Champion

VIDA GOLDSTEIN Vanessa Hooley

KLARA ZETKIN, DR ANITA AUGSPURG AND LIDA GUSTAVA HEYMANN

Meg Rigby, Maartje Sevenster, Glenda Cloughley

EMILY HOBHOUSE Meg Rigby

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, Elisabeth Patz, Frances

Deland, Gill King, Glenda Cloughley, Helen Pilkinton, Honey Nelson,

Janet Kay, Janet Salisbury, Jenny Sawyer, Julia Wee, Karin Schulz,

Kate Champion, Kiriell du Papillon, Maartje Sevenster, Meg Rigby, Marilyn

Jenkins, Natalie Cooke, Nola McKeon, Rae Jacobson, Robyn Pender,

Sara Robinson, Sarah Stitt, Sue Hoffmann, Tanya Mark, Vanessa Hooley,

Wilma Davidson

CHILDREN'S CHORUS

Luminescence Children's Choir directed by AJ America

Andrew Hernandez, Anjea Byrne, Anneke Heidmann,

Antonio de la Torre, Ava Vagnarelli, Chase Cheon, Eleanor Magee,

Ella Rogers, Eugenia Sawczak, Evan Banks, Inara Beeby, Mia Edwardson,

Mila Liu, Nina Donaldson, Nina Stachurski, Sasha Sawczak, Valdas Cameron

INSTRUMENTALISTS

FLUTES Fiona Dickson and Jodie Petrov

VIOLIN Rowan Harvey Martin

CELLOS Gillian Pereira, Clara Tenniswood

DOUBLE BASS Kyle Daniel

PIANO Lucus Allerton

PERCUSSION Andrew Purdam, Danny Pratt

PRODUCTION TEAM

MUSICAL DIRECTION Johanna McBride, assisted by Meg Rigby
EVENT DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT Glenda Cloughley,
Janet Salisbury, Johanna McBride, Meg Rigby, Miriam Pickard, Sarah Stitt
SLIDE SHOW CREATION Johanna MacBride, Glenda Cloughley
SLIDE SHOW PRESENTATION Ji Lian Ng
FRONT OF HOUSE Sarah Stitt, Adele Stevens, Debbie Cameron, Jan Perry,
Jenny Rowland, Nicola Pilkinton, Valerie Albrecht, Lara Alexandrow
PUBLICITY Janet Salisbury, Danni Abou-takka, Sara Robinson
PROGRAM Janet Salisbury
GRAPHIC DESIGN Barbie Robinson – Living Arts
PHOTOGRAPHY Peter Hislop
AUDIO RECORDING Kimmo Vennonen

THANKS ...

Our thanks to the ACC&C Director, Stephen Pickard, for his encouragement and support, and to the staff of ACC&C for assistance with logistics.

Heartfelt thanks to our friends Barbie Robinson for generous help and support with graphic design and publicity advice. We sincerely thank Sally Blake for once again allowing us to show her numinous artwork *The Ancient One*, and Louis Pratt for bringing us his prophetic coal sculpture *Regret*, which is on loan from the Bega Valley Regional Gallery. Thanks also to Margaret Bearlin for sharing her library, David Pereira for being Glenda's musical mentor, and Judy Clingan for so much musical inspiration.

Fond grateful remembrance of our Chorus elders Zahira Madeleine Bullock and Ester Gaia.

Luminescence Children's Choir

The Luminescence Children's Choir is an auditioned treble choir for Canberra-based musicians aged 10-17. Conducted by AJ America, the choir is dedicated to excellence in performance and offers young singers high-quality musical experiences and education. The choir performs regularly in our national institutions, including the High Court and the National Portrait Gallery, and tours to other centres around Australia. They have collaborated with some of Australia's finest choirs, including the Sydney Children's Choir and Young Voices of Melbourne. In 2020, Luminescence will embark on their first international tour to Latvia, Finland and Estonia.

For more info and to apply to join Luminescence Children's Choir, please visit: luminescence.org.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.

CONTACTS

WEBSITE www.chorusofwomen.org

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JOHANNA MCBRIDE 0412 050 885 johanna@incanberra.com.au

JANET SALISBURY 0416 167 280 janet.salisbury@inet.net.au

What's next from Chorus

A Chorus of Women is planning another '**Mission Climate!**'
presentation in October.

Details of our previous event in 2016 are on our website at

www.chorusofwomen.org/events.htm#MissionClimate

If you would like to get involved, please contact us.

And watch our website for further details.

