

The Christmas Truce of 1914

Based on music by GUSTAV HOLST and FRANZ GRUBER
Arranged by MICHAEL STORY (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

- 1 Conductor
- 10 Flute
- 2 Oboe
- 10 B Clarinet
- 2 Bb Bass Clarinet
- 6 E♭ Alto Saxophone
- 4 By Tenor Saxophone
- 2 Eb Baritone Saxophone
- 8 B Trumpet
- 4 F Horn

- 6 Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon
- 2 Baritone Treble Clef (World Part Trombone in B♭Treble Clef)
- 4 Tuba
- 1 Mallet Percussion (Chimes)
- 1 Optional Timpani (Tune: F, C)
- 2 Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)
- 2 Percussion 2 (Low Tom-Tom, Suspended Cymbal)

WORLD PARTS

Available for download from www.alfred.com/worldparts

Horn in Eb

Trombone/Baritone in Bb Bass Clef

Tuba in E, Bass Clef

Tuba in El Treble Clef

Tuba in B_b Bass Clef

Tuba in B Treble Clef

PROGRAM NOTES

2014 marks the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Truce of 1914, where opposing soldiers engaged in World War I combat laid down their arms and celebrated the Christmas holiday together. Beginning on Christmas Eve, 1914, German and British troops emerged from their trenches along the Western Front and began to sing carols, exchange gifts, and play games together. This unofficial truce lasted anywhere from the day after Christmas to until New Year's Day, depending on the location. To this day, this amazing show of humanity amidst the horrible struggles of war is as poignant as it is astounding.

This piece combines fragments of Gustav Holst's "Mars, The Bringer of War" from *The Planets* with the beautiful carol "Silent Night." Although Holst denied that "Mars" was written to portray actual warfare, many still associate the piece with war due to its dissonant and rhythmic nature, its title, and the fact that the piece was written very near the beginning of World War I.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The piece begins with the "Mars" theme, before giving way to loud percussion sounds representing artillery explosions and gunfire. As the sounds of war diminish, the sound of a familiar carol emerges, beginning softly, then slowly building as more and more join in.

The short clarinet solo beginning at measure 29 may be played by as many clarinetists as desired. The tom-tom part should be played by a low tom—preferably a floor tom—but any type (or number) of toms is fine.

I hope you find *The Christmas Truce of 1914* to be a rewarding musical experience!

Michael Story





The Christmas Truce of 1914

























42143S











