

Peter Meechan

# Letters for Home

Songs of War and Love

for Wind Band

2014

Duration: c13'

## Instrumentation

2 Flutes, Oboe (optional), Bassoon (optional)

E<sup>b</sup> Clarinet (optional), 3 Clarinets, Bass Clarinet

2 Alto Saxophones, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone (optional)

3 Trumpets, 4 Horns (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> optional), 2 trombones, Bass Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba

Percussion (3 players)

Bass Drum, Glockenspiel, 2 Snare Drums, Suspended Cymbal, Tenor Drum, Timpani,

3 Triangles (low, med, high), Tubular Bells, Vibraphone

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# Letters for Home

Songs of War and Love

For Wind Band

2014

Duration: c12 minutes

## **Instrumentation**

2 Flutes, Oboe (optional), Bassoon (optional)

E<sup>b</sup> Clarinet (optional), 3 Clarinets, Bass Clarinet

2 Alto Saxophones, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone (optional)

3 Trumpets, 4 Horns (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> optional), 2 trombones, Bass Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba

Percussion (3 players) – Bass Drum, Glockenspiel, 2 Snare Drums, Suspended Cymbal, Tenor Drum  
Timpani, 3 Triangles (low, med, high), Tubular Bells, Vibraphone



## Programme note

**Letters for Home** is a three movement work, commissioned by East Lancashire Concert Band with support from Arts Council England, to commemorate the start of the First World War, and the role played in the war by the 'Accrington Pals'. Before each movement a reading should be made – these may be a letter sent from The Front, WW1 poetry, thoughts and reflections recorded elsewhere, or new words, written by local poets, school children or others.

Whilst specifically concerned with the First World War, each of the work's movements broadly outlines emotions that would form part of any soldiers lives during any war – and as such, performances of this work can easily be adapted to reflect other wars both modern and historical, and locally sourced words for the readings is highly encouraged.

The first movement, "The Bittersweet Love Song" is the story of a soldier saying goodbye to his loved one before leaving for war. The opening passages are of the soldier, perhaps putting to the back of his mind the danger he is facing, singing a love song to his wife or girlfriend. In the following passages we hear his loved one singing "I love you", played by the flute section.

We again hear the soldier singing – this time with more of a sense of what lies ahead for him, but now the response is further away as they gradually move more distant from each other. The movement ends without conclusion, but with chords for the soldier's song played hauntingly over the percussion.

The second movement, "The Trench", is more self-explanatory. It combines bravado in the percussion opening with the whole band coming together as one – as a unit, before again we hear fear and trepidation in the brass, once more failing to reach a resolution. Perhaps the thoughts of the soldier are interrupted as the percussion once more calls the men to arms. The movement ends with gun shots in the percussion.

The final movement, "In Memory", opens with a repetition of the love song from the opening movement, before a slow lament, again never resolving, is heard. It keeps finding a new key, a new place, intending to represent the cyclical nature of war, and again without resolution, suggesting that war is also often that way.

Letters for Home is dedicated to Ian McGuinness, who's support, enthusiasm, and sheer hard work led to this work being commissioned and performed, and to the East Lancashire Concert Band, who gave the premiere on 27 September 2014, at the Town Hall, Accrington, home of the Accrington Pals.

Peter Meechan 2014

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# Letters for Home

Songs of War and Love

i: the bittersweet love song

Peter Meechan

2014

♩ = c.48-60 - sombre

A

The musical score is arranged for a concert band and includes the following parts:

- Piccolo (optional)
- Flute 1+2
- Oboe (optional)
- Bassoon (optional)
- Clarinet in E $\flat$  (optional)
- Clarinet 1 in B $\flat$
- Clarinet 2+3 in B $\flat$
- Bass Clarinet in B $\flat$
- Alto Saxophone 1+2
- Tenor Saxophone
- Baritone Saxophone (optional)
- Trumpet 1 in B $\flat$
- Trumpet 2+3 in B $\flat$
- Horn 1+3 in F (3rd optional)
- Horn 2+4 in F (4th optional)
- Trombone 1+2
- Bass Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba
- Percussion 1
- Percussion 2
- Percussion 3 (includes Bass Drum)

The score is in 4/4 time and features dynamic markings such as *mp*, *mf*, *mf espress.*, and *cresc.*. A section marked 'A' begins at the start of the piece. The percussion part includes a 'Bass Drum' section.

**B**

12

Picc. *f dim.* *f*

Fl. 1+2 *f dim.* *f*

Ob. *f dim.* *f* *f*

Bsn. *f dim.* *f*

E♭ Cl. *f*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2+3 *f*

B. Cl. *f dim.* *f*

Alto Sax. 1+2 *f* *f*

Ten. Sax. *f* *f*

Bari. Sax. *f*

Tpt. 1 *f* *f*

Tpt. 2+3 *f*

Hn. 1+3 *f dim.* *f* *f*

Hn. 2+4 *f dim.* *f*

Tbn. 1+2 *f* *f*

B. Tbn. *f* *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *f dim.* *f*

Glock. *p* *f* *f*

Vib. *p* *f* *f*

B. D. *p*

Glockenspiel

Timpani *tr*

Sus Cym *tr*

Vibes

Bass Drum



C

21

Picc. *p*

Fl. 1+2 *p* 1. *mf espress.* *cresc. cue #12* *f* *mf (intense)* 1+2

Ob. *p cresc.* *f* *mf (intense)*

Bsn. *f > p* *mf > p* *cresc.* *f* *mf (intense)*

E♭ Cl. *mf (intense)*

Cl. 1 *solo* *mf espress.* *p* *f* *mf (intense)*

Cl. 2+3 *f > p* *mf > p* *cresc.* *f* *mf (intense)*

B. Cl. *f > p* *mf > p* *cresc.* *f* *mf (intense)*

Alto Sax. 1+2 *f > p* *mf > p* *cresc.* *f* *mf (intense)*

Ten. Sax. *f > p* *mf > p* *cresc.* *f* *mf (intense)*

Bari. Sax. *mf (intense)*

Tpt. 1 *p cresc.* *f*

Tpt. 2+3 *p cresc.* *f*

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2 1. *p cresc.* *f*

B. Tbn. *f > p* *mf > p* *cresc.* *f*

Euph. *f > p* *mf > p* *cresc.* *f*

Tba. *f > p* *mf > p* *cresc.* *f*

Timp. *f*

Cym. *Vibraphone* *mf cresc.* *f*

B. D.

E

29

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Vib.

B. D.

*cresc.*

*f*

*mp*

*p*

1

1+2

*tr*

*pp*

*p*

*pp*

38

Picc. - Fl. 1+2 - Ob. - Bsn. - E♭ Cl. - Cl. 1 - Cl. 2+3 - B. Cl. - Alto Sax. 1+2 - Ten. Sax. - Bari. Sax. - Tpt. 1 - Tpt. 2+3 - Hn. 1+3 - Hn. 2+4 - Tbn. 1+2 - B. Tbn. - Euph. - Tba. - Timp. - Vib. - B. D.

♩ = c.124

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The instruments are listed on the left side of the page, with their corresponding staves. The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 12/8. The tempo is marked as c.124. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The percussion section at the bottom includes Snare Drum, Tenor Drum, and Bass Drum, with dynamic markings of *f* (forte) and accents. The woodwind section includes Piccolo (optional), Flute 1+2, Oboe (optional), Bassoon (optional), Clarinet in E (optional), Clarinet 1 in Bb, Clarinet 2+3 in Bb, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Alto Saxophone 1+2, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone (optional). The brass section includes Trumpet 1 in Bb, Trumpet 2+3 in Bb, Horn 1+3 in F (3rd optional), Horn 2+4 in F (4th optional), Trombone 1+2, Bass Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba.

G

51

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E $\flat$  Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

**H**

56

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1+2 *f*

Ob. *f*

Bsn. *f*

E♭ Cl. *f*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2+3 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Alto Sax. 1+2 *f*

Ten. Sax. *f*

Bari. Sax. *f*

Tpt. 1 *pp* *f* *p* *f*

Tpt. 2+3 *pp* *f* *p* *f*

Hn. 1+3 *f*

Hn. 2+4 *f*

Tbn. 1+2 *f*

B. Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *f*

S. D. *tr* *ffpp cresc.* *ff*

T. D. *tr* *ffpp cresc.* *ff*

B. D. *ffpp cresc.* *ff*



61

Picc. Fl. 1+2 Ob. Bsn. E♭ Cl. Cl. 1 Cl. 2+3 B. Cl. Alto Sax. 1+2 Ten. Sax. Bari. Sax. Tpt. 1 Tpt. 2+3 Hn. 1+3 Hn. 2+4 Tbn. 1+2 B. Tbn. Euph. Tba. S. D. T. D. B. D.

pp f p f pp f pp f p f

f f

p f p f

p f p f

p f p f

66

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

*f*

*f*



J

71

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

76

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

K

81

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1+2 *f*

Ob. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Es. Cl. *f*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2+3 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Alto Sax. 1+2 *f*

Ten. Sax. *f*

Bari. Sax. *f*

Tpt. 1 *pp* *f* *p* *f*

Tpt. 2+3 *pp* *f* *p* *f*

Hn. 1+3 *f*

Hn. 2+4 *f*

Tbn. 1+2 *f*

B. Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *f*

S. D. *pp* *f* *p* *f* *pp*

T. D. *sfz* *p*

B. D. *sfz*

86

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

*f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

*p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

*p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

91

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hr. 1+3

Hr. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

**M**

96

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

T. D.

B. D.

*f*

*mp*

1+3

2+4

1.

2.

Tubular Bells (or vibes)

**N**

101

Musical score for various instruments including Piccolo, Flutes (Fl. 1+2), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinets (E♭ Cl., Cl. 1, Cl. 2+3, B. Cl.), Saxophones (Alto Sax. 1+2, Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax.), Trumpets (Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2+3), Horns (Hn. 1+3, Hn. 2+4), Trombones (Tbn. 1+2, B. Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tubas (Tba.), Snare Drum (S. D.), Tub. B., and Bass Drum (B. D.). The score shows musical notation for each instrument, including dynamics such as *f* and articulation marks like *v*. The Piccolo, Flutes, Oboe, Bassoon, and Clarinets have rests for most of the measure, with activity starting in the final measure. The Saxophones and Trombones also have rests. The Trumpets, Horns, and Euphonium play sustained notes with dynamic markings. The Snare Drum, Tub. B., and Bass Drum play rhythmic patterns throughout the measure.

0

106

Picc.  
Fl. 1+2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
E♭ Cl.  
Cl. 1  
Cl. 2+3  
B. Cl.  
Alto Sax. 1+2  
Ten. Sax.  
Bari. Sax.  
Tpt. 1  
Tpt. 2+3  
Hn. 1+3  
Hn. 2+4  
Tbn. 1+2  
B. Tbn.  
Euph.  
Tba.  
S. D.  
Tub. B.  
B. D.



111

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

Tub. B.

B. D.

*p cresc.*

*ff*

*sub. p cresc.*

*ff*

*pp*

*sub. p cresc.*

*ff*

*pp*

*sub. p cresc.*

*ff*

*pp*

*sub. p cresc.*

*ff*

*pp*

*sub. p cresc.*

*ff*

*pp*

116

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

Tub. B.

B. D.

left of stage

[Snare Drum]

right of stage

*f*

122

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

S. D.

B. D.

R

126

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E $\flat$  Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

S. D.

B. D.

130

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

S. D.

B. D.

*sfffz*

*sfffz*

135

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E $\flat$  Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

S. D.

S. D.

B. D.

*fff*

*sim.*

*sim.*

*sim.*

*as loud as possible*

*as loud as possible*

*as loud as possible*

♩ = c.52 - 60

T

Piccolo (optional)

Flute 1+2

Oboe (optional)

Bassoon (optional)

Clarinet in E<sub>b</sub> (optional)

Clarinet 1 in B<sub>b</sub>

Clarinet 2+3 in B<sub>b</sub>

Bass Clarinet in B<sub>b</sub>

Alto Saxophone 1+2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone (optional)

Trumpet 1 in B<sub>b</sub>

Trumpet 2+3 in B<sub>b</sub>

Horn 1+3 in F (3rd optional)

Horn 2+4 in F (4th optional)

Trombone 1+2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Percussion 1  
Tubular Bells  
vibes if no bells available

Percussion 2

Percussion 3  
Bass Drum

U

V

157

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Tub. B.

S. D.

B. D.

*mp*

*p*

cup mute

open

1.

2.

*mp*

*p*



W

X

167

Picc. *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Fl. 1+2 *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Ob. *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Bsn. *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

E♭ Cl. *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Cl. 1 *p cresc.* *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Cl. 2+3 *cresc.* *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

B. Cl. *cresc.* *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Alto Sax. 1+2 *cresc.* *mf*

Ten. Sax. *cresc.* *mf*

Bari. Sax. *cresc.* *mf*

Tpt. 1 *cresc.* *mf*

Tpt. 2+3 *cresc.* *mf*

Hn. 1+3 *cresc.* *mf*

Hn. 2+4 *cresc.* *mf*

Tbn. 1+2 *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

B. Tbn. *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Euph. *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Tba. *cresc.* *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Tub. B. *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

S. D. *mp* *mf*

B. D. *cresc.* *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Vibraphone

Share Drum

174

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vib.

S. D.

B. D.

*cresc.*

*mf cresc.*

*f*

*sim.*

*Sus Cym*

*t<sup>rm</sup>*

Z

181

Picc. *ff*  
 Fl. 1+2 *ff*  
 Ob. *cresc.* *ff*  
 Bsn. *cresc.* *ff*  
 E♭ Cl. *cresc.* *ff*  
 Cl. 1 *cresc.* *ff*  
 Cl. 2+3 *ff*  
 B. Cl. *cresc.* *ff*  
 Alto Sax. 1+2 *cresc.* *ff*  
 Ten. Sax. *cresc.* *ff*  
 Bari. Sax. *cresc.* *ff*  
 Tpt. 1 *ff*  
 Tpt. 2+3 *ff*  
 Hn. 1+3 *cresc.* *ff*  
 Hn. 2+4 *cresc.* *ff*  
 Tbn. 1+2 *cresc.* *ff espress.*  
 B. Tbn. *cresc.*  
 Euph. *cresc.* *ff espress.*  
 Tba. *cresc.* *ff*  
 Cym. *f*  
 S. D. *cresc.* *ff*  
 B. D. *cresc.* *ff*

rall.

AA

187

Picc. *p* hum *ppp*  
 Fl. 1+2 *p* hum *ppp*  
 Ob. *p* hum *ppp*  
 Bsn. *p* hum *ppp*  
 E♭ Cl. *p* hum *ppp*  
 Cl. 1 *p* hum *ppp*  
 Cl. 2+3 *p* hum *ppp*  
 B. Cl. *p* hum *ppp*  
 Alto Sax. 1+2 *p* hum *ppp*  
 Ten. Sax. *p* hum *ppp*  
 Bari. Sax. *p* hum *ppp*  
 Tpt. 1 *p* hum *ppp*  
 Tpt. 2+3 *p* hum *ppp*  
 Hn. 1+3 *p* hum *ppp*  
 Hn. 2+4 *p* hum *ppp*  
 Tbn. 1+2 *p* hum *ppp*  
 B. Tbn. *p* hum *ppp*  
 Euph. *p* hum *ppp*  
 Tba. *p* hum *ppp*  
 Cym. *ppp*  
 S. D. *ppp*  
 B. D. *ppp*