

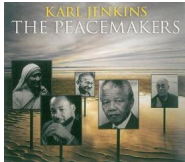
## Karl Jenkins – The Peacemakers (2011)

Written by bluesever

Sunday, 29 May 2011 18:37 - Last Updated Thursday, 16 January 2014 10:04

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Part I 01. *Blessed are the peacemakers* 02. *Fanfara* 03. *Peace, peace!* 04. *I offer you peace*  
05. *Inner peace* 06. *Healing Light: a Celtic prayer* 07. *Meditation: Peace is...* 08. *Evening Prayer Intermezzo* 09. *Solitude* Part II 10. *Fiat pax in virtute tua* 11. *He had a dream: Elegy for Martin Luther King* 12. *The Dove* 13. *The Peace Prayer of St Francis of Assisi* 14. *One Song* 15. *Let there be justice for all* 16. *Dona nobis pacem* 17. *Anthem: Peace, triumphant peace*  
Lucy Crowe, soprano  
Chloe Hanslip, violin Ashwin Shrinivasan, bansuri Gareth Davies, flutes Davy Spillane, uilleann pipes Nigel Hitchcock, soprano saxophone Laurence Cottle, fretless bass guitar Clive Bell, shakuhachi Jody K. Jenkins, ethnic percussion Rundfunkchor Berlin City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Youth Chorus The Really Big Chorus London Symphony Orchestra Karl Jenkins - conductor

'The Peacemakers is dedicated to the memory of all those who lost their lives during armed conflict: in particular, innocent civilians. When I composed *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* for the millennium, it was with the hope of looking forward to a century of peace. Sadly, nothing much has changed.' ---Karl Jenkins CBE

The Peacemakers is a work extolling peace. One line, from Rumi (the 13th-century Persian mystic poet whose words I have set) sums up the ethos of the piece: 'All religions, all singing one song: Peace be with you'. Many of the 'contributors' are iconic figures that have shaped history, others are less well known. I have occasionally placed some text in a musical environment that helps identify their origin or culture; the bansuri (Indian flute) and tabla in the Gandhi, the shakuhachi (a Japanese flute associated with Zen Buddhism) and temple bells in that of the Dalai Lama, African percussion in the Mandela and echoes of the blues of the deep

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American South (as well as a quote from Schumann's Träumerei (Dreaming) in my tribute to Martin Luther King. 'Healing Light: a Celtic prayer' is just that, with uilleann pipes and bodhrán drums. I have also presented some odd combinations, such as 'monastic chant meets the ethnic' in 'Let there be justice for all' and 'Inner peace'.

Having decided on The Peacemakers as the textual core and title of my new work the search was on to find messengers of peace. A handful of obvious figures came to mind, figures that have changed the world, such as Gandhi, Mandela and Martin Luther King, followed by such iconic and inspiring people as Mother Teresa and Anne Frank. Having sourced suitable and pithy text from these the net was cast to find other 'peacemakers'. I had been aware of Albert Schweitzer as a boy, in part because my organist father had recordings of him playing Bach, and I had previously set the Persian mystic poet, Rumi, in my Stabat Mater. I felt I needed something from the Abrahamic religions, so there are words from Christ, the Qur'an, Judaism and St Seraphim of Sarov (a Russian Orthodox monk), while St Francis of Assisi is included by association. I also quote from the Old Testament Book of Isaiah in my homage to Martin Luther King, as he did in his 'I have a dream' speech. English poets, Shelley and Malory are heard, as is Bahá'u'lláh, the founder of the Bahá'í faith. Carol Barratt added further text with the odd sentence from me. Some anonymous traditional text has also been included. I feel privileged that Terry Waite CBE has contributed some wonderful words, especially written for The Peacemakers. ---Karl Jenkins, September 2011, boosey.com

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