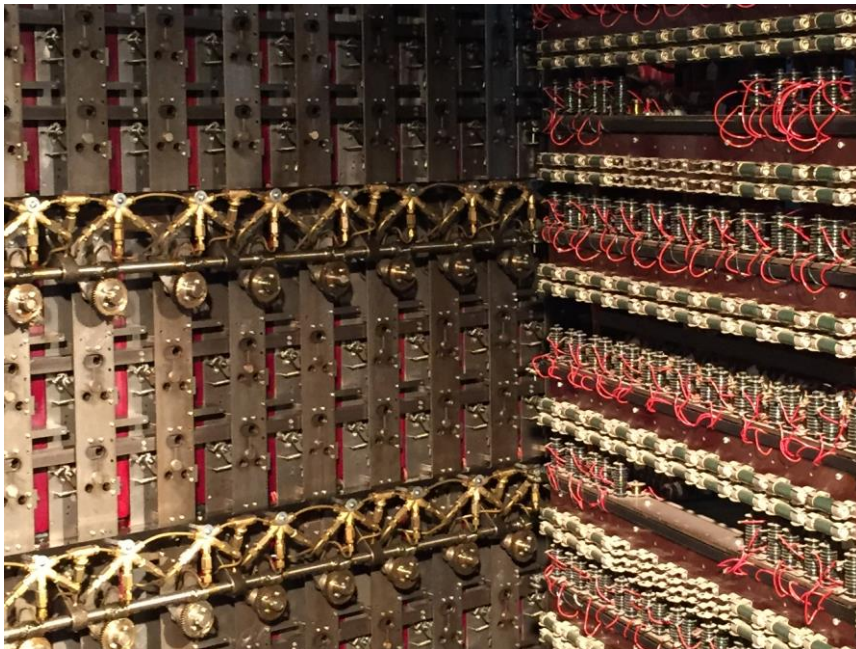


SCORE

# Their Songs of Freedom

For Brass Band and Narrator



The Turing Bombe Rebuild Project, Bletchley Park

**Music: Liz Lane**  
**Words: Andy Rashleigh**

## Programme notes

**1. *A Torch that burns across the World: Magna Carta (1215)***

**2. *Grace and Myght of Chyvalry: Agincourt (1415)***

**3. *One Young Drummer Boy: Waterloo (1815)***

**4. *Sustain a Hungry Nation: The Women's Institute in WWI (1915)***

**5. *The Tribe: Churchill and WWII (1940, 1945, 1965)***

There are so many distinctive anniversaries which commemorate important British events in 2015. Andy Rashleigh's narration draws them all together and excerpts from his words provide the titles for each musical section, also for the work itself. The composer's challenge is to reflect on these collectively.

*A Torch that burns across the World: Magna Carta (1215)* commemorates the legacy of the Magna Carta and its complexity, depicted with a certain grandeur but also recognition of 'Bad King John'.

*Grace and Myght of Chyvalry: Agincourt (1415)* draws on the words and music of the traditional 'Agincourt Carol', featuring cornets as English longbows and the lower brass as the French cavalry.

*One Young Drummer Boy: Waterloo (1815)* reflects the initiative in the battle swinging this way and that after the first attack from which a lone drummer boy survived.

*Sustain a Hungry Nation: the Women's Institute in WW1 (1915)* features lyrical echoes of a Welsh folk tune as well as Parry's 'Jerusalem', so synonymous with the WI.

*The Tribe: Churchill and WWII (1940, 1945, 1965)* recognises the death of Churchill (1965) and commemorates WWII events with rhythms inspired by his 'Finest Hour' speeches (1940). It recalls the Battle of Britain, touches on the role of the Turing Bombe's first Enigma code breakthrough at Bletchley Park (1940) and of course, celebrates with the people on VE Day (1945).

*Their Songs of Freedom* traces and commemorates many different roles – whether battles won, the role of the Women's Institute or that of a great leader. The music seeks to be a tribute to those involved who – in their distinctive ways – helped change the course of our British history over 800 years.

Liz Lane and Andy Rashleigh, 2015  
[www.lizlane.co.uk](http://www.lizlane.co.uk)    [www.rashleighguiding.co.uk](http://www.rashleighguiding.co.uk)

## **1. A Torch that burns across the World: Magna Carta (1215)**

800 years ago at Runnymede  
King John was forced to seal the 'Magna Carta',  
Designed to ratify the common law  
And curb his power.

None may be held against their will, denied a trial by their peers,  
Be taxed unfairly by despotic kings,  
This first step on a long and bumpy road  
Remains a torch that burns across the world.

## **2. Grace and Myght of Chyvalry: Agincourt (1415)**

An English army limping home from France.  
Their way was barred at Agincourt:  
And so King Harry forced to fight, drove  
Sharpened stakes into the new ploughed land.

The field was turned to mud by driving rain  
The archers kept their weapons dry  
Foul weather always England's friend,  
Dry bowstrings her salvation.

The heavy armoured French elite  
Ploughed through the unforgiving mud  
Under a shower of arrows  
The flower of France was lost that day.

Owre Kynge went forth to Normandy  
With grace and myght of chyvalry  
Ther God for hym wrought mervelusly;  
Wherefore Englonde may call and cry  
Chorus  
Deo gratias!  
Deo gratias Anglia redde pro victoria!

### **3. *One Young Drummer Boy: Waterloo (1815)***

The battle flares at Hougoumont,  
A French attack, MacDonnell and his guards  
Defend the chateau, trap attackers, killing all  
But one young drummer boy.  
Who's spared by Private Clay  
And spirited to safety in the house.

Throughout the day the fortunes shift.  
Unseen by Bonaparte, the Prussian troops  
Wait in the woods until the moment comes  
When they can pour out onto Boney's flank  
As Wellington holds firm.

The French Imperial Guard,  
Who've never known defeat,  
Attack but cannot break the Allied line,  
The cry goes up, 'La Garde recule!'  
The Guard retreats, the day is won,  
Napoleon's cause is lost.

### **4. *Sustain a Hungry Nation: The Women's Institute in WWI (1915)***

The landings at Gallipoli,  
Invention of the tank  
Then Zeppelins bomb London  
The Lusitania is sunk.

While quietly the W I takes root  
In rural Wales with simple aims -  
To show young countrywomen how  
To grow good food, preserve it and sustain  
A hungry nation at a time of war.

## **5. *The Tribe: Churchill and WWII (1940, 1945, 1965)***

When Churchill died just fifty years ago  
Big Ben stayed silent and the world stood still.

The Battle for France was lost  
But one small island stood in Hitler's way.

Then Churchill as the old man of the tribe  
Scowled and growled at the mouth of his cave  
And shook a flaming brand  
To keep the Nazi wolves away.

His voice was strong, his cause was just  
He understood he had to win  
Or there would be no hope,  
No liberty; there'd be no tribe.

The Fascist monster slain  
The people knew  
They'd faced and beaten down  
Their greatest foe.  
They laughed and danced  
Kissed and sang  
Their songs of freedom,  
Wept tears of joy.

## INSTRUMENTATION:

**Eb Soprano Cornet**

**Bb Solo Cornet 1/2**

**Bb Solo Cornet 3/4**

**Bb Repiano Cornet**

**Bb Cornet 2**

**Bb Cornet 3**

**Bb Flugelhorn**

**Eb Solo Tenor Horn**

**Eb Tenor Horn 1**

**Eb Tenor Horn 2**

**Bb Baritone 1**

**Bb Baritone 2**

**Trombone 1**

**Trombone 2**

**Bass Trombone**

**Bb Euphonium**

**Eb Bass**

**Bb Bass**

**Percussion 1:** Timpani, Suspended Cymbal, Medium Tom-Tom, Sizzle Cymbal (or Vibraslap), Tubular Bells

**Percussion 2:** Tubular Bells, Cymbals, Tenor Drum, Snare Drum, Glockenspiel, Tom-Toms (3)

**Percussion 3:** Bass Drum, Low Tom-Tom, Tam-Tam, Triangle, Wood Block, Tubular Bells

**Narrator**

**Optional community choir, male voice choir and audience participation**

**Optional cannons and muskets**

Duration: 20 minutes

Score is transposed

Front cover picture by kind permission of the Turing Bombe Rebuild Project, Bletchley Park

*Their Songs of Freedom* was commissioned by Lydbrook Band with funding from Arts Council England and first performed by Lydbrook Band, conductor Ian Holmes, narrator Philip Harper, Proms in the Park event, Speech House Hotel, Forest of Dean, 20 June 2015.



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