***CARMINA PAX***

**(Songs of Peace)**

*Peace does not mean an absence of conflicts; differences will always be there. Peace means solving these differences through peaceful means; through dialogue, education, knowledge; and through humane ways* (Dalai Lama)

*Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable*. (John F. Kennedy)

*If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.*

 *Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.*

 *Loneliness is the most terrible poverty*. (Mother Teresa, Nobel Peace Prize, 1979)

*Where there’s hope, there’s life. It fills us with fresh courage and makes us strong again*. (transl., Anne Frank, d. 1945)

Mixed Chorus, Boy Soprano, SATB (or Soprano/Bass) Soloists and Orchestra

**Z. Randall Stroope**

durata: 29:30

**www.zrstroope.com**

***CARMINA PAX***

**(Songs of Peace)**

***Carmina Pax*** is a choral/orchestral setting of seven texts, each encountering a different aspect of conflict and peace. “Peace” is often seen as an absence of war. But more broad applications exist in every society, measured by the absence of famine, class conflict, disease, terror, desire to expunge a religion, and conflicts within oneself – depression.

The causes of conflict are numerous, but the results, countless. This work is a musical “discussion” of the tragic results of prejudice, hate, hunger, inner conflict and yes - war. It is meant to create a “dialogue” between the performers and the audience to not lose hope, but to begin seeking more aggressive and humane solutions to conflict. As the world becomes more technologically “connected,” the collision between political, social and personal credos will dramatically increase. As face-to-face dialogue succumbs to electronic discourse, pent up frustration can lead to negative results. Music is a great unifier. We must first find peace in our own minds and hearts in order to find common ground and with those around us.

Z. Randall Stroope

**1. Exordium** (4:51) chorus

 *Call to Peace: “Come PEACE, be present and make the entire world your home” (text by OVID)*

 [Pax](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=Pax&la=la&can=pax2&prior=capillos), [ades](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=ades&la=la&can=ades3&prior=Pax) [et](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=et&la=la&can=et97&prior=ades) [toto](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=toto&la=la&can=toto5&prior=et) [mitis](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=mitis&la=la&can=mitis0&prior=toto) [in](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=in&la=la&can=in53&prior=mitis) [orbe](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=orbe&la=la&can=orbe5&prior=in) [mane](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=mane&la=la&can=mane2&prior=orbe).  *[PEACE, be present, and make the entire world your home.]*

 [tura](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=tura&la=la&can=tura2&prior=amet), [sacerdotes](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=sacerdotes&la=la&can=sacerdotes0&prior=tura), [pacalibus](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=pacalibus&la=la&can=pacalibus0&prior=sacerdotes) [addite](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=addite&la=la&can=addite0&prior=pacalibus) [flammis](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=flammis&la=la&can=flammis2&prior=addite), *[Burn incense on the altar of peace.]*

 [utque](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=utque&la=la&can=utque6&prior=cadat) [domus](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=domus&la=la&can=domus4&prior=utque), [quae](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=quae&la=la&can=quae17&prior=domus) [praestat](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=praestat&la=la&can=praestat0&prior=quae) [eam](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=eam&la=la&can=eam0&prior=praestat), [cum](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=cum&la=la&can=cum29&prior=eam) [pace](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=pace&la=la&can=pace2&prior=cum) [perennet](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/morph?l=perennet&la=la&can=perennet0&prior=pace) *[That the House which brought us peace, will bring us peace forever.]*

**2. I am a pool of blue…** (5:50) chorus

 *Depression and inner struggles*

 *American poetess, Sara Teasdale; suffered depression and struggled to find inner peace. She tragically ended her life. The inclusion of this Teasdale poem below is to honor her legacy and beautiful literary gifts, and her struggle to find love and happiness.*

 Peace flows into me I am the pool of blue

 As the tide to the pool by the shore; That worships the vivid sky;

 It is mine forevermore, My hopes were heaven-high,

 It ebbs not back like the sea. They are all fulfilled in you.

 I am the pool of gold

 When sunset burns and dies —

 You are my deepening skies,

 Give me your stars to hold.

**3. Four horsemen of the apocalypse** (3:01) men’s chorus

 *Pestilence, war, famine and terror*

 *Inspired by wood engraver*, *Albrecht Dürer (Nuremberg, 1471-1528): imagery of four horsemen of the apocalypse; the text below is meant only to represent the four horses of the apocalypse, and is not a setting of Dürer’s text or any version of Revelation 6.*

 Et vidi: et ecce equus albus. (And I [he] beheld a bane WHITE horse. And Its rider with bow and crown brought disease, blight, **Pestilence**.

 Et vidi: et ecce equus rufus. I saw a blood RED horse. Its rider with sword in hand, conquered all through carnage, strife, hate, violence, terror and **War.**

 Et vidi: et ecce equus niger. I saw a cold, BLACK horse. [With] scales in hand, the rider conquered all through debt, destitution, starvation and **Famine.**

 Et vidi: et ecce equus pallidus - a stone PALE horse! I saw the rider whose jaws were of Hades!

 **Death.**

**4. Invictus** (4:02) chorus and mezzo, tenor, and baritone solos; or a baritone can perform all solos in this movement.

 *Class and racial discrimination*

 *“I learned that courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.” (Nelson Mandela)*

 *Mandela daily recited the following poem (by William Ernest Henley) in his imprisonment as the result of Apartheid. (Text by William Ernest Henley)*

 Out of the night that covers me, Beyond this place of wrath and tears

       Black as the pit from pole to pole, Looms but the Horror of the shade,

 I thank whatever gods may be And yet the menace of the years

      For my unconquerable soul. Finds and shall find me unafraid.

 In the fell clutch of circumstance It matters not how strait the gate,

     I have not winced nor cried aloud. How charged with punishments the scroll,

 Under the bludgeonings of chance I am the master of my fate,

      My head is bloody, but unbowed. I am the captain of my soul.

**5. …little boy, sweet boy, narrow path** (3:57) chorus

 *Extermination of culture and religion*

 *Text written by František Bass (1930-1944; perished at Auschwitz)*

 A little garden A little boy, a sweet boy,

 Fragrant and full of roses Like that growing blossom.

 The path is narrow When that blossom comes to bloom,

 And a little boy walks along it. The little boy will be no more.

**6. The Peace of Wild Things** (4:28) chorus

 *Harmony with nature*

 Wendell Berry - poet, novelist and environmentalist (Copyright 2012 by Wendell Berry, from *New Collected Poems*. Reprinted by permission of Counterpoint Press.)

 When despair for the world grows in me
 and I wake in the night at the least sound
 in fear of what my life and my children’s lives may be,
 I go and lie down where the wood drake
 rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
 I come into the peace of wild things
 who do not tax their lives with forethought
 of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
 And I feel above me the day-blind stars
 waiting with their light. For a time
 I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

**7. ARA PACIS** (3:40) boy soprano, chorus

 *Peace*

*The Ara Pacis Augustae (Latin, “Altar of Austan Peace,” or shortened to* ***Ara Pacis****) is an altar, commissioned by the Roman Senate on July 4, 13 BC, and dedicated to Pax, the Roman goddess of peace. It stands in Rome today. Ara Pacis was well documented by the Roman poet, Publius Ovidius Naso (Ovid); Fasti 1.709-722. Freely translated from Latin:*

 Come goddess of peace; make the world your dwelling.

 Light your flames of incense from shore to shore on altars of peace.

 Whisper now, let dreams begin; echo through all struggle.

 Till the nation seeks in one accord a place called “PEACE” for all.

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Partial funding for this project made possible though the **Arlington Master Chorale**, Randy Jordan, director, and

***Doug and Nickie Burns.***

***Definitive Recording: Carmina Pax*** *was recorded in March 2019, with Z. Randall Stroope conducting. Available on Spotify.*

**Vocal Soloists:** boy soprano (movement 7); soprano soloist (movement 2); and mezzo/tenor/baritone-bass soloists (movement 4). Or, movement 4 can be done only with a baritone-bass soloist (performing all solos in that movement). The recording done by the composer included SATB soloists.

**Chorus:** Mixed Choir

**Orchestration**: durata: 29:30

Flute (piccolo) 1 player

Oboe (English horn) 1 player

Bb Clarinet

Horn

2 C Trumpets

Trombone

Tuba

Timpani (plus 8” triangle)

2 percussionists (snare drum, bass drum, xylophone, suspended cymbals, crash cymbals, triangle, tambourine, slapstick, brake drum, ocean drum)

piano

Strings

(note: the violas do not play on movements 4,5,6; the celli have some division on two movements); minimum string count is 33331.

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**Z. Randall Stroope** is an American composer and conductor. His composition teachers were Normand Lockwood and Cecil Effinger, both students of Nadia Boulanger, the famous French teacher (and student of Gabriel Fauré.) He has conducted in 23 countries and is the artistic director of two European summer music festivals, as well annually conducting at Carnegie Hall (New York), Chicago Orchestra Hall, and many other U.S. and international venues. He has 195 published musical works with Oxford, Alliance Music and other publishers, and has received numerous composition awards. Recordings of his music can be heard on his web site ([www.zrstroope.com](http://www.zrstroope.com)), Spotify or various other social media sites.

  **www.zrstroope.com**