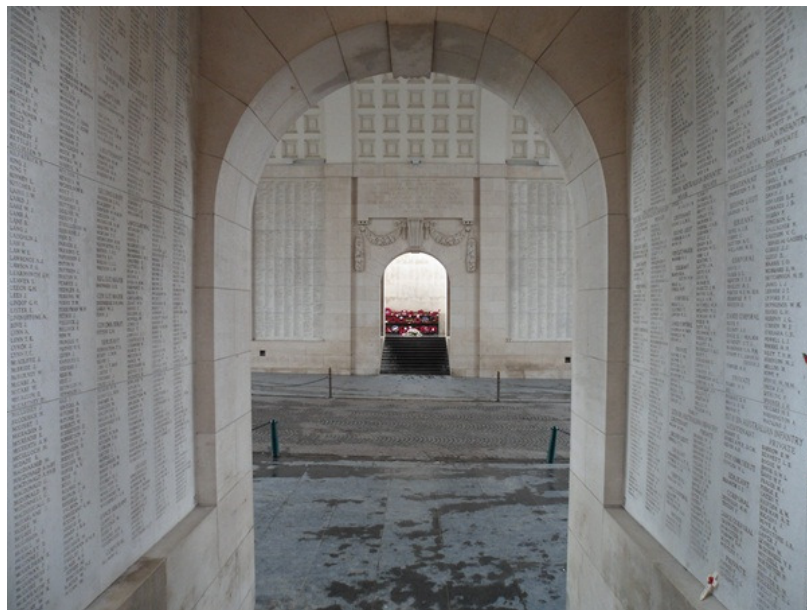


SCORE

Hall of Memory

For Wind Band



Liz Lane

The following poem was written especially for narration over the beginning of the music during the first performance by the Gloucestershire Youth Symphonic Wind Band at Symphony Hall, Birmingham. It was subsequently also performed during the band's tour to Belgium in Ghent Cathedral and Brussels Cathedral.

WRITTEN IN STONE

When you pass by this place, pause to take breath:
as your heart beats draw in the gift of life,
remembering that each named here in death
was loved in life by mother, sweetheart, wife.

Look back across the intervening years
to the young men returning; call to mind
their brave pretence at hope, and hold your tears
to see their bodies shell-shocked, limbless, blind.

Look up and read the names carved here in stone
and make your strong resolve that war shall cease.
Breathe out your blessing, not on these alone
but all who long to see the world at peace.

Jennifer Henderson [b. 1929]

Hall of Memory – programme notes

Hall of Memory is written in response to the Menin Gate Memorial to the Missing, Ypres, Belgium, to those who lost their lives in the Ypres Salient of World War 1, those that knew them, and those who have since visited and have been touched by the building and what it stands for. The actual Hall of Memory contains the names of the 54,896 Commonwealth soldiers who died and whose bodies have never been found or identified; although the Hall does not contain all of the names (there were too many), it is a symbol of the immense scale of the tragedy of this and other wars.

In my musical vision, I pictured a little bird (heard in the flutes and glockenspiel) flying around the Hall, representing a worldwide symbol of hope and freedom. Although *Hall of Memory* is appropriately and necessarily solemn for the most part, sunlight and a chorale-like melody breaks through towards the end and this also represents hope for peace.

My very good friends who lived in Belgium for several years and to whom the music is dedicated, remember hearing the Last Post performed at the Menin Gate Memorial. They told me: "I wasn't able to restrain emotion. I remember tears coursing down our faces".

Liz Lane, January 2013

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INSTRUMENTATION:

2 flutes

Oboe

Bassoon

3 Clarinets

Bass Clarinet

2 Alto Saxophones

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

3 Trumpets

2 Horns

3 Trombones

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion 1: Snare Drum

Percussion 2: Concert Bass Drum (or low Tenor Drum), 3 Tom Toms

Percussion 3: Tubular Bells (F and Bb), Glockenspiel, Clash Cymbals

Optional strings:

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Performance note: Percussion takes quite a soloistic role in *Hall of Memory* and should be both dramatic and break through the texture where appropriate; a key moment for this is at figure H which can almost overpower the band if possible.

If narration of the poem *Written in Stone* is used for performance, this can be read over the music at the beginning of the piece. There is no particular speed with which it should be spoken but it has sounded effective in performance finishing around or just after Figure C – which also enables the words at the end of verse 2 to align with the dissonant chords after Figure B.

Duration: 5 minutes

Score is transposed

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