



## **Christmas Truce 1914**

Len Ballantine

### Instrumentation

Narrator  
Tenor Solo  
Choir

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Soprano Cornet  
Solo Cornet  
Repiano Cornet  
Cornet 2, 3  
Flugelhorn  
Solo Tenor Horn  
Tenor Horn 1, 2  
Baritone 1, 2  
Trombone 1, 2  
Bass Trombone  
Euphonium  
E $\flat$  Bass  
B $\flat$  Bass  
Timpani  
Drum Kit  
Tubular Bells

Duration: ca. 11 min. 45 sec.

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Len Ballantine was born into a musical household where he began piano studies with his father at an early age. After earning an Associate diploma in piano from Western Conservatory, he studied under Yvonne Hubert at Montreal's L'Ecole Vincent D'Indy and, following that, Pierre Souveran at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. This grounding proved formative for his degree in composition where he was deeply influenced by Lothar Klein, John Weinzweg and John Beckwith. However, it was his encounter with choral music while at the U. of T. which most profoundly shaped his destiny as a composer and arranger. Since then, Len's choral and brass works have gained world-wide notoriety, with premiere performances being commissioned by The King's Singers, Yorkshire Building Society, The International Staff Band of The Salvation Army, and others.

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Using brass, choral and narration, CHRISTMAS TRUCE 1914 describes the devastating weeks leading up to the first Christmas of WWI. Even the hellish life of the trenches endured by the soldiers of both sides could not suppress the spontaneous pockets of ceasefire and fraternization which occurred in many places along the Western Front. The work was commissioned by the Hannaford Street Silver Band to commemorate the 100th anniversary of these remarkable events.

Cover photo by Robert M. DiVito

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