

The Movement for the Abolition of War

PRESS RELEASE

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Fourteen songs for 2014 - your chance to sing for peace in MAW peace project

Fourteen anti-militaristic songs are being offered by The Movement for the Abolition of War (MAW) to help choirs and groups sing for peace in 2014, the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War.

MAW committee member Sue Gilmurray, a songwriter and choral singer for many years, has led the work on a collection of songs arranged for choral singing, which can form part of any concert, ceremony or social event - or even a church service, although the songs themselves are not religious.

Seven songs are by Sue, the other seven by writers who have given their permission for the scores to be used for this project.

Sue says: "Some of the songs have a stronger note of protest than others, but all should steer singers and listeners in the direction of peace. We are encouraging people to add their voices - as singers - to the call for peace in this significant year."

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Singers including Sue and Heather Speight, also MAW committee members, have recorded audio extracts under the guidance of Bob Gilmurray to show how the songs sound in performance.

The songs include *Moonshine*, with words by MAW vice-president Martin Bell and music by Sue; *Mothers, Daughters, Wives*, for female voices, by Australian songwriter Judy Small; and *Foolish Notion* by US songwriter Holly Near, asking “Why do we kill people who are killing people to show that killing people is wrong?”

The songs include one arrangement for a female choir and one for a male choir as well as 12 more for mixed voices. One of these is an arrangement of the Tommy Sands song, *Music of Healing*, which was the title track for MAW's first CD in 2003.

Sue adds: “It would be wonderful if people could learn and sing them during this important year.”

Music and lyrics of the songs are now available on the MAW website-

<http://www.abolishwar.org.uk/> Or you can listen to audio extracts are on Soundcloud - <https://soundcloud.com/songsfor2014>

Anyone interested in choral singing is encouraged to make the most of this resource and let MAW know how you make use of it. If you belong to a choir and would like more information about the music - or its copyright - contact suegilmurray@icloud.com

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Notes to editors

The Movement for the Abolition of War aims to challenge popular thinking about the acceptability of war and raises awareness of constructive alternatives non-partisan, of all political and religious persuasions. MAW was formed in 2001 following the Hague Appeal for Peace in 1999. The founder president was Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat FRS, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and founder chair was Bruce Kent.

For more information please contact MAW publicity officer Mark Whitehead on 0208 348 3103
markwhitehead@headlinemedia.co.uk

www.abolishwar.co.uk