

I HAVE NO MUSIC

I have no music sad enough, no uplifting refrain
For all the wartime heroes, for the fallen, for the slain;
For the factories and living rooms that became the battlefield,
Battered, burnt and weary until something had to yield.
And as with poppies silently the Albert Hall is filled,
Time to spare a thought for all the good folk we have killed –
Time to spare a thought for all the good folk we have killed.

I have no music sad enough, no soothing words to say
For all the gentle souls caught up in acts of war today;
And in the ruins, grieving lovers, shattered families -
No medals and no poppies for civilian casualties;
But the hollow voice of spokesmen regretting each mistake
While leaders blame the enemy and find no amends to make –
Leaders blame the enemy and find no amends to make.

It matters not who started it or what they think it's for,
For as the poets tell us there is no Just War just war.
For victims without number and suffering without name,
For killing love and innocence we all stand here in shame.
Where can we seek forgiveness what can we do but pray
That somehow all the children can find a better way?
That somehow all the children can find a better way.

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My songs are generally aimed at giving pleasure and I had no music that reflected my thoughts on Remembrance 2014. While World War 1 was horrific enough in itself, it also paved the way for almost constant warfare somewhere in the world throughout the 20th and 21st centuries which has been devastating for anyone caught up in it. We all know it shouldn't really be like this but nobody seems able to do anything about it. That is what is behind this song which I sang in various places in November 2014, including on BBC Radio Kent's "Kent Folk" programme.