

In Flanders Fields

Words by Dr. John McCrae

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow;
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up your quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Flanders, a former county on the North Sea, was the heart of economic and political development in the low countries during the Middle Ages. It included the present Belgian provinces of West and East Flanders and parts of modern France and the Netherlands. With its favorable location on the sea, Flanders became a wealthy trading center with numerous industrial towns, such as Bruges and Ghent.

Flanders has been the scene of repeated warfare from the time of the Crusades in the 12th century through the Hundred Years' War in the 14th century, and from the Spanish Wars in the 1600s and 1700s to extraordinary battles during World War I.

In 1919 Dr. John McCrae wrote the stirring poem entitled *In Flanders Fields*. In 15 short lines, McCrae captures the courage, valor, awe and stark reality of war. The images he invokes of young people's lives, once so full of hope and beauty, vanquished by the ravages of warfare, are some of the most moving ever penned. To this day, it continues to be an emotional salute to the young men and women who have given their lives in warfare protecting the lands, the people and the dreams we cherish most. His challenge to take up the torch of the fallen warriors is as desperate a challenge to remember as any we will find in the English language.

On Veterans or Remembrance Days in North America we often wear a poppy blossom on our lapel to salute our fallen warriors. This beautiful gesture was encouraged by the vivid words of Dr. McCrae's poem. From the intrepid battle fields of Gettysburg and Bull Run, Europe and the Pacific, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf and all of the battles before and after, we do our best to remember the sacrifice of others who protected our dreams and realities. Lest we forget, *In Flanders Fields* will be there to remind us. We hope that this musical setting of these immortal words will move you to remember and be grateful.

– John Jacobson and Roger Emerson

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

For 2-Part* and Piano with Optional String Quartet

Duration: ca. 2:30

Arranged by
ROGER EMERSON

Words by Dr. JOHN McCRAE
Music by JOHN JACOBSON and ROGER EMERSON

Pensively and Rubato ($\text{♩} = 60$)

Piano *mp* pedal freely

Part I *mp* 6

In Flan - ders fields the pop - pies

Part II *mp*

In Flan - ders fields the pop - pies

4


blow be - tween the cross - es, row on row, that mark our

blow be - tween the cross - es, row on row, that mark our

7

Note: All fermatas are discretionary and should be treated as a slight slowing and stretching of the phrase, not a hold per se.

* Available separately:
SATB, SAB, SSA, TBB, 2-Part, ShowTrax CD

 String parts available digitally
(vn 1, vn 2, va, vc)

DIGITAL halleonard.com/choral

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DO NOT
PHOTOCOPY



place; and in the sky the larks, still brave - ly sing - ing, fly,

place; and in the sky the larks, still brave - ly sing - ing, fly,

10

mf 15
— scarce heard a - mid the guns be - low. We are the

mf
— scarce heard a - mid the guns be - low. We are the

mf

14

Dead. Short days a - go we lived, felt dawn, saw sun - set

Dead. Short days a - go we lived, felt dawn, saw sun - set

17

glow, loved and were loved, and now we lie in Flan - ders

glow, loved and were loved, and now we lie in Flan - ders

20

23

fields, in Flan - ders fields, and now we lie in Flan - ders fields.

fields, in Flan - ders fields, and now we lie in Flan - ders fields.

23

Opt. Descant

28

Take up your quar - rel with the foe: To you from

Take up your quar - rel with the foe: To you from

Take up your quar - rel with the foe: To you from

28

27

fail - ing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it

fail - ing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it

fail - ing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it

30

high. If ye break faith with us who die

high. If ye break faith with us who die we shall not

high. If ye break faith with us who die we shall not

End Descant

33

36

sleep, though pop - pies grow in Flan - ders fields, in Flan - ders
 sleep, though pop - pies grow in Flan - ders fields, in Flan - ders

36

rall.

fields, we shall not sleep, though pop - pies grow in Flan - ders
 fields, we shall not sleep, though pop - pies grow in Flan - ders

39

Slowly

fields, in Flan - ders fields.
 fields, in Flan - ders fields.

42