

## ***Flanders Fantasy* Program Notes**

*Great War Triptych* (2019), composed for the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I, is my setting for SATB chorus and string quartet of selected poems written during the war. This was the first piece that I wrote to be performed at the Walden School's Creative Musicians Retreat in 2019.

The second of its three movements is a setting of two poems: *In Flanders Fields* by John McCrae and *We Shall Keep the Faith* by Moina Michael. The text of *In Flanders Fields* is written from the perspective of the men who fought and died in Flanders Fields and is set for tenors and basses only. Moina Michael read *In Flanders Fields* and was so moved that she wrote *We Shall Keep the Faith* and dedicated the rest of her life to raising funds to support veterans of the war. My setting of *We Shall Keep the Faith* begins with sopranos and altos only, who are then joined by the full chorus.

I listened to the recordings of this recently and was taken by how much I liked the movement and felt that it deserved to be heard again but in a different way. As a percussionist and composer, I enjoy how different rhythms can have such a big impact on music's affect. I was also looking to gain more experience writing for chamber groups that include piano. These issues all played into the genesis of this work, which will be performed during the 2026 Creative Musicians Retreat.

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