



*University of the Third Age*

**U3A Dunedin Charitable Trust**

A LEARNING OPTION FOR THE RETIRED

**Series 1 2015**

**RELIGIOUS MUSIC IN THE TIME OF WAR**

**Dates: Tuesday 10 March to 21 April**

**Time: 2:15 – 4:15 pm**

**Venue: Leith Bowling Club, 2 Duke Street, Dunedin North**

**Enrolments for this course will be limited to 110**

**Course Fee: \$40.00**

**Tea and Coffee provided**

**Course Organiser: Sue Harvey (478 0057)**

**Course Assistants: Robin Harvey**

**Jane Higham (476 1848)**

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You may apply to enrol in more than one course. If you wish to do so, you must indicate your choice preferences on the application form, and include payment of the appropriate fee(s).

All applications must be received by noon on Wednesday 11 February and you may expect to receive a response to your application on or about 21 February.

Any questions about this course after 21 February should be referred to Marion Potter, telephone 453 4721 or on email [mw.potter@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mw.potter@xtra.co.nz)

**Please note**, that from the beginning of 2015, there is to be no recording, photographing or videoing at any session in any of the courses.

***Please keep this brochure as a reminder of venue, dates, and times for the courses for which you apply.***

# RELIGIOUS MUSIC IN THE TIME OF WAR

This course will be presented by Emeritus Professor Colin Gibson

This course will present a musical overview of the life and work of four distinguished English composers who in the course of two World Wars either served on the battlefield or were profoundly influenced by the events of the time. Some of them produced their finest writing in direct response to their experiences, just as earlier composers had done. But each of them created a corpus of religious music of the highest quality—some pieces written for church use, some not; music that is still regularly performed and appreciated. We will explore this heritage, using plenty of illustrations through DVDs of actual performances or CD recordings by professional musicians.

**10 March Before**

We look back at some of the religious music created in response to older European conflicts by such composers as Vivaldi, Handel, Haydn and Beethoven.

**17 March Vaughan Williams I**

We explore Vaughan Williams' career as church musician to the eve of the first World War: along with much choral music he created an orchestral pastoral vision of an England at peace.

**24 March Vaughan Williams II**

Vaughan Williams served as a medical orderly during the first World War. That experience changed his work and he produced a series of major works including the *Da Nobis Pacem* (Grant us peace) and *Pilgrim's Progress*.

**31 March Benjamin Britten**

A pacifist and uncommitted to any particular Christian denomination, Britten nevertheless wrote music on religious and spiritual themes from the age of 9. His masterpiece is *The War Requiem*.

**14 April Gustav Holst**

The music describing Mars, God of War, in the orchestral suite *The Planets* is familiar and powerful. Poor health kept Holst from actual war service and he developed an interest in Eastern mystical religions.

**21 April Karl Jenkins**

This now world-famous Welsh composer was born at the end of the Second World War, but against a background of modern conflict has continued to compose large choral works which combine elements of many faiths and take war and peace as their special theme. The masterpiece here is his *Mass of the Armed Man*.