



INTRODUCTION TO THE SONGS

Welcome to the new songs by writer Stephen Plaice and composer Matthew King.

For each song there is an illustrated PowerPoint of the lyrics as well as word sheets. Each song has been recorded in 3 ways. There is a recording of both the higher and a lower parts so that you can either choose which version to sing, OR you can sing both parts (as shown in the score), to sing the song in harmony. There is also a piano-only recording for you to practice with. If you wish to provide your own instrumental arrangement or play the accompaniment yourselves, the vocal and piano score is provided (with an easier option piano version), or you can sing to the recording of the piano-only version of the songs. You are of course also welcome to sing along to the vocal recordings or even just to listen to the songs with the PowerPoints, so that you can choose your own way of commemorating D-Day on or around 6 June 2019.

SYNOPSES

D-Day

The small domestic details and the morale-raising posters of WW2 (such as *Salvage for Victory*, *Squash the Squander Bug*), come into focus around Gran who is mending a jumper to 'do her bit'. Mum, leaving the factory, blows a kiss to a soldier heading towards the invasion, which he later remembers as he lies wounded on the sand.

When the children of 2019, seventy-five years on, ask how they can 'do their bit' - the huge host of contributors to the D-Day operation rise to ask them and us, to remember, as Gran knits them all together in the great pattern of Time.

Two Minutes

A soldier in one of the landing craft posthumously reflects on the last two minutes before the storming of the Normandy beaches. He asks the generations that have come after, over whom he and his comrades now benevolently watch, to spare two minutes of silence to join his platoon in the landing craft. By empathising with their experience, he explains, his life and the lives of his fellow soldiers are not completely lost.

Understanding the Lyrics (KS2)

Discuss the meanings of the songs and any new or difficult words. Why has the writer Stephen Plaice used some of the words he has? What effects do they create? Use the PowerPoints which illustrate the lyrics to aid students' understanding and to take them back into the world of Operation Overlord and the build up towards D-Day. Think about the lyrics in the context of this project – how do they make us remember and what do they make us feel?

