

*Commissioned by **Away From The Western Front**  
with funding from the **Heritage Lottery Fund***

# "No Parades"

*For solo voice, female voice choir  
(S/S/A/A) and piano/guitar*

Music & lyrics by Chris Hoban

*'No Parades' was created as part of the 'Away from the Western Front' project (2017-19).  
This was set up to highlight the global reach of the First World War, which did not just take place in the trenches  
of France and Flanders, and led to massive changes across the world.*

*For more information, see <https://awayfromthewesternfront.org/>. 'Away from the Western Front'  
is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (number 1167582).*

*You may copy this music for non-commercial public use within the Creative Commons framework.*

**Away from the  
Western Front**



# No Parades

Liltingly, not too fast  $\text{♩} = 58$

Lyrics & music by  
Chris Hoban

Piano introduction in 6/4 time. The right hand plays a melody of eighth notes, and the left hand plays a bass line of dotted half notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, C<sup>9</sup>/E<sup>b</sup>, C/E<sup>b</sup>, C, Dmi<sup>7</sup>, G<sup>7</sup>, C.

5

Voice

1. We were raised up as sons of the em- pire, To King George we were loy - al and  
want - ed to prove as a sol - dier That the black man's as good as the  
scrub-lands of Me - sa - po - ta - mia And the de - serts of E - gypt we  
wait - ed de - mo - bi - li - sa - tion All that win - ter of nine-teen eigh-  
grace and dis - armed and dis - band - ed For our mu - ti - nous ways we were

Pno.

Piano accompaniment for the first vocal line. Chords are indicated above the staff: G<sup>7</sup>, C, G<sup>7</sup>, C, C /D /E.

9

Voice

true, And when war was de - clared, with - out ques - tion, Vo - lun - teer was the least we could  
white"; If an in - fan - try - man has no ri - fle, Well then, how in the hell can he  
worked; When they gave us a chance for some fight ing, We de - feat - ed the Hun and the  
teen, While we toiled in the grime of Ta - ran - to, Load - ing am - mo and clean - ing la -  
spurned, But through hard - ship and hu - mi - li - a - tion A po - li - ti - cised sol - dier re -

Pno.

Piano accompaniment for the second vocal line. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, /E, Dmi, 7/C, G/B, G<sup>7</sup>.

13

Voice

do. So at Up Park Camp, King- ston, Ja - mai - ca We were schooled in the tools of our  
 fight? They as - signed us in "La - bour Bat - tal lions"\*\_ With a mop and a buck - et and  
 Turk. But when ar - mis - tice came in No - vem ber, We were told our re - turn was de -  
 trines. When they treat - ed the whites to a pay rise, It was like some - one lobbed a gre -  
 turned; Some were pu - nished, or forced in - to e - xile, Oh, but ma - ny a ve - te - ran

[SSAA tacet V1 & 4]

S.1 Ooh Ooh

S.2 Ooh Ooh

A.1 Ooh Ooh

A.2 Ooh Ooh

Pno. C G7 C G7 C C /D /E

17

Voice

trade, And we sang all our songs of old Eng - land And we dreamed of our wel - come pa -  
 spade, Far a - way from the tren - ches and fight ing, Far a - way from the march - ing pa -  
 layed, And they shipped us a - way to Ta - ran - to, Where we missed all the vic - tory pa -  
 nade; All our years of re - sent - ment ex - plo - ded, Saying, to hell with their rules and pa -  
 stayed, And we led them to - wards in - de - pen - dence, We old sol - diers who had no pa -

S.1 Ooh Ooh

S.2 Ooh Ooh

A.1 Ooh Ooh

A.2 Ooh Ooh

Pno. F C°/E♭ C/E♯ C Dmi7 G7

21

1. | 2.-5. **ten.** **a tempo**

Voice  
 rades. 2. How we rades. No pa - rades for  
 rades. rades. rades!  
 rades.

S.1  
 ooh. No pa - rades for

S.2  
 ooh. No pa - rades for

A.1  
 ooh. No pa - rades for

A.2  
 ooh. No pa - rades for

Pno.  
 1.  $\text{C}$  | 2.-5. **ten.**  $\text{G/B}$   $\text{Ami}$  **a tempo**  $\text{G}$

25

Voice  
 us, boys, — The West Ind-ian will have no pa - rades, From Ja - mai - ca, Bar - ba - dos, Gui -  
 The Ba - ha - mas, Hon - du - ras, Gre -  
 From the Lee - wards, Saint Lu - cia, Saint  
 Out of Tri - ni - dad and from To -

S.1  
 us, boys, — The West Ind-ian will have no pa - rades, Ooh

S.2  
 us, boys, — The West Ind-ian will have no pa - rades, Ooh

A.1  
 us, boys, — The West Ind-ian will have no pa - rades, Ooh

A.2  
 us, boys, — The West Ind-ian will have no pa - rades, Ooh

Pno.  
 F /A C /E Dmi7 G7

29

Voice  
 a - na, From the is - lands and main - land we came, To fight, and to show our al -  
 na - da,  
 Vin - cent,  
 ba - go,

S.1  
 From the is - lands and main - land we came, To fight, and to show our al -

S.2  
 From the is - lands and main - land we came, To fight, and to show our al -

A.1  
 From the is - lands and main - land we came, To fight, and to show our al -

A.2  
 From the is - lands and main - land we came, To fight, and to show our al -

Pno.  
 C /E D7 /F# G 7 G7

33

Voice  
 le - giance\_ But re - turned to our home - lands in shame; While for some there'll be ho - nour and

S.1  
 le - giance\_ But re - turned to our home - lands in shame; While for some there'll be ho - nour and

S.2  
 le - giance\_ But re - turned to our home - lands in shame; While for some there'll be ho - nour and

A.1  
 le - giance\_ But re - turned to our home - lands in shame; While for some there'll be ho - nour and

A.2  
 le - giance\_ But re - turned to our home - lands in shame; While for some there'll be ho - nour and

Pno.  
 C /G C /E F /C F C°/E♭

37

Voice  
 glo - ry, The West In - dian will have no pa -

S.1  
 glo - ry, The West In - dian will have no pa -

S.2  
 glo - ry, The West In - dian will have no pa -

A.1  
 glo - ry, The West In - dian will have no pa -

A.2  
 glo - ry, The West In - dian will have no pa -

Pno.  
 C/E<sup>b</sup> C Dmi<sup>7</sup> G<sup>7</sup>

39

Voice  
 1.-3. 4. rit. Fine  
 rades. 3. In the rades.  
 4. We a -  
 5. In dis -

S.1  
 rades. rades.

S.2  
 rades. rades.

A.1  
 rades. rades.

A.2  
 rades. rades.

Pno.  
 1C G<sup>7</sup> C rit. Fine

\* For more information about the "Labour Battalions", please see <http://westindiacommittee.org/caribbeangreatwar/map/africa/topics/labour-battalions/>