



8 May 1945 marked the end of World War Two in Europe. The day was one of celebration in Britain and saw people coming together in street parties.

LISTENING



Many films have been made about World War II.

Here is a selection of well known 'themes' from some of these films to listen to.

'Hymn to the Fallen' from Saving Private Ryan (Composer – John Williams)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ejg-IPcFxU>

Theme from Schindler's List (Composer - John Williams)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VorGotjeLjM>

March from The Dam Busters (Composer – Eric Coates)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K32Adi8nmzA>

Theme from 633 Squadron (Composer – Ron Goodwin)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XWXQUhBsUVM>

Theme from The Great Escape (Composer – Elmer Bernstein)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbsuAbTTsV8>

Górecki – Symphony of Sorrowful Songs

Henryk Górecki was one of the composers responsible for the post-war Renaissance of Polish music – and his 1976 Symphony No. 3 was wonderfully melancholy. A solo soprano sings Polish texts in all three movements of the Symphony of Sorrowful Songs. For the second movement, the composer was inspired by the words etched into the walls of a Gestapo prison by an 18-year-old girl during the Second World War. The words read:

"No, Mother, do not weep,
Most chaste Queen of Heaven
Support me always."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BVVISGSVjjw>

Copland – Fanfare for the Common Man

Written by request of Eugene Goossens, conductor of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Aaron Copland's 1942 fanfare was a response to the US entry into the Second World War.

The 'Fanfare for the Common Man' was partly inspired by a famous speech made earlier that year by the Vice President of the USA, Henry A. Wallace, who announced the dawning of the 'Century of the Common Man'. Short, rhythmic, loud and exciting – it's everything a military fanfare should be.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4NjssV8UuVA>

Britten – War Requiem

...And if you have an hour and a half to spare, do listen to Benjamin Britten's War Requiem. Commissioned to celebrate the opening of the new cathedral at Coventry, built to replace the one destroyed by bombs, Britten used the opportunity to write a large-scale composition embodying his deeply held pacifist and humanitarian beliefs. The result, the War Requiem, is regarded by many as his masterpiece in the non-operatic sphere. Britten intersperses his setting of the traditional Latin Missa pro Defunctis with nine poems of the First World War poet Wilfred Owen, resulting in highly subtle and powerful contrasts and ironies. Written in a direct style, the War Requiem carries overwhelming conviction, and concert audiences the world over continue to respond to its timeless relevance.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=625WOYzdvFw>.



SINGING



Visit <https://www.singup.org/singupathome/empowering-inspiring> to enjoy learning two songs relating to VE Day:

- 1) **Hang Out the Washing on the Siegfried Line** – a patriotic song from 1939 which was written as a morale booster for the Allied troops in World War II.
- 2) **Remember** - a contemporary ballad that teaches children about the importance of remembering those who died in the World Wars.



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