

# War Music

*author: Christopher Logue*

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# Synopsis

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author	Christopher Logue
readBy	Simon Vance
inLanguage	english

**A remarkable hybrid of translation, adaptation, and invention...**

*Picture the east Aegean sea by night,  
And on a beach aslant its shimmering  
Upwards of 50,000 men  
Asleep like spoons beside their lethal Fleet.*

“Your life at every instant up for - / Gone. / And, candidly, who gives a toss? / Your heart beats strong. Your spirit grips,” writes Christopher Logue in his original version of Homer’s *Iliad*, the uncanny “translation of translations” that won ecstatic and unparalleled acclaim as “the best translation of Homer since Pope” (*New York Review of Books*).

Logue’s account of Homer’s *Iliad* is a radical reimagining and reconfiguration of Homer’s tale of warfare, human folly, and the power of the gods in language and verse that is emphatically modern and “possessed of a very terrible beauty” (*Slate*). Illness prevented him from bringing his version of the *Iliad* to completion, but enough survives in notebooks and letters to assemble a compilation that includes the previously published volumes *War Music*, *Kings*, *The Husbands*, *All Day Permanent Red*, and *Cold Calls*, along with previously unpublished material, in one final illuminating volume arranged by his friend and fellow poet Christopher Reid. The result, *War Music*, comes as near as possible to representing the poet’s complete vision and confirms what his admirers have long known: that “Logue’s Homer” is likely to endure as one of the great long poems of the 20th century” (*Times Literary Supplement*).

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