

Joachim Grzega

## Four Poems for Peace

Let me present a few poems, supplemented by a few explanations.

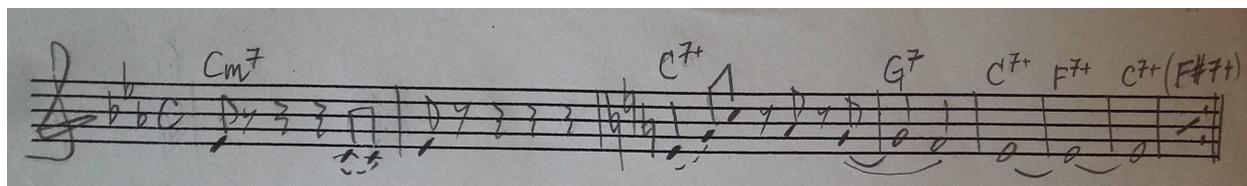
In my 2017 collection *Europoesia* I collected poems that I expect to be understood all over Europe —due to their structure or their language. They are poems with words, phrases and word-elements (Modern Latin, French, English, onomatopoeic), known across Europe. One of the poems was this:

### Metallurgia pacifistika

ex pistol –	in pianola
ex raket –	in trumpe11ta
ex karabin –	in tamburina
ex kanon –	in metallofona
ex bomb –	in tromba

This is not an existing language, but all artificial “words” are European. The poem is a call on the metal industry: Turn away from the production of weapons and dedicate yourselves to the production of musical instruments. In each line the weapon to be abandoned is preceded by the word *ex*, which is Latin for ‘from’ and European in the sense of ‘former, past’; in contrast, *in* is Latin for ‘toward, in, into’ and it is also the English word for ‘fashionable’). Weapons do not sound nice, which is expressed through voiceless consonants at the end of the words; in contrast, the words for good-sounding instruments end in a melodic “a” at the end of words.

For some of these poems I also wrote music to them. These are the melody and the harmonies that you can play for each line of the poem above.



Another poem from the 2017 collection *Europoesia* includes a reference to the war Ukraine, which has practically been going on since 2014.

### **After the Cold War**

— Who started war in Yugoslavia?  
     Who should go under arrest?  
 — Russia?  
 — Oh no! NATO, the west!

— Who started war in Afghanistan?  
     Who should go under arrest?  
 — Russia?  
 — Oh no! NATO, the west!

— Who started war in Iraq?  
     Who should go under arrest?  
 — Russia?  
 — Oh no! NATO, the west!

— Who started war in Libya?  
     Who should go under arrest?  
 — Russia?  
 — Oh no! NATO, the west!

— Who started war in Syria?  
     Who should go under arrest?  
 — Russia?  
 — Oh no! NATO, the west!

— Who started war in Ukraine?  
     Who should go under arrest?  
 — Russia?  
 — Oh yes! And NATO, the west!

It's best that every war now ends.  
 Then everybody can be friends.  
 No more war, not cold, not hot,  
 only peace in every spot.

On the whole, the text reminds the reader of several of NATO's illegal attacks on other countries. This is meant as a justification of Russia's military actions in Ukraine, but as a call to the west not to be too arrogant and apply any double standards putting itself into a morally higher position.

Here are three poems published here for the first time.

### **Why Be a War-Maker?**

War-makers will meet hate —  
 now from the enemy state  
 and from the home country later.  
 So: why be a war-maker?

War-makers are heroes —  
 for their home country now,  
 not for their home country later.  
 So: why be a war-maker?

O, Why be a war-maker?  
 For their home country later:  
 War-makers are zeros.  
 This is what history shows. —

### **Peace Slogans**

Don't trust trusts.

War makes a country weak.  
 Peace gives a country power.

Peace is powerful.  
 Peace is profitable.

War-lovers are word-losers.  
 War-lovers are peace-losers.

Forget your fists.  
 Let your arms be your arms.

## Peace Temperature

Hearts are hotter than hate.  
Words are warmer than wars,  
Chats are cooler than canons.

“Peace Temperature”—a call for diplomacy and peace linguistics!

*Joachim Grzega*  
*DE-85072 Eichstätt*  
[joachim.grzega@freenet.de](mailto:joachim.grzega@freenet.de)

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