

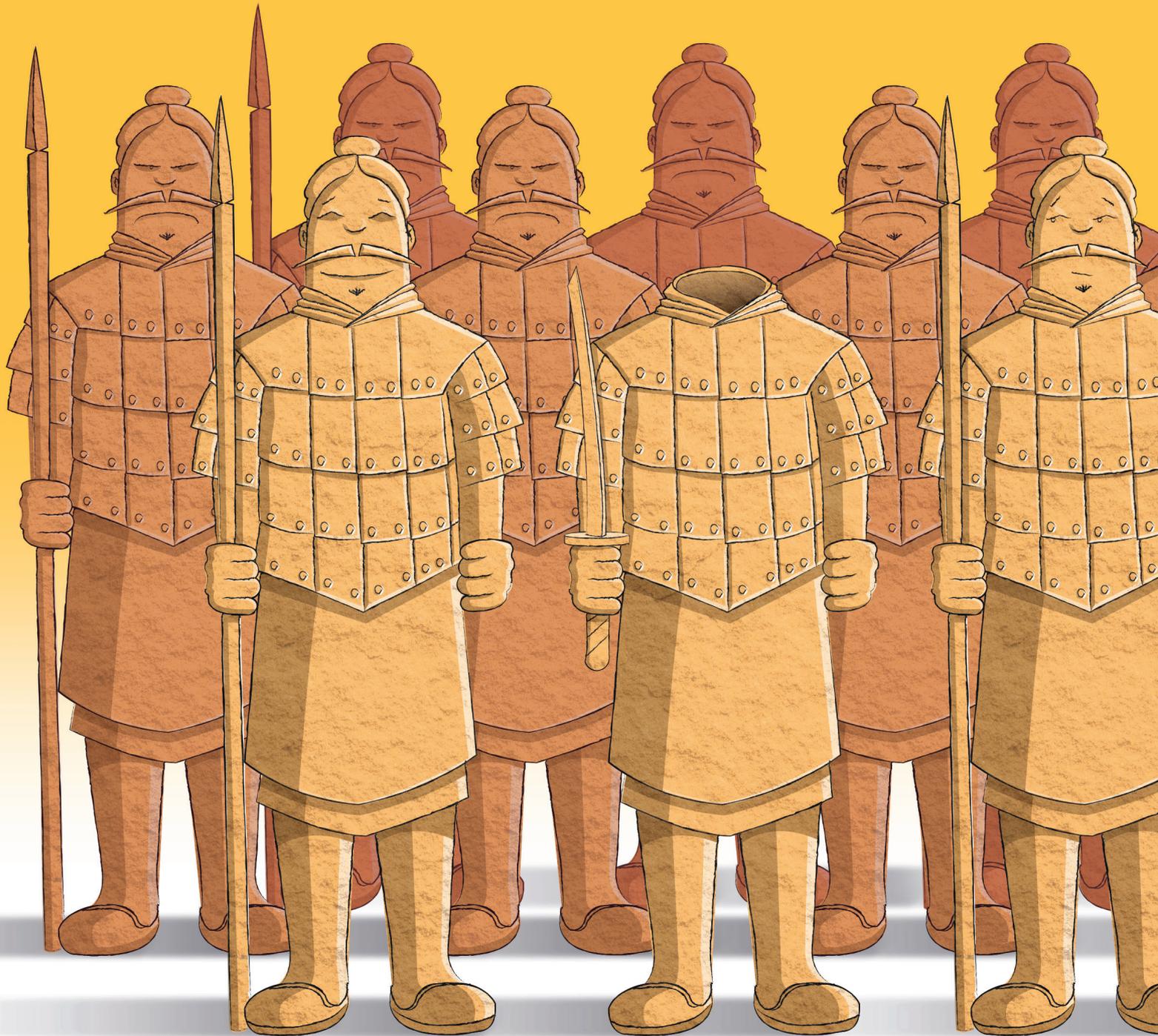
# Warriors!

The Emperor's Incredible Army



Scottish  
Opera

LYRICS



Commissioned with the five Scottish Confucius Institutes

# The three groups

## **SOLDIERS: THE EMPEROR'S LIVING ARMY.**

On the performance day they will be led by the Scottish Opera facilitator playing Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi.

## **PEASANTS: THE DEFEATED PEOPLE OF CHINA.**

The Scottish Opera facilitator playing Dan of Yan will lead this group.

## **BUILDERS: THE CRAFTSPEOPLE OF CHINA, WHO WILL BUILD THE TERRACOTTA WARRIORS.**

The Scottish Opera facilitator playing Zhang Han will lead this group.

# Prologue: **Huangying! Welcome!**

## (All groups)

### **PEASANTS**

Huangying! Welcome!

### **SOLDIERS**

Huangying! Welcome!

### **BUILDERS**

Huangying! Welcome!

### **ALL**

Huangying! Welcome! Welcome to our story!

### **EMPEROR**

Gather round and listen well,  
Your Emperor commands you!  
The story that we're going to tell,  
It surely will astound you!

### **DAN OF YAN**

2,000 years ago or more,  
The place is ancient China!  
An Emperor unites the land,  
His name is Emperor Qin.

### **ZHANG HAN**

Some say he's cruel,  
Some say a fool,  
Some whisper that he's barmy.

### **EMPEROR**

For death it seems,  
It haunts my dreams,  
To live and live forever.

### **DAN OF YAN**

No potion, pills,  
Or other ills,  
Can cheat cruel death – no, never!

### **ZHANG HAN**

But if it does,  
He'll call on us,  
To build a fearsome army!

### **ALL**

Huangying! Welcome!  
Huangying! Welcome!  
Welcome to our story!

# Song 1: **The Emperor of Everything**

## (All groups)

### **ALL**

All hail the Emperor – Qin Shi Huangdi!  
All hail the Emperor – Qin Shi Huangdi!  
All hail the Emperor – Qin Shi Huangdi!  
All hail the Emperor – Qin Shi Huangdi!

### **EMPEROR**

Sing, my warriors, sing,  
Tell all the world who rules them now.

### **SOLDIERS**

Shine, Emperor, shine,  
Your brilliant plan, your grand design.  
Fight, Emperor, fight,  
A cat that claws, a snake that bites.

Your warriors await command,  
To take your rule to every land.

For you we live to fight and die,  
So hear us shout and hear us cry,  
Qin Shi Huangdi!!

### **CHORUS**

All Hail the Emperor  
The Emperor of everywhere,  
All Hail the Emperor,  
The Emperor of everything.

The seven kingdoms he has won,  
Now China begins,  
So tremble when you look at him,  
The Emperor Qin.

### **DAN OF YAN**

Kneel, my people, kneel,  
An Emperor commands you now.

### **PEASANTS**

We'll kneel before you, Emperor,  
We'll bow and scrape and crawl and tear our hair if you command.  
Have mercy on us, great one,  
Our only sin, oh mighty Qin, was to defend our land.

What right have you, great Emperor,  
To steal our lands and burn our books and kill us where we stand?  
No mercy for us, great one,  
It's no surprise, for your demise – we scheme and plot and plan.

**CHORUS**

All Hail the Emperor,  
The Emperor of everywhere,  
All Hail the Emperor,  
The Emperor of everything.  
The seven kingdoms he has won,  
Now China begins,  
So tremble when you look at him,  
The Emperor Qin.

**ZHANG HAN**

See, great Emperor, see  
The magic of the world awaits!

**BUILDERS**

If you want it we can make it,  
Think it up and we'll create it,  
We build, you're thrilled, or else you get it free.

We've lotions, potions that help you live eternally,  
We'll start on that Great Wall and still be done by 3,  
Perhaps you'd like a tomb,  
With 14,000 rooms?  
No job's too big,  
Canals we'll dig,  
For Emperor Huangdi.

And everything we build has an eternal guarantee,  
If it doesn't last forever, we won't expect a fee.  
We're up to any task,  
You only have to ask,  
We aim to please,  
On bended knees,  
For Emperor Huangdi.

**CHORUS**

All Hail the Emperor,  
The Emperor of everywhere,  
All Hail the Emperor,  
The Emperor of all things,  
That is why we call him,  
Emperor of everything!

# Recit 1: **General Tian Steps Forward**

## **EMPEROR**

General Tian – step forward,  
The greatest soldier in the land.

General Tian,  
You fought for me,  
And brought for me,  
My soldiers home at last,  
You have won my battles,  
You have won my wars.

You never understood the meaning of defeat,  
Not one step back you cried aloud,  
While enemies cried, 'Retreat, retreat!'  
Or, 'Mercy, don't hurt us please!'  
You chopped them into a thousand pieces.

But let them tell the tale themselves,  
Soldiers – step forward,  
Your Emperor commands,  
Sing to me of battles,  
Sing to me of wars.

# Song 2: **The Golden Age** (Soldiers)

*Pronunciation: Yi = eee. Er = arr. San = sahn. Si = ssuh. Meaning 1-2-3-4!*

## **ALL**

Yi! Er! San! Si!  
Yi! Er! San! Si!

Yi! Er! San! Si!  
Yi! Er! San! Si!

## **CHORUS**

We are soldiers,  
We serve the Emperor,  
We're his crossbows,  
His cavalry,  
Our arrows kill his enemies,  
That's all!  
We are soldiers,  
We serve the Emperor,  
Thrust our sword,  
Raise our shield,  
Fight and die upon the battlefield,  
That's all!

He is the conqueror of all he surveys,  
Command us, great one,  
And we'll obey!

We are soldiers,  
We serve the Emperor,  
Thrust our sword,  
Raise our shield,  
Fight and die upon the battlefield,  
That's all!

Our lands are soaked with the blood of war,  
But our Emperor cried, 'no more, no more!'  
He's had enough of the warring states,  
A brand new country he'll create.

## **EMPEROR**

I'll unite these conquered lands I've won,  
And seven kingdoms will be one,  
A golden age,  
A golden dynasty!

Yi! Er! San! Si!  
Yi! Er! San! Si!  
Yi! Er! San! Si!

**EMPEROR**

We conquered Qi!

**ALL**

We conquered Chu!

**EMPEROR**

We conquered Zhao!

**ALL**

We conquered Han!

**EMPEROR**

We conquered Wei!

**ALL**

We conquered Yan!

**EMPEROR**

And now there is a brand new land,  
Called China!

**CHORUS**

We were soldiers,  
We served the Emperor,  
Fought with axe,  
Battered shield,  
Left our foes on bloody battlefields,  
They fall!  
We're still soldiers,  
We guard our Emperor,  
While we live,  
And draw breath,  
All your enemies face certain death,  
You'll see!

Now nations tremble down upon their knees,  
Command them, great one,  
Do what you please.

We, your soldiers,  
Salute our Emperor,  
We are the ones who,  
Gave our lives for you,  
Our general,  
Our Emperor Qin Shi Huang Di!  
Yi! Er! San! Si!

# Song 3: **Assassinate the Emperor!**

## (Peasants)

### **DAN OF YAN**

Great Emperor Qin – my name is Dan of Yan. You have conquered my people, oh great one. We kneel before you, your wishes our commands.

### **PEASANTS**

What's this? What's this?  
You surely can't be serious!  
It's bad enough that he has defeated us,  
Now we have to kneel to him,  
And kiss those smelly feet of his?

### **DAN OF YAN**

Don't worry, my people of Yan,  
It's all part of my cunning plan.  
We'll pretend to be his friend,  
Send him presents from the peasants,  
But just when he turns his back,  
That's when we'll attack!

### **VERSE 1**

We're sneaky,  
We're creepy,  
We'll get him when he's sleepy,  
Wide awake,  
Tucked up in bed,  
He'll need eyes in the back of his head,  
With silent tongues,  
On silent feet,  
We will hear his last heartbeat,  
Then we will have a song to sing,  
Of the death of Emperor Qin.

### **CHORUS**

Assassinate the Emperor,  
Kill him where he stands,  
Assassinate the Emperor,  
He stole our precious lands.

With poison, fire or knife,  
We'll steal his precious life,  
Assassinate the Emperor,  
Kill him now!

### **DAN OF YAN**

Great Emperor! To show our gratitude at being conquered, slaughtered and enslaved, the people of united China would present you with a gift.

### **EMPEROR**

Excellent! I love presents. What is it?

**DAN OF YAN**

The head of your greatest enemy – Fan Wuji.

**EMPEROR**

Oh, you've done well!

**VERSE 2**

We're sneaky,  
We're creepy,  
We'll get him when he's sleepy,  
Wide awake,  
Tucked up in bed,  
He'll need eyes in the back of his head.  
With silent tongues,  
On silent feet,  
We will hear his last heartbeat,  
Then we will have a song to sing,  
Of the death of Emperor Qin.

**CHORUS**

Assassinate the Emperor,  
Kill him where he stands,  
Assassinate the Emperor,  
He stole our precious lands.

With poison, fire or knife,  
We'll steal his precious life,  
Assassinate the Emperor,  
Kill him now!

**DAN OF YAN**

Great Emperor, I pray you were not harmed,  
I have the thing to soothe your nerves,  
Some music from Gao Jianli,  
The greatest player of the Zhu.

**PEASANTS**

Again we're foiled,  
Our plan is spoiled,  
But we'll not rest,  
While we draw breath,  
We'll plot and dream,  
And plan and scheme,  
To kill you, Emperor!

**CHORUS**

Assassinate the Emperor!  
Kill him where he stands.  
Assassinate the Emperor!  
He stole our precious lands.

With poison, fire or knife,  
We'll steal his precious life.  
Assassinate the Emperor!  
Assassinate the Emperor!  
Assassinate the Emperor!  
Watch your back!

# Recit 2: **Zhang Han is Summoned**

## **ZHANG HAN**

Great Emperor – you summoned us,  
We live to serve but you,  
Your builders and your alchemists,  
What would you have us do?

## **EMPEROR**

Zhang Han,  
Of all my builders – you are by far the best,  
But I want something built that may put even you to the test.

## **ZHANG HAN**

Name it, oh great one, and we will build it nicely,  
A castle or a palace though?  
Mmm – it could be pretty pricey.

## **EMPEROR**

No, Zhang Han – I want you to build me an army!

## **ZHANG HAN**

An army? But you already have an army, Emperor Qin.  
We are soldiers,  
We serve the Emperor...

## **EMPEROR**

Silence!  
Not a living army but an army of the dead,  
To guard me in the afterlife, you see,  
And keep me safe for all eternity.

## **ZHANG HAN**

Great Emperor, we will obey,  
It shall be as you say,  
And you shall have your warriors of clay.

# Song 4: **Warriors Assemble!** (Builders)

## **BUILDERS**

If our Emperor wants an army then an army he shall have,  
We'll work all night and toil all day,  
Until he has his warriors,  
Made of clay.

Here's an arm, there's a leg  
Here's a foot, where's the head?  
Put them all together and create – terracotta warriors!

Here's some toes, there's that nose,  
Where's the hair—over there!  
Put those bits together and create – terracotta warriors!

8,000 soldiers,  
No two the same,  
This will take us years and years,  
Of blood and sweat and toil and tears.

Now at last, his moustache,  
Add some ears, swords and spears,  
Put them all together and create—terracotta warriors!

## **ZHANG HAN**

Our Emperor can now sleep soundly in his bed,  
These warriors will guard him, even when he's dead.  
But why should one as great as you ever have to die?  
I have a little notion—my alchemists have potions,  
And pills to banish mortal ills,  
And let you live forever.

## **BUILDERS**

Just try a little pill or two,  
It's mercury – it's good for you,  
With little pills of mercury,  
You'll live eternally.

## **BUILDERS**

Here's an arm, there's a leg,  
Here's a foot, where's the head?  
Put them all together and create,  
Terracotta warriors!

Here's some toes, there's that nose,  
Where's the hair – over there!  
Put those bits together and create,  
Terracotta warriors!

## **ZHANG HAN**

Just try a little pill or two,  
It's mercury – it's good for you.

With little pills of mercury,  
You'll live eternally.

## **BUILDERS** cont...

8,000 soldiers,  
No two the same,  
This will take us years and years,  
Of blood and sweat and toil and tears.

Now at last, his moustache,  
Add some ears, swords and spears,  
Put them all together and create – terracotta warriors!

Mercury to,  
Guarantee you,  
Immortality.  
Live forever,  
Rule forever.  
China,  
Our nation,  
Your finest creation,  
Behold...  
Terracotta warriors!

# Song 5: **We are Warriors**

*All groups come together for this song and everyone becomes a terracotta warrior.*

## **ZHANG HAN**

The Emperor is dead!

## **ALL**

The Emperor is dead!

## **DAN OF YAN**

The Emperor is dead!

## **ALL**

The Emperor is dead!

Prepare him for the afterlife...

## **VERSE 1**

Listen,  
You will not hear us,  
You cannot see us,  
For we are hidden,  
Yes we are hidden,  
This place forbidden,  
To any stranger,  
So full of danger,  
For we can see you,  
And we can hear you,  
We are not sleeping,  
We know you're,  
Creeping all around!

## **CHORUS**

We are warriors,  
Terracotta warriors,  
And we'll guard our Emperor eternally.

Warriors,  
The forgotten warriors,  
And our war will last a thousand centuries.

## **VERSE 2**

### **ALL**

Listen,  
You will not hear us,  
You cannot see us,  
For we are hidden,  
Yes we are hidden,  
This place forbidden,  
To any stranger,  
So full of danger,

### **EMPEROR**

This shall not be,  
The last of me,  
I'll wait for all eternity,  
I'll rise again,  
And you will see,  
An army of the afterlife.

**ALL** cont...

For we can see you,  
And we can hear you,  
We are not sleeping,  
We know you're,  
Creeping all around!

**CHORUS**

We are warriors,  
Terracotta warriors,  
And we'll guard our Emperor eternally.

Warriors,  
The forgotten warriors,  
And our war will last a thousand centuries.

Now 2,000 silent years must pass,  
Before we see the sun again,  
For Lai Shi de Huang di,  
The Emperor of the afterlife.

All hail the Emperor,  
The Emperor of everywhere,  
All hail the Emperor,  
The Emperor of everything!

**EMPEROR** cont...