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'It's such a part of Anzac Day': Musicians to play Last Post from home

By [Carolyn Webb](#)

April 21, 2020 – 11.30pm



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His name was Jack Giggins and he died while fighting for Australia during World War II. He was among 15 men killed in an air strike while serving with the 2/5th Australian Infantry Battalion in northern Greece in 1941.

Corporal Giggins left behind a wife and a five-year-old daughter in the Melbourne suburb of Carnegie. His remains were never recovered.



Benjamin Ball will join musicians across Australia playing the Last Post on Anzac Day. EDDIE JIM

But he hasn't been forgotten.

A year ago great-grandson Benjamin Ball wore Corporal Giggins' medals in the Melbourne Anzac Day march.



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This year, 17-year-old Benjamin cannot march. Anzac Day gatherings have been called off due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Instead, at 6am on Saturday he will play his trumpet on his driveway at Hughesdale, in Melbourne's south-east.

It's part of [Music for Mateship](#), a project asking musicians across Australia to simultaneously play the Last Post, observe one minute's silence, then play the Rouse or Reveille.

Yes, he will notify the neighbours, but many may already be awake, taking part in the RSL-approved [Driveway at Dawn event](#).

That involves residents standing on their driveways and



Benjamin Ball's great-grandfather, Jack Giggins, died in Greece in World War II.



observing a minute's silence with their candles or a torch at 6am.

BALL FAMILY

Driveway at Dawn inspired Brisbane arts educator Alastair Tomkins to launch Music for Mateship.



1:48

The Last Post will blast for Anzac Day in streets across the country

Benjamin Ball, 17, is one of many who will pick up their trumpets to play the Last Post in their driveway at dawn for Anzac Day.

He initially called on brass musicians to play the Last Post on Anzac Day. But it has grown to include clarinettists, guitarists and violinists.

The Music for Mateship website features sheet music and even a form you can use to politely notify neighbours.

The campaign was boosted by trumpet legend James Morrison's endorsement on his [Facebook page](#).

Morrison – whose two great-uncles died, and whose grandfather fought, in World War II – told *The Age* he would play the Last Post on bugle from his Mt Gambier driveway on Saturday morning.

Morrison said he had played the Last Post somewhere in the world each year since a rendition on the cornet, aged eight, at Mona Vale primary school in Sydney.

It was "such a part of Anzac Day" and he loved Mr Tomkins' idea. As well as paying tribute to the fallen, it would bring the musical community together at a time when public gigs were not allowed.

"I think it will be really amazing that if we have enough players playing, you'll be able to hear it wherever you are," he said.

"Even if it's a little distant, it's a haunting piece anyway. It should be a beautiful sound and evoke the emotions that we want to on Anzac Day."

Benjamin Ball said he would play for neighbours who couldn't attend Anzac marches and services – and to remember Jack Giggins. He said it was brave of Corporal Giggins and others to go off to war and fight for freedom "to keep their loved ones safe".

"I've heard he was a lovely man and everyone talks about how I look a lot like him," he said.

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Carolyn Webb

Carolyn Webb is a reporter for The Age.

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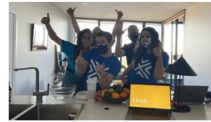
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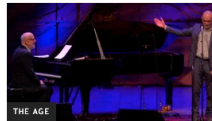
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