

Soldier struggling with his dreams

Concert with narrator and puppetry

L'histoire du soldat; translated as *The Soldier's Tale* is a 1918 theatrical work "to be read, played, and danced" set to music by Igor Stravinsky. The libretto, based on a Russian folk tale, was written in French by the Swiss universalist writer C.F. Ramuz. It is a parable about a soldier who trades his fiddle to the devil for a book that predicts the future of the economy. The music is scored for a septet of violin, double bass, clarinet, bassoon, cornet (often played on trumpet), trombone, and percussion, and the story is told by three actors: the soldier, the devil, and a narrator, who also takes on the roles of minor characters. A dancer plays the non-speaking role of the princess, and there may also be additional ensemble dancers. The piece was written for small ensemble to compensate for the lack of players due to World War I (since so many were enlisted in the army services). Ensemble A Piacere conducted by Ghislain Bellefroid invited Dutch Puppeteer Frans Hakkemars to tell the story with three puppets, the soldier, the devil and the princess and Frans Hakkemars invited in turn Joanne Oussoren from Droomtheater Rotterdam to play the role of narrator. Their World Premiere will be on August the 14th 2011 in Dronten the Netherlands.