

# HAPPY XMAS (WAR IS OVER) — 1971

## WRITERS:

**JOHN LENNON  
YOKO ONO**

## PRODUCERS:

**PHIL SPECTOR  
JOHN LENNON  
YOKO ONO**



**ARTISTS: JOHN & YOKO/PLASTIC ONO BAND WITH THE  
HARLEM COMMUNITY CHOIR**

## APPLE RECORDS

**I**n 1968, over 500,000 American troops were stationed in Vietnam, and a tragic record had been set for the devastating quagmire in Indo-China — more than 12,000 US soldiers had lost their lives that year. To protest, John Lennon and Yoko Ono initiated a long peace campaign, defined by dramatically staged symbolic events designed to capture quick media attention.

First they planted two acorns at Coventry Cathedral in London, which they felt ideally represented East (Yoko) meeting West (John). The following year, as the death toll continued to rise, the newly married couple decided to turn their Amsterdam honeymoon into a peace rally “bed-in,” and invited reporters to watch as they stayed in bed for seven days straight. At a second Montreal “bed-in,” they actually recorded the song, “Give Peace A Chance,” in bed. “The least Yoko and I can do is hog the headlines and make people laugh,” said John at the time. “We’re willing to be the world’s clowns if it will do any good. For reasons known only to themselves, people print what I say. And I say, ‘Peace.’”<sup>1</sup>