



# LUNCHTIME *live*

*Saint Francis' Church, Ashton Gate, Bristol BS3 1JP*

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 1.10pm

Admission: £5 (£3)

PROCEEDS TO THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

## Shropshire to the Somme

Niall Hoskin *baritone*

Robert Marson *bass-baritone*

John Lambert *piano*

### P R O G R A M M E

**Three songs from 'Bredon Hill and Other Songs'  
(1912)**

*Sung by Robert Marson*

- Bredon Hill
- On the Idle Hill of Summer
- With Rue My Heart Is Laden

**George Butterworth (1885-1916)**

Text: A.E. Housman 'A Shropshire Lad'

**Four songs from 'A Shropshire Lad' (1904)**

*Sung by Niall Hoskin*

- The Street Sounds to a Soldier's Tread
- White in the Moon the Long Road Lies
- Into My Heart an Air That Kills
- The Lads in Their Hundreds

**Arthur Somervell (1863-1937)**

Text: A.E. Housman 'A Shropshire Lad'

**Three songs**

*Sung by Robert Marson*

- In Flanders (Thiepval, January 1917)
- Sleep (1914)
- Walking Song (1919)

**Ivor Gurney (1890-1937)**

Text: F.W. Harvey

Text: John Fletcher

Text: F.W. Harvey

**Three songs from 'Six Songs from A Shropshire  
Lad' (1911)**

*Sung by Niall Hoskin*

- Loveliest of Trees
- When I Was One-and-twenty
- Is My Team Ploughing?

**George Butterworth (1885-1916)**

Text: A.E. Housman 'A Shropshire Lad'

*Sung by Niall Hoskin and Robert Marson*

*In addition to the published programme, we might prevail on your patience for a lighter item to finish with, a well-known duet.*

Alfred Edward Housman's collection of sixty-three poems, *A Shropshire Lad*, was published in 1896. Little known at first, it later came to prominence for its themes of young love and loss and of a rural idyll left behind in going to war – themes which turned out to resonate strongly with a new generation of soldiers in the Boer War and most especially in the First World War.

Arthur Somervell was the first to set some of these poems to music. A late Victorian, his settings seem to project the confidence of empire in contrast to today's other two composers, a generation younger, whose music responds to the same texts with a greater sense of pathos and uncertainty.

George Butterworth was heralded as one of the most promising composers of his generation but his life was cut short at the Battle of the Somme, where, an officer of the Durham Light Infantry, he was awarded the Military Cross in August 1916 before being killed in action days later.

Ivor Gurney also served in the Great War, surviving injury but returning to Britain after being gassed in September 1917. He was later to set some of the A.E. Housman poems to music in his cycles *Ludlow and Teme* and *The Western Playland*, but today's recital presents instead songs dating more closely from the war period, including *In Flanders*, written while on active service. F.W. Harvey, who wrote the text, was a close friend of Gurney's, since their school days together in Gloucester.



**Niall Hoskin** sang in Clare College Choir, Cambridge and studied modern languages. He has since spent his time teaching and singing in concerts, recitals and opera. He is looking forward to performing in Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Mozart's *Magic Flute* and Verdi's *La Traviata* in 2023. He is a frequent, keen and slow runner and is enjoying the new-found role of grandparent.

**Robert Marson** lives locally in Ashton with his wife and two daughters. He has performed many roles in opera productions in the South West, most recently as Angelotti for Bath Opera's touring production of Verdi's *Tosca* and is a founder member of Tarnhelm Opera. Robert can be heard on 17<sup>th</sup> December in St Alban's Church, Westbury Park, in a performance of Frank Bridge's *The Christmas Rose*.

**John Lambert** has been active for many years as music educator, conductor and pianist. He is an experienced chamber musician and accompanist and is also involved in the local jazz scene with bands such as Mood Indigo and Avellana.



**Lunchtime Live** continues on the second Friday of each month. The next performance is of baroque chamber music by **Speranza** on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

*For the continuing recital programme, please see: [www.lunchtimelive.co.uk](http://www.lunchtimelive.co.uk)*

