

Described by his teacher, Stanford, as 'the one who most fulfilled the accepted ideas of genius', the poet and composer Ivor Gurney composed more than 300 songs despite suffering from bipolar disorder and tuberculosis. The *Five Elizabethan Songs* show the young composer's astonishing limpid fluency, while *Tears* and *Sleep* rank among his most exquisite creations. Comedy, desolation and lovelorn longing all touch the music of this 'lover and maker of beauty', whose songs find ideal interpreters in Susan Bickley and Iain Burnside.

Ivor GURNEY

(1890–1937)

1	On the downs	1:52	15	Last Hours	3:42
2	Ha'acker Mill	2:19	16	Cathleen ni Houlihan	2:56
3	The bonnie Earl of Murray *	1:48	17	A cradle song	2:27
4	The cherry trees *	1:07	18	The fiddler of Dooney	1:55
5	By a bierside	3:59	19	Snow	2:03
Five Elizabethan Songs		12:45	20	The Singer	2:25
6	Orpheus with his lute	2:17	21	Nine of the clock	0:53
7	Tears	3:09	22	Epitaph in old mode	2:17
8	Under the greenwood tree	1:35	23	The Ship	2:20
9	Sleep	3:06	24	The Scribe	2:40
10	Spring	2:37	25	Fain would I change that note	2:45
11	The Apple Orchard (from <i>Seven Sappho Songs</i>)	1:09	26	An Epitaph	1:50
12	All night under the moon	3:12	27	When death to either shall come	1:32
13	The Latmian Shepherd	3:45	28	Thou didst delight my eyes	2:05
14	I will go with my father a-ploughing	2:26	29	The boat is chafing	1:28
			30	Lights out	3:55

* First recording

Susan Bickley, Mezzo-Soprano • Iain Burnside, Piano

Recorded at Potton Hall, Westleton, Suffolk, England, from 24th to 26th June, 2008

Producer and Editor: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Engineer: Phil Rowlands

Booklet Notes: Roderic Dunnett • This recording was sponsored by the Ivor Gurney Society
Includes available sung texts which are also accessible at www.naxos.com/libretti/572151.htm

Publishers: Oxford University Press (Tracks 1-2, 4-5, 11-13, 15-24 and 26-29);
Boosey and Hawkes Music Publishers Ltd. (Tracks 3, 6-10 and 14) and Stainer and Bell (track 30).

Track 25 is unpublished. • Cover Photo: *Painswick Beacon* by Lucy Boden

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8.572151

Playing Time
71:36



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Booklet notes in English
Available sung texts included
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