

One of England's most distinctive composers, George Butterworth belonged to the generation of young men decimated in the Great War of 1914-1918. His sensitive and melancholic settings of poems from A. E. Housman's *A Shropshire Lad*, with their subject matter of the futility and arbitrariness of war, are small-scale masterpieces. Of particular note are the *Loveliest of Trees*, describing the passing of the seasons, and the ghostly and elegiac *Is my team ploughing?* The *Folk Songs from Sussex* and settings of poems by R. L. Stevenson, Shelley and Wilde, whose subject matter revolves around flirtation, love, courtship, marriage and desertion, are no less notable for their attention to detail, linguistic nuance and delicate, economical piano writing.

George BUTTERWORTH

(1885–1916)

Six Songs from A Shropshire Lad

1	Loveliest of trees	2:33
2	When I was one-and-twenty	2:34
3	Look not in my eyes	1:17
4	Think no more, lad	2:01
5	The lads in their hundreds	1:18
6	Is my team ploughing?	2:12

Folk Songs from Sussex

7	A brisk young sailor courted me	1:48
8	Seventeen come Sunday	1:40
9	Roving in the dew	1:31
10	The true lover's farewell	1:50
11	Tarry trousers	1:01

Bredon Hill and Other Songs from A Shropshire Lad

12	Bredon Hill	14:11
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13	O fair enough are sky and plain	2:37
14	When the lad for the longing sighs	1:40
15	On the idle hill of summer	3:33
16	With rue my heart is laden	1:38
17	I will make you brooches	2:11
18	I fear thy kisses	1:50
19	Requiescat	2:52

20	Folk Songs from Sussex	10:28
21	Yonder stands a lovely creature	1:23
22	A blacksmith courted me	2:06
23	Sowing the seeds of love	1:41
24	A lawyer he went out one day	1:28
25	Come my own one	1:34
	The cuckoo	2:16

4:43

Roderick Williams, Baritone • Iain Burnside, Piano

Recorded at Potton Hall, Westleton, Suffolk, England, from 11th to 13th January, 2010
Producer: Andrew Walton (K&A Productions Ltd.) • Engineers: Mike Clements and Deborah Spanton

Recorded and edited at 24bit resolution • Booklet Notes: Keith Anderson

Sung texts are accessible at www.naxos.com/libretti/572426.htm

Publishers: Stainer & Bell Ltd. (Tracks 1-11 and 17-25) and Masters Music Publications Inc. (Tracks 12-16).

Cover Photo: *Bredon Hill* © Davidmarty / Dreamstime.com

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Playing Time
52:05



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