

## Elegy for England (1982)

Elegy for England is a collection of four poetry settings I made for tenor and piano in my first year studying music at Surrey University in Guildford. This is the first (and only) performance of these settings at the old concert hall at Surrey University in 1982 performed by tenor Mervyn Collins and pianist David Yeates. The poets are A E Housman - Into My Heart, Edward Thomas - In Memorium, Robert Graves - She tells her love, and Philip Larkin - The Trees. These settings are dedicated to Morag Morris who was my poetry lecturer at University and suggested I write these pieces in the first place. They are traditional in their musical language and, I think broadly speaking in the style of many settings of British poetry keeping the actual sense of the poems clearly defined. I added a video of a walk I had recently. I also put the poems within the video to make the words perfectly clear to understand. I recently found a cassette tape of this piece and two Carols 'Light of the World', and 'Alleluya for Christmas', with words by Morag Morris that I feel represent my past as a composer. Learning how to compose through different styles that were appropriate for the particular concert and Carol Service settings at University.