

The Land Of Lost Content

for SATB choir

Martin Humphries

- 2014 -

Programme note:

Lost Content makes use of an A.E. Housman text taken from No. 40 of his famous cycle of poems, *A Shropshire Lad* (1896). Written before World War I, the words of Housman's poem are certainly prescient, and serve as both reflective and foreshadowing in this year of remembrance amidst such international insecurity. The text also holds strong personal reverence, as its quotation in Dennis Potter's *Blue Remembered Hills* (1979) made a lasting imprint on my perception of war during my childhood.

This setting was commissioned by Keith Horsfall and Gig Caritas through funds generously donated by Waitrose. The work will receive its first performance by the commissioning ensemble in Stourbridge, November 2014, as part of a concert commemorating the outbreak of World War I.

Score in C

Duration: c. 3.5 minutes

The Land of Lost Content

A. E. Housman

Martin Humphries

Lilting (♩.=c.40)

p < *mp* *p sub.* < *mp* *p sub.* < *mp*

Soprano
In - to my heart an air that kills From yon far count - ry blows

Alto
pp < *mf* *pp sub.* < *mf* *pp sub.* < *mp* < *pp* < *mp*
Lost land lost land lost land blows

Tenor
pp < *mf* *pp sub.* < *mf* *pp sub.* < *mp* < *pp* < *mp*
Lost land lost land lost land air that blows

Bass
pp < *mf* *pp sub.* < *mf* *pp sub.* < *mp* < *pp no cresc.*
Lost land lost land lost land

Rehearsal Piano
pp *p* < *mp* *p sub.* < *mp* *p sub.* < *mp*

10 **A**

S.
lost lost land lost land

A.
lost lost land lost land

T.
mf
What are those, — What are those, — What are those, — What are those, What are those, — What are

B.
mf
What are those, — What are those, — What are those, — What are those, What are those, — What are

Pno.
A
mf *p*

16

S. *lost land lost land lost land lost land lost land lost land*

A. *lost land lost land lost land lost land lost land lost land*

T. *— those, — What are those, — What are those, What are those, — What are those, What are those, What are those, What are*

B. *— those, — What are those, — What are those, What are those, — What are those, What are those, What are those, What are*

Pno.

22

S. *blue hills, re-mem-ber, re-mem-ber, re-mem-ber, re-mem-ber, re-mem-ber, re-mem-ber, re-mem-ber, re-mem-ber*

A. *blue hills, What are those*

T. *those, — blue hills, What are those*

B. *those, — blue hills, What are those*

Pno.

B **C**

f *p* *ff* intense

28

S. re-mem - ber, re-mem - ber, re-mem - ber, re-mem - ber, re - mem - ber, re-mem - ber, re-mem - ber, re - mem - ber, re - mem - ber, re-mem - ber,

A. what spires, what farms what spires, what farms What are those

T. what spires, what farms what spires, what farms What are those

B. what spires, what farms what spires, what farms What are those

Pno.

34

D A tempo

rall. *mp* *pp*

S. re-mem - ber, re-mem - ber, re-mem ber_____ blue hills blue_____ blue_____

A. What are those What are those blue hills re-mem-bered hills, re-mem-bered hills,

T. What are those What are those blue_____ hills_____

B. What are those What are those blue hills_____

Pno. *mp* *pp*

rall. **D** A tempo

41

S. *blue* *blue* *blue*

A. re - mem - bered hills, re - mem - bered hills, re - mem - bered hills,

T. *pp* what farms are those? what farms are

B. *pp* spires

Pno.

44

S. *blue* *blue*

A. re - mem - bered hills, re - mem - bered hills,

T. those? what farms are those? What farms are those? what are those lost lands?

B. spires spires spires spires spires lost lands?

Pno.

48 **E** *p* < *mp* *p sub.* < *mp* *p sub.* < *mp* **F**

S. That is the land of lost con - tent, I see it shin - ing plain, _____

A. *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*
lost land lost land, land, The land

T. *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*
lost land lost shin - ing plain, _____ The land

B. *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf*
lost land lost The happ - y high - ways where I

Pno. *p* < *mp* *p sub.* *mp* *p sub.* *mp* *mf* *p*

55 **G** *pp* *f* *mp* *pp* *poco rall.*

S. And I can, And I can, And I can, And I can - not _____ come a - gain.

A. *f* *pp* *p* *pp*
of lost con - tent not _____ a - gain.

T. *f* *pp* *p* *pp*
of lost con tent not _____ a - gain.

B. *f* *mp* *pp*
went _____ not _____ come a - gain.

Pno. *pp* *f* *mp* *p* *pp* *poco rall.*