

**Down Yonder Green Valley -  
Six Folksongs from the British Isles**

**John Bawden (b. 1943)**

Early one morning  
The ash grove  
Ye banks and braes  
Bobby Shaftoe  
The lark in the clear air  
Blow away the morning dew

These six folksong arrangements were written for Fareham Philharmonic Choir and the harpist Rhian Williams. With the exception of *Ye Banks And Braes*, they were first performed in the Ferneham Hall, Fareham, on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1997. *Ye Banks And Braes* was written in June 1998.

The six pieces are all very well-known songs representing the four countries of the British Isles. Three are from England, with one each from Scotland, Wales and Ireland, though Scots might with some justification claim *Bobby Shaftoe*. This song originates from the Northumbrian border country and consequently appears in some collections as Scottish and in others as English, hence the later addition of the undisputed Scottish song *Ye Banks And Braes*. In the beautiful Irish melody, *The Lark In The Clear Air*, choir and harp take turns in accompanying the baritone soloist. Upper and lower voices of the choir each have the opportunity to show their own colours; *The Ash Grove* is for men's voices only, whilst the women feature in the setting of *Bobby Shaftoe*.

*programme notes by John Bawden*

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