

## **SINFONIA DA CACCIA (1967, rev 1973)**

Sinfonia da Caccia was commissioned by the Morley College Concerts Society for the Thaxted Festival (1967). Instrumentation was strictly limited to the constitution of a 'Haydn' orchestra, many members of which would be amateurs. The composer acquiesced to this premise both in idiom and form; viz. the 'singing' allegro, pairs of woodwinds, sequence and repetition, the whole bound up in a da capo structure. The work is inscribed to the memory of Ivor Gurney, war poet and composer of Gloucestershire, who died in restraint in 1935. Some of the material is taken from a projected song-cycle to words from Gurney's letters and poems from the Front and from the asylum. It is in three sections, of which the central one forms a refuge from the urgency and pace of those enclosing it. The title may be thought to refer not only to the terror and beauty of the hunt, but to all packs and quarries.