

SUITE FOR FLUTE AND STRINGS (1956)**JEREMY DALE ROBERTS**

Overture ; Aria ; Energico ; Hymn

This piece was written while I was a student at the Royal Academy of Music. It was composed for Gerald Finzi's Newbury String Players, a group of amateur and professional musicians he had first brought together during the war. In the event, the first performance was conducted by his son Kiffer, following Gerald's untimely death shortly before ; but in fact the whole family is in a way enshrined in the four movements : Kiffer, Joy, Nigel and Gerald.

From the perspective of 50 years it is very easy to recognize the hand of a young composer scarcely in bud ! But I hope that the debts to Bach's B minor Suite, Stravinsky's Violin Concerto, Tippett's Concerto for Double String Orchestra and Britten's Serenade will be readily absolved. These days I am prepared to forgive any composer who can write a tune...

This music has not been heard for very many years, and I am deeply grateful to the musicians of Music at All Saints who have brought it to life again. For this performance I would like to rededicate the work to that adorable family who nurtured me as a young man, and to the paradise of Ashmansworth.

JEREMY DALE ROBERTS