

SONGS FROM GREENHAYES

This group of six songs was written in tribute to the memory of my late and dear mother Audrey Laing. During her frequent visits to Canada she made many friends, and those who met Audrey may recognise the lady they knew in the subject matter of the songs. "Greenhayes" was the name of the beautiful house in Surrey, U.K. which she kept lovingly for over forty years, which holds so many warm and wonderful memories for her friends and family, and from whose spirit and ambience the ideas for these songs came to me.

Audrey would be delighted that our solo performers at both the premiere performance and on this recording are Janet Obermeyer, definitely her favourite soprano, and Joan Browne, in whose lovely playing on her CD *Adagio ma non troppo* she took particular delight. I felt drawn to compose this cycle in a melodic idiom with which I believe she would have had an affinity (she was not among the most avid modernists!). Each of the poems has been chosen for their close associations with how we remember Audrey.