

Gordon Jacob (1895- 1984) *Four Old Tunes* (1976)

I Bobby Shafto

II Golden slumbers

III Tell Mee, Daphne (after Giles Farnaby)

IV Charlie is my Darling

Educated at Dulwich College, where he received much encouragement and experience in composition, Gordon Percival Septimus (he was the seventh son) Jacob immediately signed up for active service in the 'Great War' in 1914, miraculously surviving as one of sixty from a battalion of eight hundred.

It was while studying at the Royal College of Music that Jacob laid the foundation of his reputation as an orchestrator and craftsman of great ability, particularly through the success of an arrangement he made for orchestra of a virginals piece by William Byrd. After leaving the RCM as a student, he returned as a lecturer, a position he held for over forty years. This commitment to education distinguished Jacob's life and his books such as *How to Read a Score* and *Orchestral Technique* remain current to this day. He was an extremely prolific composer, writing concertos for every instrument of the orchestra and responding inventively to commissions for any combination of instrument (his total output exceeds seven hundred works). Like his professor Stanford at the RCM, he was very mistrustful of 'modernism', claiming simply: "the day that melody is discarded altogether, you may as well pack up music".