

On the Idle Hill of Summer

Text by *Alfred Edward Housman* (1859-1936) [Br]

Set by *George Sainton Kaye Butterworth* (1885-1916) [Br], from *Bredon Hill and Other Songs*, #4; *Ivor (Bertie) Gurney* (1890-1937) [Br], from *Ludlow and Teme*, #5; *Sir Arthur Somervell* (1863-1937) [Br], from *A Shropshire Lad*, #6

On the idle hill of summer,
[ɑn ði 'a:ɪ.dəl hɪl ɑv 'sʌm.ə]

Sleepy with the flow of streams,
['sli.pi wið ðʌ flo:ʊ ʔɑv stɪmz]

Far I hear the steady drummer
Drumming like a noise in dreams.

Far and near and low and louder,
On the roads of earth go by,
Dear to friends and food for powder,
Soldiers marching, all to die.

East and west on fields forgotten
Bleach the bones of comrades slain,
Lovely lads and dead and rotten;
None that go return again.

Far the calling bugles hollo,
High the screaming fife replies,
Gay the files of scarlet follow;
Woman bore me, I will rise.

The entire text to this title with the complete
IPA transcription is available for download.

Thank you!

