## Edward Rushton

## Three poems of A.E. Housman

for voice and piano
(2022)

These three songs were composed in the autumn of 2022. The texts are all taken from A.E. Housman's "A Shropshire Lad".

Contents

1. Drowning

There pass the careless people
That call their should their own
Here by the road I loiter,
How idle and alone.
Ah , past the plunge of plummet, In seas I cannot sound,
My heart and soul and senses, World without end, are drowned.

His folly has not fellow
Beneath the blue of day
That gives to man or woman His heart and soul away.

There flowers no balm to sain him From east of earth to west
That's lost for everlasting The heart out of his breast.

Here by the labouring highway With empty hands I stroll:
Sea-deep, till doomsday morning, Lie lost my heart and soul.

## 2. Offence

p. 5

If it chance your eye offend you, Pluck it out, lad, and be sound;
'Twill hurt, but here are salves to friend you, And many a balsam grows on ground.

And if your hand or foot offend you, Cut it off, lad, and be whole;
But play the man, stand up and end you, When your sickness is your soul.
3. Nettles

It nods and curtseys and recovers When the wind blows above, The nettle on the graves of lovers That hanged themselves for love.

The nettle nods, the wind blows over, The man, he does not move,
The lover of the grave, the lover That hanged himself for love.

## 1. Drowning

A.E. Housman, from "A Shropshire Lad"

Edward Rushton





Herzogenbuchsee, 4th October 2022

## 2. Offence



## L'istesso tempo ( $\delta=$ c. 42)



## L'istesso tempo ( $\delta=$ c. 42)


legatissimo, imperturbable





curt - seys
and

and

re - co - vers



9


When the wind

blows___ a-bove,


16




diminuendo al niente


Luzern-Herzogenbuchsee, 12th October 2022

