

# **MARSDEN HARTLEY SONGS**

## **for Voice and Violoncello**

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>1. Return of the Native</b>    | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>2. Courage for Lost Poems</b>  | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>3. Fisherman's Last Supper</b> | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>4. Gay World</b>               | <b>10</b> |
| <b>5. When It Is Time</b>         | <b>14</b> |

### **COMPOSER'S NOTE**

Marsden Hartley was born in Lewiston, Maine in 1877. He studied painting in New York City and then worked in Paris where he met and was encouraged to write by Gertrude Stein. He painted in Germany, New Mexico and California before returning to his beloved New England in 1937. He died in 1943.

Although best known as an early Modernist painter, Hartley wrote poems, stories and essays throughout his life. His poems deal with many of the same subjects as his paintings. "Return of the Native" expresses his love for his native New England and the seashore. His wit, humor, and love of writing inspires "Courage for Lost Poems." "Fisherman's Last Supper" is a meditation on the tragic death of several young sons of a family that had befriended him, a family which he also memorialized in several paintings. Hartley's love of life and companionship is portrayed in "Gay World", and although he was attracted to men, the term "gay" was not used in its modern sense during his lifetime. "When It Is Time" is a philosophical meditation on mortality, but leavened with Hartley's dry wit.

**MARSDEN HARTLEY SONGS** was sketched in the parks of Paris in August 2011 and completed in State College, Pennsylvania in December 2011.

The songs were commissioned by Justin Dougherty and were written for and are dedicated to Meredith Mecum and Justin.