



The Visualising War Research Project presents:

The Fateful Voyage

Friendship and Death during the Dardanelles campaign

Concert

8 April 2019 at 5:30pm

St Salvator's Chapel, St Andrews

Free admission

Music and Poetry by:

F.S. Kelly, William Denis Browne and Rupert Brooke

Narrator: Kate Kennedy

Piano: Simon Over

Tenor: Robert Murray

Background image: Rupert Brooke © IWM (Q 71073)



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THE FATEFUL VOYAGE

Devised by biographer Kate Kennedy, this recital for narrator, tenor and piano tells the story of an extraordinary friendship between two First World War composers and a poet: FS Kelly, William Denis Browne and Rupert Brooke. All three enlisted in the Hood Battalion, and sailed together to take part in the Dardanelles campaign against the Turks in 1915; Brooke died during the voyage, and Kelly and Browne wrote the most famous accounts of his last days, and of his burial on the beautiful Greek Island of Skyros, accounts that played a significant part in the creation of Brooke's near-mythological status. Kelly and Browne travelled on, but both died in action soon after.

Their friendship generated a wealth of poems and music, much of which has been scattered across archives in Australia and the UK, and so still remains unknown and unpublished. This programme uncovers their forgotten songs and piano music, and includes many unknown works. The Fateful Voyage weaves together song, poetry, letters and diaries to dramatise their story, to put these (in Kelly and Browne's case) largely forgotten young men back on the musical map, and to discover the extent of the loss to British culture that the deaths of these prodigiously talented young men represented. In its mingling of music and readings, it invites reflection on the impact of different media in story-telling and commemoration. As an intervention in recent First World War commemorations (see below), it also prompts reflection on established habits of visualising war/campaigns and on the power of new stories, different angles and individual performances to shift perceptions amongst different audiences.

Performed by internationally renowned musicians, The Fateful Voyage was commissioned by the City of London Festival, and premiered on Radio 3 as part of the commemoration of the First World War in 2014. It has since toured the UK and Europe. It is coming to St Andrews as part of an interdisciplinary workshop on Visualising War in Different Media (<https://arts.st-andrews.ac.uk/visualising-war/events/visualising-war-and-the-expressive-arts/>), organised by Alice König (School of Classics).

Narrator: Kate Kennedy
Tenor: Robery Murray
Piano: Simon Over