

**CATALOGUE OF
THE IVOR GURNEY ARCHIVE**

Gloucestershire Archives, Gloucester

D10500/1/M/8

**ORIGINAL WORKS (MUSIC):
WORKS FOR STRING QUARTETT**

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National Manuscripts Conservation Trust

Subseries Gloucestershire Archives

D10500/1/M/8

[1912-1925]

String Quartets

Description: As far as it can be gleaned from the various sources, Gurney wrote at least fifteen string quartets (Gurney's preferred spelling, after the German), as well as a number of movements which may belong to other greater works. However, a number of these are now missing. The earliest dates from 1912 and the last record of a work for quartet being written is in 1925. In a letter of April 1922 (CL p.431-2) Gurney records the completion of one quartet and the beginning of a second. In a later letter (June 1922, CL439) he remarks that 'the last of Three String Quartets is nearly finished'. The second of these quartets is almost certainly the second quartet in A minor, but the first and third are less easy to define. One of these could be the F major quartet; the other could be the E major, only one movement of which is extant. In a letter of April 1922 Gurney describes the first quartet: 'The Quartet is finished, and though not Shakespearean in size has awfully good stuff in it. The Scherzo seems to me to be good enough (as the 6/8 part) for anything.' (CL431) Since many of Gurney's Scherzi are in 6/8 this isn't particularly helpful in identifying the work. Gerald Finzi's catalogue of 1937 names a number of quartets from 1925 which are no longer extant, corroborating references to these works in Gurney's correspondence. These are quartets in: G minor ([January] 1925, three movements noted by Finzi, and in which work Finzi notes the appearance at one point of a vocal part in the slow movement); E minor, 'New England' ([January] 1925. Gurney notes in a letter of April 1925 that this quartet perhaps needs an additional, fifth movement.); F major, 'Virginia' (1925); C major, 'Gloucestershire' (1925, five movements); F minor ([August 1925]); 'Fantasy String Quartet in F minor' (1925); E flat major (1925, four movements); A major (1925, seven movements); as well as listing a Scherzo in G minor for string quartet, for which the date is not given. Three of these works, the quartets named 'New England', 'Virginia', and 'Gloucestershire', were modelled on Beethoven's Rasoumovsky quartets, which Gurney admired, being written in the same keys as Beethoven's works. Gurney's letters also reveal further works for string quartet: a 'W[alt] Whitman Fantasy Quartet in F mi[nor]' (August 1925); and a quartet in A minor [September 1925], Gurney's letters making reference to the third and final movements of this work.

Subsubseries D10500/1/M/8/1

String Quartett in A minor

January-June 1912

Description: A four movement string quartett composed during Gurney's first period at the Royal College of Music: i. Allegro (3/4, A minor); ii. Scherzo (6/8, Vivace, quasi Andante, E minor); iii. Slow movement (Lento, 4/4, D flat major); iv. Allegro leggiero (2/4 A minor).

8 documents

Notes: This quartett was given its first performance at an informal music meeting of the Society of Women Musicians during the winter season of 1912-13, at the instigation of Marion Scott. The folder also contains the bifolium of manuscript paper in which Finzi collated the quartett movements, titled by Finzi, 'string quartet in A [sic] No.I / 4 mvts /1912'. Finzi's designation as 'No.I' is merely to differentiate it from the second quartett catalogued in the key of A minor.

Item D10500/1/M/8/1/1

(26.1.5) String Quartett in A minor: first movement

January 1912

Description: The full score of the first movement of Gurney's first known string quartett.

18pp.

Notes: Manuscript; ink. The cover, titled by Gurney and dated Jan 1912, also bears the word 'score' in pencil in an unknown hand. The outer pages - rather worn oversize bifolia - contain a smaller paper which contains much of the score. Much of the score has been drafted in pencil and overwritten in ink.

Item D10500/1/M/8/1/2

(26.1.9; 26.1.10; 26.1.6) String Quartett in A minor: scherzo

[1912]

Description: The full score of the scherzo second movement of Gurney's first known string quartett.

14pp.

Notes: Manuscript; ink. The cover is titled in pencil by an unknown hand, 'Quartett in A minor / Scherzo. Second movement / Score'. The score contains some emmendations in both ink and pencil and a pasteover.

Item D10500/1/M/8/1/3

(26.1.7) String Quartett in A minor: slow movement

June 1912

Description: The full score of the third, slow movement of Gurney's first known string quartett.

13pp.

Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score is dated on the front cover 'Summer Term 1912', and at the original end of the score 'June 1912' (this original ending was crossed through and extended slightly). Some light pencil notes on the cover in an unknown hand give the number of the movement ('III') and 'score'. The score bears a few pencil corrections and the insertion of rehearsal marks, also in pencil. The margin of page 9 contains a sequence of annotations hypothesising the development of the 'F' (bass) clef from the letter F into its modern form.

Item D10500/1/M/8/1/4

(26.1.8) String Quartett in A minor: last movement

[1912]

Description: The full score (missing the first page) of the finale of Gurney's first known string quartett, in A minor.

25pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. Although the pages are numbered from 1 by a previous cataloguer, and the movement lightly titled in pencil in an unknown hand, the first page of this movement is missing, picking up at the first rehearsal mark of the movement. The score has undergone much revision, in pencil, and in both blue and red ink. It was perhaps due to this extensive revision that the parts for the movement were copied some time after the first three movements.

Item D10500/1/M/8/1/5
(26.1.3) String Quartett in A minor: 1st violin part [1912]

Description: The 1st violin part for Gurney's earliest known string quartett.

19pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score contains a few light pencil markings relating to the use of these parts in performance (corrections, cues, fingerings and additional tempo markings). As with all parts for this work, the finale is written on a different paper to the rest of the score, in spite of there being space enough for the movement in the original folios. This suggests Gurney may have given the last movement to the performers after the first three movements were taken for rehearsal.

Item D10500/1/M/8/1/6
(26.1.1) String Quartett in A minor: 2nd violin part [1912]

Description: The 2nd violin part for Gurney's earliest known string quartett.

18pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score contains a couple of light pencil markings relating to the use of these parts in performance.

Item D10500/1/M/8/1/7
(26.1.2) String Quartett in A minor: viola part [1912]

Description: The viola part for Gurney's earliest known string quartett.

18pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score contains a few light pencil markings relating to the use of these parts in performance.

Item D10500/1/M/8/1/8
(26.1.4) String Quartett in A minor: cello part [1912]

Description: The cello part for Gurney's earliest known string quartett.

18pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score contains a few light pencil markings relating to the use of these parts in performance (corrections, cues, fingerings and additional tempo markings), and also a pasteover in the first movement, where Gurney decided to take the cello part into the tenor clef rather than remaining in bass clef.

Subsubseries D10500/1/M/8/2
Quartett in A major for strings (late November 1918)-March 1919

Description: A string quartett, only two movements of which are extant, although it is possible that the Molto allegro in F (D10500/1/M/7/3) could be the scherzo for the quartett.

2 documents Notes: The quartett movements are dated January and March 1919, respectively. However, a letter of 30 November (CL364) describes work in progress on a quartett which could be the first draftings of this work.

Item D10500/1/M/8/2/1

(27.2.1) Quartett in A major for strings: first movement January 1919

Description: A generally fair copy of the full score of the first movement of a string quartett in A major, composed at High Wycombe in late 1918-1919.

14pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score bears two tempo markings: Gurney's original 'Allegro', with a perhaps later metronome mark of quaver=100; and a pencil addition in the hand of Vaughan Williams, suggesting the tempo as 'Molto moderato'. A number of other pencil amendments by Vaughan Williams occur in the score, adding/removing accidentals, adjusting beaming, suggesting the cut of one bar, and querying a note in the first violin.

Item D10500/1/M/8/2/2

(27.1.1) Quartett in A major for strings: slow movement March 1919

Description: The full score of the slow movement of the string quartett in A.

12pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score contains several pencil markings by Vaughan Williams, suggesting some small amendments and correcting accidentals. The first page of score bears the stamp of the Gloucester piano merchants from which Gurney bought his manuscript paper at this time, when in Gloucester, Wallace Harris Ltd.

Item D10500/1/M/8/3

(26.2.5) Molto Allegro in F major [for string quartett] [1919]

Description: A scherzo movement in 3/8, F major, for string quartett.

19pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score is signed 'High Wycombe, Bucks' and probably dates from 1919, when he returned to his post of Organist at Churst Church High Wycombe, which he held before the war. The cover of the manuscript is titled by Gerald Finzi, in pencil and thence ink, 'Molto Allegro in F for string 4tet'. Untitled by Gurney, bearing only a tempo marking, it is probably that this was intended as the scherzo for a complete quartett; possibly the A major quartett of 1919 (D10500/1/M/7/2).

Subsubseries D10500/1/M/8/4

(26.2) String Quartett in F major [February 1920?]

Description: A four movement string quartet consisting: i. Allegro (F major); ii. Slow movement (Andante moderato; E flat[/Lydian on A flat]); iii. Scherzo (Allegro, A minor); Last Movement (Allegro moderato, F major). No full score of the slow movement is extant, although all parts for the movement are held here. The last movement is unfinished in this score, and there appears to be a page missing from the score so far completed. The presence of parts, which bear some corrections, we can presume that the work was at some point performed, although no record of this is known.

8 documents Notes: A reference to a string quartett in a letter of February 1920 could refer to this work. Given the occasional pencil markings in the score, probably by Vaughan Williams, and the presence of parts (for a student 'try-out?'), it certainly dates from his

post-war time at the Royal College of Music, 1919-21. This folder also includes the brown paper wrapper in which the quartett was originally gathered by either Marion Scott or Finzi, which bears a label in Finzi's hand in red ink: 'Ivor Gurney. string 4tet in F. 4 mvts. The molto Allegro is the best.' A secondary hand in pencil has added 'Also the parts of another slow movement.' The molto allegro, which was collated here, is now assigned under its own catalogue reference, certainly belonging either alone or to another quartett; the reference to another slow movement could imply either the inclusion in the collation of one of the slow movements in the collection which does not find itself affiliated to a quartet, or, perhaps more likely, refers to the presence of the second copy of the second violin part of the slow movement, which bears a different tempo marking to the other parts.

Item D10500/1/M/8/4/1
 (26.2.6) String Quartett in F major: First movement [c.1920]
 Description: A generally fair copy of the first movement of the string quartett in F with some workings.
 10pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score bears some crossings through, as well as the addition of some dynamics in pencil and a later, quick redrafting of a first violin line.

Item D10500/1/M/8/4/2
 (26.2.3) String Quartett in F major: Slow movement: [Violin I part] [c.1920]
 Description: The first violin part of the slow movement of the string quartett in F
1 folio Notes: Manuscript; ink. A few autograph corrections have been made to the part.

Item D10500/1/M/8/4/3
 (26.2.4a) String Quartett in F major: Slow movement: [Violin II part] [c.1920]
 Description: The second violin part of the slow movement of the string quartett in F
1 folio Notes: Manuscript; ink. One bar has been later amended by Gurney.

Item D10500/1/M/8/4/4
 (26.2.4b) String Quartett in F major: Slow movement: [Violin II part] [c.1920]
 Description: A second copy of the violin II part of the slow movement of the quartett in F, on a smaller, thinner paper than the other parts for this quartett, with some autograph amendments, perhaps indicating this is an earlier version of the part. In this manuscript the tempo marking is given as 'Adagio', as opposed to the Andante moderato of the other four, perhaps later parts.
1 bifolium Notes: Manuscript; ink. A few autograph corrections have been made to the part in ink. One amendment has been made and rehearsal marks added in pencil. The two sections of this bifolium are joined only at the point where the upper staple of the binding is present.

Item D10500/1/M/8/4/5
 (26.2.1) String Quartett in F major: Slow movement: [Viola part] [c.1920]
 Description: The viola part of the slow movement of the string quartett in F

1 folio Notes: Manuscript; ink. One autograph amendment has been made in pencil.

Item D10500/1/M/8/4/6
(26.2.2) String Quartett in F major: Slow movement: [Cello part] [c.1920]

Description: The cello part of the slow movement of the string quartett in F

1 folio Notes: Manuscript; ink.

Item D10500/1/M/8/4/7
(26.2.7) String Quartett in F major: Scherzo [c.1920]

Description: A fair copy full score of the Scherzo from the Quartett in F.

10pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. There are a number of pencil annotations in the score by Ralph Vaughan Williams, adding instrument names to the start of the score, suggesting the insertion rests, adding a few accidentals, and marking two points of question. A note, '(rests!)', at the top of page 5, suggests Vaughan Williams was trying to ease Gurney's sometimes relentless textures by allowing a little air into the music.

Item D10500/1/M/8/4/8
(26.2.8) String Quartett in F major: Last movement [c1920]

Description: An incomplete draft of the last movement of the Quartett in F.

10pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score also bears a pencil annotation by Richard Carder regarding the ordering of the pages.

Item D10500/1/M/8/5
(27.1.2) Quartett Slow movement [c1919-1921]

Description: An unfinished movement for string quartett titled 'Quartett Slow Movement' but which is contradictorily given the tempo indication of 'Allegro'.

4pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink.

Subsubseries D10500/1/M/8/6
String Quartett in A minor (April-May 1922)

Description: A four movement quartett consisting: i. Allegro (4/4, A minor); ii. Scherzo (6/8, Allegro con moto, E flat major); iii. Slow movement (4/4, Adagio, G major); iv. Allegro (4/4, A minor).

8 documents (scores and parts) Notes: The ordering of the movements is evident from the quartett parts. The folder also contains the bifolium of manuscript paper used by Finzi to collate the quartett scores, titled by him 'Quartet in A minor (no.2) / 4 movements'. Finzi's designation of 'no.2' refers to it being the second quartett catalogued in the key of A minor, not bearing any relation to Gurney's allocation of a number to the quartett. However, Gurney did refer to this work as his second quartett, disregarding his earlier A minor quartett, and perhaps also the A major quartett of 1919; although it could be that he is at this time envisaging a new trio of quartetts, of which this is the

second. The scores are undated, but a letter of 27 April 1922 (CL432) states that ‘The Second Quartett is 3/4 ready. A minor - carpentry not bad at all’; and on 10 May (CL433) he is able to report that ‘there is not much to say save the completion of the Second Quartett.’

Item D10500/1/M/8/6/1

(27.3.1) String Quartett in A minor: first movement (April-May 1922)

Description: A fair copy full score of the first movement of the second of Gurney’s quartetts written in the key of A minor.

18pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The cover bears a pencil annotation by Richard Carder regarding the numbering of the quartetts. Outer pages are detached.

Item D10500/1/M/8/6/2

(27.3.2) String Quartett in A minor: scherzo (April-May 1922)

Description: A fair copy full score of the scherzo of the second of Gurney’s quartetts in the key of A minor

10pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink.

Item D10500/1/M/8/6/3

(27.3.3) String Quartett in A minor: slow movement (April-May 1922)

Description: A fair copy full score of the slow movement of the second of Gurney’s quartetts in the key of A minor.

7pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. The score contains two places where Gurney has crossed through his original version and rewritten it with slight revisions.

Item D10500/1/M/8/6/4

(27.3.4) String Quartett in A minor: last movement (April-May 1922)

Description: A fair copy full score of the last movement of the second of Gurney’s quartetts in the key of A minor

20pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink.

Item D10500/1/M/8/6/5

(27.4-7) String Quartett in A minor: parts [1922]

Description: The four individual string parts for the Quartett in A minor

4 volumes Notes: Manuscript; ink. In an unknown copyist’s hand. Given the lack of bowing or other marks in these scores, it is likely that the work was never performed from them.

Item D10500/1/M/8/7

(27.2.2) String Quartett in E major [c.1921-1922]

Description: An Allegro movement titled ‘Quartett in E major’, any further intended movements for which are no longer extant or known.

16pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink.

Item D10500/1/M/8/8
(27.1.3) London Meditation [for string quartett] [1924]

Description: A fair copy full score of this work for string quartett.

6pp. Notes: Manuscript; ink. Not to be confused with the work of the same title for piano trio, composed in June 1924, to which this quartett bears no resemblance. Undated, we can give this manuscript a date of 1924 for it is written in a distinctive, vibrant blue ink used at this time. Given the similarity of title, it could date from this same time, being a second expounding of a notion of a meditation on, or in, London.

Item D10500/1/M/8/9
(26.3.1-4) String Quartett in D minor [parts] [1924-1925]

Description: The parts for a four movement string quartett in D minor: i. [no tempo]; ii. Adagio; iii. Scherzo (Andante con moto); iv. Allegro molto

4 vols. Notes: Manuscript in the hand of Marion Scott, with additions by Gurney; ink. Scott's copying of this work, and the bowing marks contained therein suggests that the work was tried through. No manuscript scores in Gurney's hand are extant. From correspondence this work can be dated as having been completed in January 1925 and later revised. These later revisions were perhaps executed in the full score, for there are a number of revisions in Gurney's hand, indicating the repeating of bars, cuts, and with several pasteovers. On the front of the violin I part Finzi has added the note 'Parts only'.