



# Down in the Valley

## Songs of Landscape & Legend

### Song-Cycle and Community Project



Inspired by the picturesque Slad Valley in the Cotswolds, this song-cycle composed by Stroud-based singer/songwriter Lisa Fitzgibbon is informed by the life and work of local writer and poet Laurie Lee, whose writing explored our relationship with nature and the importance of community.

*"So do I breathe the hayblown airs of home,  
And watch the sea-green elms drip birds and shadows,  
And as the twilight nets the plunging sun  
My heart's keel slides to rest among the meadows."*

– Home from Abroad, Laurie Lee



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**

Join Lisa as she researches and writes the songs motivated by the stories of community, legend and landscape from the beloved home and final resting place of the 'Cider with Rosie' author.







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This cultural recovery project is supported using public funding by Arts Council England and is designed to facilitate creative engagement opportunities by composing new music, sharing stories and exploring nature using historic and local narratives.

Scheduled activities include:

- Monthly songwriters' circle in the Laurie Lee Bar at the Woolpack Inn, Slad, Gloucestershire.
- Youth music songwriting workshops inspired by landscape and legend at the Music Works in Gloucester.
- A bespoke website featuring online video and audio content documenting the research and writing process of the five songs commissioned for the project.
- Live concerts of the song-cycle commission.

To commemorate the 25th Anniversary of Laurie Lee's death in May 2022, an outdoor community concert will be held at Slade Farm in Stroud. Along with several local musicians and poets, Lisa Fitzgibbon and The PowerFolk Quartet will perform the commissioned song-cycle in the belly of the magnificent Slad Valley, overlooked by the '*great ancestral hump*' of Swifts Hill.

For more information and to get involved contact:

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