

Elegy for Strings, op 58

An adagio for string orchestra.

Approximate Length: 5 minutes

First Performance:

Date: 13 July 1909

Venue: Memorial concert,
Worshipful Company of Musicians,
Mansion House, London

Dedicated to: Rev R H Haddon, late Junior Warden of
the Worshipful Company of Musicians

In 1909, August Jaeger, the German emigre who worked for the publishers Novello, who edited and championed the emerging composer's works and, in the process, became Elgar's close friend, died at the age of 49 after a long wasting illness. Although Elgar never formally acknowledged it, it seems likely that, despite the formal dedication, Elgar wrote this short, peaceful elegy in memory of his friend. The lack of formal acknowledgement perhaps indicates that Elgar intended it as a very personal tribute. Equally, however, he may have recognised that, in the public's mind, his friend would always be remembered by Elgar's earlier, unsurpassable tribute to him - Nimrod of the Enigma Variations.