

THE ELGAR SOCIETY

Founded 1951

President: Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM

Registered Charity N° 298062

THE Elgar Society was founded to honour the memory of Sir Edward Elgar and promote interest in his life and music. The largest society devoted to a British composer, it has approximately 1,100 members worldwide, both musicians and music lovers. Members receive the Society's *Journal* three times a year, containing the latest research on Elgar's life and music, and also the more general *Elgar Society News*. Other benefits of membership are free admission to the Elgar Birthplace Museum at Broadheath, near Worcester, and membership of the Society's branches.

Subscriptions and legacies from members fund the activities of the Society. In addition to supporting the Elgar Birthplace Museum and its important collection of manuscripts and documents, the Society supports academic research and works with educational establishments to broaden knowledge of the music of Elgar. Via its 'Elgar in Performance' scheme it gives financial and practical aid to encourage performances of those Elgar works which are unjustly neglected or costly to perform. By funding commercial recordings it pursues the aim that all Elgar's compositions be professionally recorded. The Society has set up a charitable company to bring to fruition the *Elgar Complete Edition*, a complete scholarly collection of the composer's music in forty-three volumes. It also makes full scores, vocal scores and orchestral sets available for sale and for hire.

In 1971 a London Branch of the Elgar Society was established; there are now eight more branches in the United Kingdom and one in North America. The branches enable Society members, who might not otherwise meet, to learn more about Elgar and share their enthusiasm for his music with each other and the wider public, by attending talks by visiting speakers and other social events.

To download a membership application form, or for further details, please see the Society's website:

www.elgar.org

THE ELGAR SOCIETY *East Anglian Branch*

THE East Anglian Branch of the Elgar Society meets on Saturday afternoons seven or eight times each year, for illustrated talks by writers, musicians and Elgarian experts. There is no charge for admission, but donations are welcomed towards the running costs of the branch. Visitors and potential new members are always welcome; if you like the music of Elgar why not pay us a visit?

Unless otherwise stated, meetings are held in the Lecture Room at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds, centrally located within East Anglia and with good transport links. From the entrance on Angel Hill go down the steps, along the cloister and through the doorway on the right to find the staircase and lift up to the Lecture Room. For more information please contact the Branch Secretary, Robin Self: telephone: 01728 621 577; e-mail: east.anglia@elgar.org



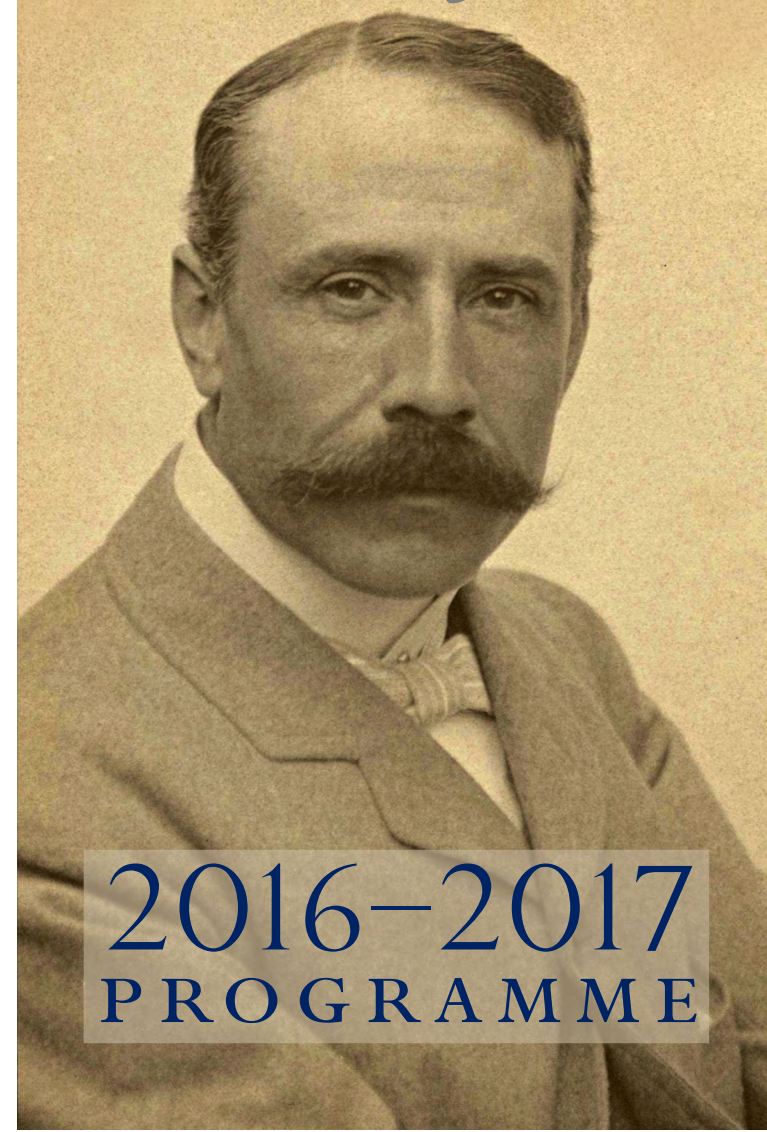
St Edmundsbury Cathedral from the Abbey Gardens

The East Anglian Branch of the Elgar Society is a member of the Ipswich Arts Association. To find out more about IAA, visit www.ipswich-arts.co.uk



Brochure typeset, designed & printed by Peter Newble
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Front cover portrait (c.1905) of Sir Edward Elgar
(1857–1934) by Edgar Thomas Holding (1870–1952)

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2016–2017
PROGRAMME

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2016—2017

*All meetings are held in the Lecture Room,
St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St Edmunds IP33 1LS*

Saturday 8 October 2016, 2.30 p.m.

STEPHEN WILLIAMS & FRIENDS

A three-fold cord

*Edward Elgar, Ivor Atkins & the earliest
origins of Three Choirs' Music Meetings*

FOR three centuries the cathedral choirs of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester have met each summer to make music together, now joined by musicians and audiences from much further afield. Revd Stephen Williams is a historian of the Three Choirs Festival. With the help of his colleagues he explores its origins, its importance to Elgar throughout his life and, in particular, the role of Sir Ivor Atkins, Elgar's close friend and Worcester Cathedral organist for more than fifty years.

Saturday 5 November 2016, 2.30 p.m.

ANDREW KEENER

Sir Malcolm Sargent

Elitist with the common touch

THE prolific record producer, Andrew Keener, introduces the life and work of Sir Malcolm Sargent (1895–1967), the conductor who did so much for music in Britain, and British music in particular, in the first half of the twentieth century. A great champion of Elgar, he also gave the first performances of many of the works of his younger colleagues.

Saturday 4 February 2017, 2.30 p.m.

CHRISTOPHER WILTSHIRE

Edward Elgar from more of us who knew him

Recorded accounts by those who met and worked with Elgar

PRECEDED BY THE BRANCH A.G.M. AT 2.00

BY popular demand after his first appearance last season, Christopher Wiltshire introduces a second instalment of recordings of the reminiscences—some amusing, others moving—of those who knew Elgar in person. Their voices provide a vital, vivid link with the composer's own time.

Saturday 4 March 2017, 2.30 p.m.

GEOFFREY SCARGILL

Elgar and Germany

GERMAN musicians were among Elgar's most important colleagues, he travelled extensively in Germany and its music was an important influence upon him. Geoffrey Scargill, the outgoing chairman of the North-West branch of the Elgar Society, shares Elgar's enthusiasm and has been at the forefront of the Society's efforts to raise his profile in Germany once more.

Saturday 8 April 2017, 2.30 p.m.

RACHEL SOKOLOWSKI (violin)

CHRISTOPHER MOORE (piano)

Elgar: Violin Sonata in E minor

followed by complete performance in the cathedral

CHRISTOPHER Moore, who spoke about Elgar's organ music and performed Elgar's organ sonata for the branch in 2013, returns to talk on the subject of Elgar's haunting and deeply personal wartime violin sonata. Afterwards he and the violinist Rachel Sokolowski will give a complete performance of the work in St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Saturday 13 May 2017, 2.30 p.m.

KEVIN MITCHELL & FRIENDS

Elgar: The Starlight Express

WHEN Algernon Blackwood's children's story *A Prisoner in Fairyland* was adapted for the stage as *The Starlight Express* in 1915, Elgar was engaged to write incidental music. Charming and escapist, it countered the emerging horrors of war, and his early recording proved popular, not least at the Front. Kevin Mitchell, with colleagues from the London branch of the Elgar Society, discusses the recently revived work.

Saturday 10 June 2017, 2.30 p.m.

LEWIS FOREMAN

Discovering the British symphony

LEWIS Foreman, indefatigable historian of English music of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries joins us to talk about British symphonies: some well known, others less so. Elgar wrote two, Bax seven and Vaughan Williams nine, but there have been more than a hundred more composed in this country since the 1880s, and the process of rediscovery continues.

Saturday 8 July 2017, 2.30 p.m.

JOHN HARCUP

Elgar in Malvern

The composer on the road to fame

OF the great tune on the first movement of his cello concerto, Elgar said, 'If ever you're walking on the hills and you should hear this, don't be frightened, it's only me.' The hills were the Malverns, and they, and the town below them, were where his heart lay. John Harcup, chairman of the West Midlands branch of the Elgar Society and Vice-President of the Malvern Civic Society, discusses Elgar's time in Malvern and the works he composed there.