

## THE ELGAR SOCIETY

Founded 1951

Registered Charity No. 298062

**T**HE Elgar Society was founded to honour the memory of Sir Edward Elgar and promote interest in his life and music. It is the largest society devoted to a British composer, with approximately 1300 members worldwide: musicians and music lovers alike. Three times a year members receive the Society's *Journal*, containing the latest research on Elgar's life and music, and 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 up to two branches of the Society.

Members' subscriptions and legacies 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 Elgar's music. 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. It pursues the aim that all Elgar's compositions be professionally recorded by funding commercial recordings. 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 or for hire.

In 1971 a London Branch of the Elgar Society was established, there are now eight 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, via talks by visiting speakers and social events.

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

[www.elgar.org](http://www.elgar.org)

## THE ELGAR SOCIETY EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH

**T**HE East Anglian Branch of the Elgar Society meets on Saturday afternoons eight times per year, for illustrated talks by musicians, writers 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? Meetings are held in the centre of Bury St Edmunds, centrally located within East Anglia and with good transport links, in the Lecture Room at St Edmundsbury Cathedral. From the main entrance on Angel Hill go down the steps, through 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](mailto:east-anglia@elgar.org)



ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL FROM THE ABBEY GARDENS

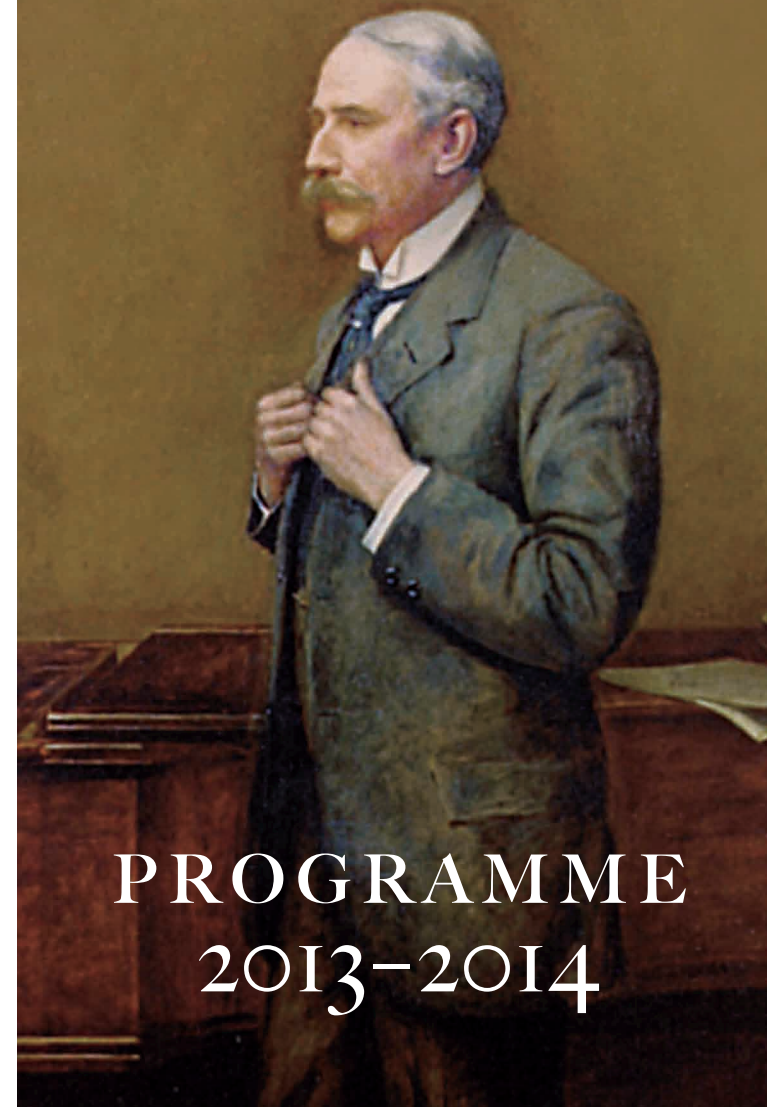
The East Anglian Branch of the Elgar Society is a member of Ipswich Arts Association. To find out more about IAA, visit [www.ipswich-arts.co.uk](http://www.ipswich-arts.co.uk)



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Front cover illustration: portrait of Sir Edward Elgar, Bt (1857-1934) by Sir Philip Burne-Jones, Bt (1861-1926)

THE ELGAR SOCIETY

The *Elgar* Society  
East Anglian Branch



PROGRAMME  
2013-2014

# EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH PROGRAMME 2013-2014

Saturday 12 October 2013, 2.30 p.m.

PHILIP PETCHHEY

## Elgar: the Edwardian background

PHILIP Petchey, Vice-Chairman of the London Branch of the Elgar Society, explores aspects of Edwardian life and attitudes that form the background to some of Elgar's finest works, and considers how these might have affected his music.

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Saturday 9 November 2013, 2.30 p.m.

GEOFF HODGKINS

## Elgar's religious character

ELGAR had a complex relationship with his Catholic faith and his changing attitude to religion was reflected in his compositions: his planned *Apostles* trilogy was never completed. Geoff Hodgkins, editor of the Elgar Society *Journal* for eleven years and now Chairman of the London Branch, is the author or editor of several books on Elgar including *Providence and Art*, a study in Elgar's religious beliefs.

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Saturday 7 December 2013, 2.30 p.m.

DR MARTIN FIRTH

## Aspects of nostalgia & 'Englishness' in Elgar's Cello Concerto

MARTIN Firth was Senior Lecturer in Music at the University of the West of England, and is an experienced organist and conductor. He explores a work which is not only one of Elgar's most popular, but one of the best-known in all English music, to consider that perceived 'Englishness' and the vein of nostalgia which is central to its appeal.

Saturday 1 March 2014, 2.30 p.m.  
*preceded by the Branch A.G.M. at 2 p.m.*

ANDREW LYLE

## Elgar's music for Powick Asylum

THE twenty-one-year-old Elgar was appointed bandmaster of the Worcester City and County Lunatic Asylum at Powick. Writing music for the varied collection of players in the staff band proved invaluable experience for the aspiring composer. Andrew Lyle, a former BBC Radio 3 producer, edited Elgar's thirty-one works for Powick Asylum for Volume 22 of the *Elgar Complete Edition*.

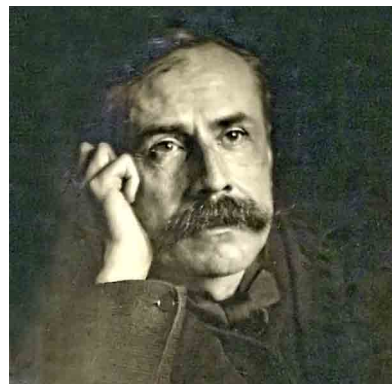
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Saturday 22 March 2014, 2.30 p.m.

DR JOHN HARCUP, OBE

## Edward Elgar: a medical enigma?

DR John Harcup practised as a general practitioner in Malvern for thirty-nine years and is Chairman of the West Midlands Branch of the Elgar Society. He considers the prevailing assessment of Elgar as a hypochondriac and possible manic depressive in the light of the surviving medical evidence, to discover whether the composer was as much a medical as a musical enigma.



Saturday 26 April 2014, 2.30 p.m.

DR DONALD HUNT, OBE

## 1896: a momentous year for Elgar *A study of Elgar's King Olaf and The Light of Life*

DONALD Hunt was Organist & Master of the Choristers at Worcester Cathedral from 1976 to 1996, is a Vice-President of the Elgar Society and the Elgar Foundation, and gives regular talks at the Elgar Birthplace Museum. He knows *Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf* and *The Light of Life* well, having conducted both in their centenary year.

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Saturday 7 June 2014, 2.30 p.m.

RICHARD SMITH

## Elgar in America

ELGAR visited the USA several times and some of his closest friends were Americans. Richard Smith, Secretary of the West Midlands Branch of the Elgar Society and author of *Elgar in America*, explores Elgar's love-hate relationship with the USA.

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Saturday 5 July 2014, 2.30 p.m.

PAUL ADRIAN ROOKE

## Elgar's Symphonic Study *Falstaff*

PAUL Adrian Rooke is a composer, conductor and retired music teacher, and is chief originator for the *Elgar Complete Edition*. The subject of his talk is one of Elgar's least-known major works, which the composer considered to be his finest: his Straussian symphonic poem depicting the life of Shakespeare's Sir John Falstaff.