

THE ELGAR SOCIETY

Founded 1951

Registered Charity No. 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 1300 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 branches of the Society.

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? Meetings are held in the Lecture Room at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in the centre of Bury St Edmunds, centrally located within East Anglia and with good transport links. 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



ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL FROM THE ABBEY GARDENS

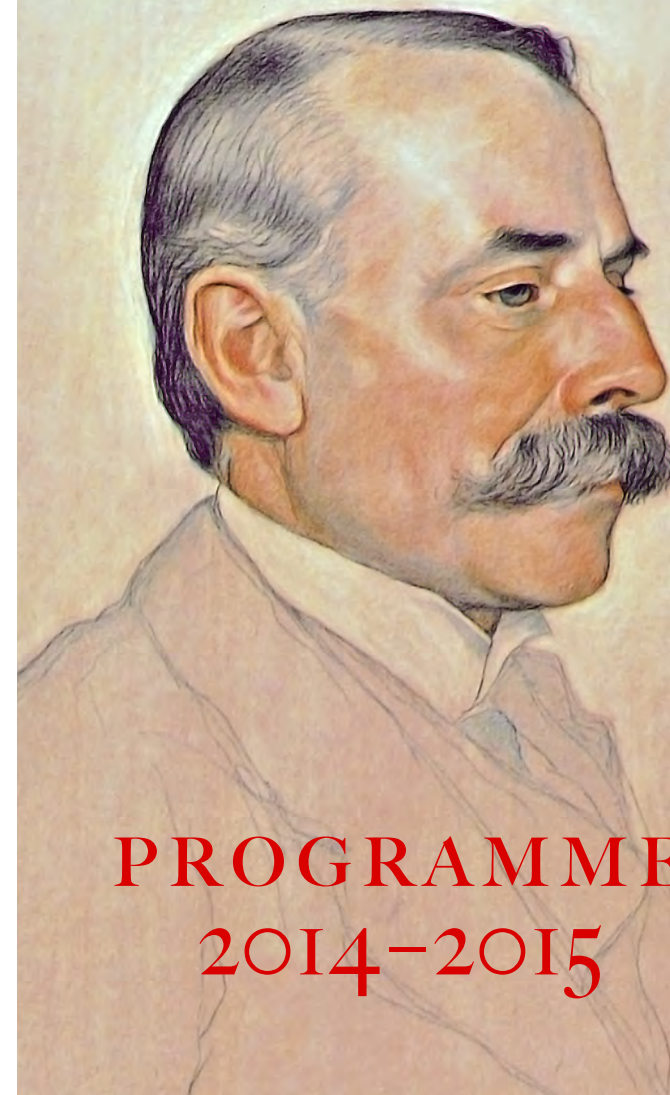
The East Anglian Branch of the Elgar Society is a member of the Ipswich Arts Association. To find out more about IAA, visit www.ipswich-arts.co.uk



Brochure typeset, designed & printed by Peter Newble
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Elgar, Bt (1857–1934) by William Strang (1859–1921)

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The Elgar Society
East Anglian Branch



PROGRAMME
2014–2015

EAST ANGLIAN BRANCH PROGRAMME 2014-2015

Saturday 4 October 2014, 2.30 p.m.

PETER AVIS

Rosa Newmarch

'OUR NEVER-TO-BE-FORGOTTEN FRIEND'

ROSA Newmarch was a fascinating and influential figure in early twentieth-century London musical life. Peter Avis, who presented a BBC radio programme about Newmarch, explores her multifaceted life as programme-note writer for Sir Henry Wood's Queen's Hall Orchestra, advocate of Russian music and the works of Jean Sibelius and Leoš Janáček, poet and translator of Russian lyrics, two of which were set by Elgar as choral songs.



Saturday 1 November 2014, 2.30 p.m.

DR RAYMOND HOLDEN

The orchestra during Elgar's life

RAYMOND Holden is Sir John Barbirolli Lecturer in Music at the Royal Academy of Music, a conductor and expert on the orchestras and conductors of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Instruments and the way they are played were very different a century ago and the orchestra and the role of the conductor have changed considerably too. Dr Holden brings to life the orchestral world in which Elgar worked as player, composer and conductor.

Saturday 7 February 2015, 2.30 p.m.

PETER NEWBLE

Elgar and the Great War

IN 1914 Elgar was fifty-seven: too old to fight but not too old to serve his country. His career had, in retrospect, passed its Edwardian peak, but the works he composed in the unique circumstances of the war years spanned the practical, the escapist and some of his strangest and most ghostly music. The effect of the Great War on Elgar and his music is explored by Peter Newble, chairman of the East Anglian branch.

Saturday 7 March 2015, 2.30 p.m.

CHRISTOPHER BISHOP

Recollections of a record producer

CHRISTOPHER Bishop was an EMI producer until 1979, responsible for records by conductors including Giulini, Previn and, in the 'Indian summer' of his career, Sir Adrian Boult, whose last recordings included the Brahms symphonies, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, *Job* and much more by Vaughan Williams, and many of the great choral and orchestral works by Elgar, records known and loved by all Elgarians.

Saturday 11 April 2015, 2.30 p.m.

DONALD HUNT

Elgar's choral songs

DONALD Hunt, conductor, former organist and master of the choristers at Worcester Cathedral and a Vice-President of the Elgar Society, returns to speak about Elgar's widely varied corpus of choral songs. Some remain popular with choirs today but others are unjustly neglected. He is well qualified for this task, having recorded them all in 1987 and edited them for publication in the Elgar Society Edition.

Saturday 9 May 2015, 2.30 p.m.

STEVEN HALLS

Elgar's chamber music

FROM THE SHED TO THE WORLD

FROM early works composed for his wind quintet (depicted below in 1877, with Elgar in the middle), via works for solo piano and violin and piano, to the late, great string quartet, violin sonata and piano quintet, Elgar's chamber music is often overlooked. Steven Halls, chairman of the Elgar Society since 2008 and himself a cellist, explores it from the perspective of a committed chamber musician.



Saturday 30 May 2015, 2.30 p.m.

TOM KELLY

Elgar's First Symphony

THE enthusiastically received first performance of Elgar's A-flat Symphony, in December 1908, was one of the most important events in the history of English music, followed within a year by a hundred performances worldwide. Tom Kelly, from the Scottish Branch of the Elgar Society, makes a return visit to East Anglia to discuss a work for which he is a particular enthusiast.