

The Society

Elgar



# The Trustees' Annual Report

1 January 2017 to  
31 December 2017

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and presented to the Annual General Meeting  
on 3 June 2018

## THE ELGAR SOCIETY

### Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 January 2017 - 31 December 2017

#### A THE SOCIETY

##### **Charitable Status**

Founded in 1951, the Society registered as charity no. 298062 on 22 January 1988.

##### **Office**

The Society has no registered office. Correspondence should be addressed to the Society's Secretary at 10 Cullin Park Grove, Strathaven, Lanarkshire, ML10 6EN.

##### **Trustees**

The following acted as Trustees during the period under review:

Stuart Freed	Philip Petchey
Jon Goldswain	Geoff Scargill
Paul Grafton	George Smart
Steven Halls	David Young
Ruth Hellen	Helen Whittaker
Peter Newbie	Roy Whittaker

##### **Elected Officers**

Chairman:	Steven Halls
Vice-Chairman:	Stuart Freed
Secretary:	George Smart
Treasurer:	Helen Whittaker

##### **Other National Post-holders**

Archivist:	Richard Hall
Data Protection Officer:	Richard Hall
Journal Editor:	Meinhard Saremba
Membership Secretary:	David Young
News Editors:	Peter James / Richard Smith (part-year)
Web Officers:	Stuart Freed / Robert Gilbert

## Branch Officers

Branch	Chair	Secretary
East Anglia	Peter Newble	Robin Self
East Midlands	Howard Newton	Ken Smith
London	Philip Petchey	Ruth Hellen
North American	Arthur Reynolds	Lee Kaufman
North-West	Rev. John Knowles	David L. Jones
Scotland	Paul Bassett	Vacant
Southern	William Cole	Wendy Wiseman
South-Western	Christopher Redwood	Michael Butterfield
West Midlands	John Harcup	Richard Smith
Yorkshire & North East	Tony Pook	Paul Grafton

## Advisers

<b>Bankers:</b>	Lloyds TSB
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	Adrian Benselin, Chartered Accountant

## Honorary Posts and Awards

President – Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM

## Vice-Presidents

Diana McVeagh	Dr Donald Hunt OBE
Michael Pope	Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE
Dame Janet Baker CH DBE	Andrew Neill
Leonard Slatkin	Sir Mark Elder CBE
Sir Andrew Davis CBE	Martyn Brabbins
	Tasmin Little OBE

## Recipients of the Elgar Society's Silver Medal

Year	Recipient
1992	Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore
1992	Leonard Slatkin
1999	Jerzy Maksymiuk
2000	Tadaaki Otaka
2007	Andrew Litton
2008	Sakari Oramo
2009	Danube Symphony Orchestra
2009	Vladimir Ashkenazy
2011	Michael Kennedy
2011	Anthony Payne
2012	Barry Collett
2012	Jacek Kasprzyk
2012	Sir Colin Davis
2013	Sir Andrew Davis
2013	Sir Mark Elder
2015	Daniel Barenboim
2015	Diana McVeagh
2016	Martin Bird
2016	Teresa Cahill
2016	Alex. Walker (not yet presented)

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Society was governed under a constitution adopted with effect from 1 January 2008 and subsequently amended in June 2010 and June 2011. Its Council consisted of the elected officers, and seven other members of the Society.

The Executive Committee consisted of the elected officers. A representative of the Branch Chairmen's Committee is a non-voting member. The task of the Executive Committee is to carry out the policy decisions of the Council and to deal with any matters which lie in its terms of reference.

Also in operation were *Elgar in Performance*, which included *Elgar in Education* and special projects, and the Branch Chairmen's Committee, which met on 2 occasions in 2017.

A member of the Elgar Birthplace Management Committee is welcome to attend as an observer at Council meetings and the Chairman of the Society is welcome to attend as an observer at Elgar Foundation Board meetings.

### Working Parties active during 2017

Name	Chairman/ Convenor	Members
Elgar in Performance (including Education)	Steven Halls	Barry Collett, Martyn Marsh, the Executive Committee
Branch Chairmen's Committee	Geoff Scargill	All other Branch Chairmen

### Council and Executive

The Council met three times and the Executive Committee on one occasion during 2017, with much of the business being conducted by e-mail. Since the 2017 AGM, the main topics of discussion continued to be:

- progress on the many components of the Society's adopted strategy;
- deciding on new recordings and other initiatives;
- dealing with all the applications to Elgar in Performance and the education and special projects funds;
- monitoring the membership numbers in the light of further collaboration developing between the Birthplace and the National Trust as the latter took over the management of the former;
- potential Vice-Presidents and recipients of the Certificate of Merit and the ES Medal;
- continuing collaboration with German contacts and promoters, managed by the Executive and spearheaded by Geoff Scargill and pursued by him with the help of the Elgar Trust;
- the continuation of the free membership scheme;
- a proposal for the amendment of the Constitution relating to the Presidential term;
- the development of initiatives to increase membership of the Society;
- the development of Elgar in relation to music education.

As ever, I pay tribute to my colleagues on Council, whose debates are always stimulating, and to my colleagues on Executive, who deal promptly and efficiently with anything that comes their way.

*Steven Halls, Chairman*

## **Branches**

There are ten UK Branches organised geographically, and a further Branch covering America and Canada. The creation of a Branch is at the discretion of the Society's Council and requires substantive evidence from a sufficiently large group of members that there is a reasonable assurance of viability. Branches report on their activities via the *Elgar Society News* and are required to submit their annual accounts to the Treasurer so that she can integrate them with those of the Society.

## **Risks**

No major risks have been identified by the Trustees. The Society is substantially dependent on subscriptions and Gift Aid for its income and it is thus vital to retain and increase membership while ensuring that subscription rates are realistic in the light of the charity's activities and costs. The Trustees consider that if this is done there are no serious risks to future viability. This Annual Report states the position as at 31 December 2017 and the Trustees are not aware of any material change in risk which needs to be reported.

## **Objectives and Activities**

Under its Constitution, the Society's objective is the education in, and promotion of, the appreciation of the public in the music of Edward Elgar and the education of the public in the life of Edward Elgar through:

- a) the provision of educational programmes and activities to widen knowledge of Elgar's music for all;
- b) support for the Elgar Birthplace museum and educational establishments that attract the general public to Elgar's music and life;
- c) the funding and encouragement of performances and recordings of his works;
- d) the encouragement of research into Elgar's music, and the publication of a scholarly journal containing the results of such research;
- e) the publication or support for a scholarly edition of Elgar's music.

The Society seeks to promote performance of Elgar's music, especially the more rarely performed items. While its focus has heretofore been on performances in Britain, it has emphasised encouraging performances of Elgar's music abroad as far as its resources permit, concentrating particularly on Germany. It is concerned to introduce the composer and his music to younger audiences and, by making grants for appropriate educational activities, to enhance the quality of life of members of the public.

The Society publishes its *Journal* three times a year, which contains the results of Elgar research and is sold to educational institutions and the general public as well as being sent to members as part of their subscription benefit. There is also a thrice-yearly *News* publication sent to members only. The Society maintains a website which is proving increasingly valuable for members and non-members alike.

Funds are centrally administered, the Council approving the annual budget and budget heads. Branches submit bids for support of their activities based on their administrative costs plus an element in support of their local meetings. Grants are made both to Branches and outside bodies in respect of specific charitable activities and are awarded only when a proposed project is shown to have satisfied strict conditions relating to the stated aims and objectives of the Society. The Society's grant-making policy is conditioned by its objectives and its relatively constrained financial resources. In general, grants are made for the major purposes listed below.

- Assisting sole or group performers, especially in non-commercial situations, who are prepared to play rarer Elgar works or to perform in locations in which the composer's music is unlikely otherwise to be heard and at which the public constitute the majority of attenders.
- Supporting educational activities at all levels from primary to higher and continuous learning that inculcate in the participants special and intellectual skills by using Elgar, his life and/or music as a test bed for such activities or which enhance knowledge of English culture and history.
- Aiding institutions which have a role in the musical and historical aspects of Elgar to widen the accessibility of their services to socially diverse audiences and/or to provide specific Elgar-related public benefits.

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### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (1 Jan. 2017 – 31 Dec. 2017)

#### General Overview

Under Initial Achievements & Plans, the last Trustees' Annual Report stated that, in 2017, the Society in partnership with other organisations would undertake the tasks listed below. Progress is described on each one in italics below.

In considering undertaking any activities, the four objectives below are the criteria against which we judge any proposals so that we might:

1. increase our membership;
2. raise money in support of our activities;
3. add demonstrably to the funding and encouragement of performances and recordings of Elgar's works;
4. increase access to the Elgar oeuvre.

- *Elgar in Performance*, coupled with the Other Projects Fund agreed by Council, had already allocated by 31 December 2016 all of its £30,335 towards supporting a wide variety of events in 2017 at home and abroad, particularly Germany. *Council subsequently provided further funds to help meet even greater demands for 2017. This greatly increased budget was created to fund three major CDs in 2017 via SOMM Records and another, of the short orchestral works, by the Dutton Epoch label. (See Recordings below.)*
- *Elgar in Performance* will also continue its Elgar in Deutschland initiative. *Performances were supported in Cologne (the culmination of an extended Elgar educational project), Marburg, Limburg, Munich, Hamburg, Magdeburg, Halberstadt, Karlsruhe.*
- We shall continue to seek to raise sponsorship and legacies to enable us to expand our work and ensure it extends into the future. *The generous donation by David Parry, made shortly before his death in May 2017, was, with his blessing, put towards the SOMM CD of devotional music released in early 2018, on which his donation was honoured.*
- Council will consider nominations for the Elgar Society Medal and Certificate of Merit. *No new proposals were put forward during 2017; Teresa Cahill was presented with the Elgar Medal, and Richard Smith, Geoff Scargill and Chris Bennett were presented with the Certificate of Merit.*
- We shall continue to work more closely with Elgar Works and the Elgar Complete Edition to make more of Elgar's music available in a timely fashion at a reasonable cost to performers and conductors all over

the world. *The year has seen increasing production of performing parts and responses to heavy demand for scores and parts. Elgar Works is looking for alternative means of displaying and selling, now that the Birthplace no longer sells the stock and Chris Bennett has left the Birthplace.*

## Recordings

- As mentioned above, the greatly increased EiP budget was created to fund four major CDs, three via SOMM Records and one via the Dutton Epoch label. SOMM's first was *The Art of the Military Band*, and the second has been released in early 2018 and consists of choral music comprising *Te Deum & Benedictus*, *Psalm 48 (Great is the Lord)*, *Psalm 29 (Give unto the Lord)*, *O Hearken Thou*, *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus* (a first recording of Elgar's orchestrated version), *Spanish Serenade* and *From the Bavarian Highlands*. The third CD features songs with, for the most part, orchestral accompaniment but also songs for soprano & piano, including world première recordings of *Muleteer's Serenade* and *The Mill Wheel*. The fourth, by Dutton Epoch, was recorded with the BBC Concert Orchestra under David Lloyd-Jones showcasing some of the short orchestral works featured in Volume 23 of the Elgar Complete Edition, edited by David Lloyd-Jones himself. This CD also contains world première recordings - *Air de Ballet*, *Pleading* in Elgar's arrangement for solo violin and orchestra, and the Introduction to the Gavotte from Elgar's *Suite in D* - and Elgar's all-but-unknown arrangement for 'small' orchestra of the *Canto Popolare* from *In the South*. It will be released in mid-2018.

## Elgar in Performance / Education/ Other Projects

In 2017, from 38 applications, the following performances were supported by EiP from its initial budget of £18,000, augmented by a further £20,000 by Council resolution in June 2016 to ensure the support of major recording projects (see the *Recordings* section of this TAR above).

*Steven Halls, Chairman EiP & Barry Collett, EiP Administrative Adviser*

Recipient	Activity	Date	Venue	Aid £
Edinburgh Festival	King Olaf	11/08/2017	Usher Hall	1000
Berkhamsted CS	Music Makers, Spirit of England, Polonia	06/05/2017	Watford	1000
Cobbe Collection	Elgar Piano 2/5 years	(annual)		400

Recipient	Activity	Date	Venue	Aid £
Bach-Verein Cologne	The Kingdom	05/06/2017	Cologne	1000
Bach-Verein Cologne	Educational Programme	03 to 06 2017	Cologne	2800
SOMM recordings	CD2 Orchestral Songs	2017	(recording)	16510
Mike Dutton Epoch	Volume 23	2017	(recording)	2750
Rutland Sinfonia	Cockaigne, Sursum, Air de Ballet	11/03/2017	Oakham	500
Hertfordshire Chorus	The Kingdom	04/02/2017	St. Albans	750
American SO	The Apostles	01/05/2017	Carnegie Hall, NY	1000
Marburg Univ. Choir	The Black Knight	28/01/2017 29/01/2017	Marburg, Limburg	750
Munich Univ. Choir	The Dream of Gerontius	26/01/2017 27/02/2017	Munich	800
St. Katherine Hochkirche	The Dream of Gerontius	18/11/2017	Hamburg	800
Elysian Singers	Great Is The Lord Give unto The Lord	28/01/2017	London	400
<i>(Council</i>	<i>approved</i>	<i>additional</i>	<i>budget)</i>	<i>-18000</i>
Kirchengemeinde	The Apostles	03/06/2017	Cathedral, Halberstadt	1000
Magdeburg	The Apostles	17/06/2017	Cathedral, Magdeburg	1000
Leiden Studenten Koor	The Dream of Gerontius	11/03/2017	Leiden, Netherlands	500
Kidderminster Choral Society	The Kingdom	25/03/2017	Kidder- minster	750
Staatstheater	The Music Makers	18/06/2017 19/06/2017	Theater, Karlsruhe	1000
Salisbury Music Society	The Kingdom	01/04/2017	Cathedral, Salisbury	750
Bard College	The Dream of Gerontius	08/04/2017 09/04/2017	Fisher Centre, NY	1000
Royal Free Singers	Spirit of England, Music Makers, Serenade	08/04/2017	Eton College	750
Elgar Voices	Church and Organ Music	10/06/2017	St. Georges Worcester	500
Global Theatre Company	Play: 'Edward and Alice'	25/04/2017	Theatre, Hertford	250

Recipient	Activity	Date	Venue	Aid £
St. Walstan's, Malvern	Organ Appeal	2017	Malvern	500
Chandos Orchestra	Elgar/Payne Symphony No. 3	12/11/2017	Forum, Malvern	750
Oldham Choral Society	Spirit of England	12/11/2017	RNCM	750
Music Makers Orchestra	The Music Makers	07 and 08 2017	Taipei and Singapore	900

## The Journal

During 2017 Vol. 20 Nos.1–3 of the *Elgar Society Journal* were published in April, August, and December, of 72, 72 and 88 pages respectively. Particular highlights were a three-part series on *Elgar & Mahler* by Alexander Odefey, the two-part series *From Keeper of the Archives to Keeper of the Flame: the 'Dorabella' bequest at the Royal College of Music* by Kevin Allen and essays such as Peter Sutton's *Piers Plowman, Elgar's Bible* and Pierre Degott's *From Beethoven to Elgar: the representation of Christ on the English oratorio Scene*. The new column *Elgar viewed from afar* illustrates how Elgar was seen in non-British countries during his lifetime. The first contributions included documents from German and French music encyclopaedias.

*Meinhard Saremba, Editor of the Journal*

## The News

Richard Smith and I jointly produced the April and August 2017 editions and, after Richard's resignation as joint editor, I took over sole editorship for the December publication. We attempt to cover all news with an Elgarian content together with the latest information from the Society's officers and Branches. Highlights included the many contributions from Richard Smith himself, Thomas Neuhoff, conductor of the performance of *The Kingdom* in Cologne, on his love of Elgar, and Andrew Neill's article on SOMM. We are fortunate in having the collaboration of Robert Gilbert, the *News's* typesetter, who also compiles the ever-bulging concert diary and who organised the move to colour printing in the December edition.

*Peter James, Editor of the News*

## Membership report

As at 31 December 2017, there were 998 members (1115 in 2016). 42 new members were welcomed, of whom 16 were free. (In 2016 there were 99 new members of whom 56 were free.)

This significant reduction in membership shows how valuable the support from the Birthplace was. It is to be hoped that this dip in numbers will rectify itself in the coming year.

### Branch membership

Branch	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
East Anglia	50	65	56	51	52
East Midlands	24	33	26	17	10
London	307	338	348	362	353
North America/Canada	45	45	36	34	46
North-West	113	127	125	128	120
Scottish	59	59	61	72	68
Southern	90	102	86	107	106
South-West	58	64	67	69	79
West Midlands	187	210	210	247	229
Yorkshire/North-East	45	50	46	46	24
UK Unaffiliated	143	160	180	258	270

(Members may be affiliated to more than one Branch).

*David Young, Honorary Membership Secretary*

### The Archives

There has been only one significant addition to the Society's Archive in Worcester during the year: North West Branch: Minute book of Annual General Meetings with Statements of Receipts and Payments, annual programmes, etc. 1984–2014. Deposited by David L. Jones, Secretary of the North West Branch.

Members are reminded that the records of the Society from 1950 are held at the Worcestershire Record Office in The Hive, Worcester, where they can be accessed should this be required.

*Richard Hall, Honorary Archivist*

### Branch Activities

The Society recognises that Branches contribute to the Society's health as they promote membership and local activity throughout the country. They are particularly important for members who enjoy meeting fellow Elgarians and listening to talks and performances of Elgar's music in their home area.

### East Anglian Branch

The East Anglian Branch of the Elgar Society met eight times during 2017 at our usual venue, the Edmund Room (Lecture Room) in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St. Edmunds. The meetings attract a loyal following of approximately 25 members

The programme included talks on *Elgar in Germany*, a talk and performance of the Violin Sonata, production details of *The Starlight Express*, an analysis of the British Symphony, *Elgar in Malvern*, *Richard Strauss in London* and *The Life and Music of Dame Ethel Smythe*.

We are grateful to Geoff Scargill, Christopher Moore and violinist Rachel Sokolowski, Kevin Mitchell and friends, John Harcup, Raymond Holden, Peter Avis and Christopher Wiltshire who presented Part 2 of recordings of those who had known Elgar in his lifetime.

An interesting programme has been arranged for the coming season and we look forward to welcoming visitors to our meetings and to the attractive town of Bury St Edmunds.

*Bev Simpson*

### East Midlands Branch

The Branch's planned programme was disrupted to some degree by illness and unavailability for other reasons amongst speakers. We were grateful that replacements were willing to stand in at short notice.

The programme was as follows:

- February: Professor Daniel Grimley on  
*Delius, Elgar and Beatrice Harrison*.
- March: Em Marshall-Luck on *The English Music Festival*.
- April: Dr John Harcup on  
*Edward Elgar's Edwardian Experience*.
- May: Martin and Jane Bird on *Carice*.
- June: A Members' Afternoon followed by the AGM.  
This replaced the advertised talk by  
Dr Michael Toseland on *Elgar's Ladies*.
- October: Helen Petchey on *Elgar, Music and me*.
- November: part Members' Choice and part  
introduction to *The Apostles*, replacing the late  
unavailability of the advertised speaker.
- December: Dr Michael Toseland and Mrs Janet Toseland  
on *Elgar's Ladies*  
replacing Ken Smith's advertised talk on *The Apostles*.

The Branch suffered the sad loss of some members with the deaths, amongst others, of David Monk, Carolyn Pritchett and the mother of new committee member Michele Goodchild. In addition there were several instances of serious illness and accident including Branch Secretary Ken Smith, Branch venue and facilities organiser Dr Michael Toseland, and new committee member Katherine Goodier.

On a happier note we were pleased to welcome a number of new members and there was a willingness to help out at times of difficulty on the part of those attending. We continued to benefit also from the professional expertise of our printers and publicists Calow and Craddock.

Although based in Leicester we attract people from Nottingham, Rutland, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Coventry and Warwickshire in addition to Leicestershire. Attendances overall remained consistently satisfactory but we need to work hard to persuade visitors to convert their status to that of member.

I warmly thank all who have helped to take the Branch forward, in particular, our hardworking committee, although we still need at least one additional committee member for a further input of new ideas. No more than three or four meetings are involved for a maximum of two hours each.

*Howard Newton, Branch Chairman*

### **London Branch**

The Branch held eight meetings as follows:

- February: *Elgar and Walton* by Relf Clark.  
March: *A golden age of recording* by Christopher Bishop.  
April: *Rosa Newmarch* by Peter Avis.  
May: *Music and the Crystal Palace:*  
*Great Exhibition to Great Fire* by Philip Emery.  
June: Branch AGM; Elgar's music for violin and piano  
played by Simon Baggs & Nick Patrick  
October: *With proud thanksgiving* by Teresa Cahill.

Reports of the above meetings appear in the relevant issues of the Elgar Society News.

On 6 November Andrew Neill presented a portrait in sound and pictures of his good friend Michael Kennedy. Most of us know Michael's writing on Elgar, but his musical interests and knowledge took in many composers,

particularly Richard Strauss, Vaughan Williams and Mahler. Andrew showed us the breadth of the contribution Michael made to British musical life over many years.

On 4 December Kevin Mitchell gave a presentation outlining the history of *Fringes of the Fleet* and *The Sanguine Fan*. He was ably assisted by Stephen Harrow and Lyn and Peter Nixon reading passages from letters and diaries. Former Branch Secretary Garry Humphreys, accompanied by Caroline Soresby, gave a fine rendition of *Fringes* and conducted the audience in the rousing choruses. A superb evening, much enjoyed by all present.

Our thanks go to all who contributed to the year's events.

*Ruth Hellen, Branch Secretary*

### **North America Branch**

During 2017, the North America Branch continued its engagement in two spheres of activity: supporting members' efforts to promote an appreciation of Elgar's music and gathering members for our annual conference.

In terms of the former, Lani Spahr, one of our members, worked closely with SOMM to publish the highly acclaimed CD *Elgar Rediscovered*, released in April 2017. Lani is presently at work on a new CD series for SOMM entitled *Elgar from America* that will publish recordings of American orchestras' pre-1950s playing of Elgar works.

In lieu of monthly meetings, the Branch holds an annual three-day conference at a location featuring a performance of a significant Elgar work. Our 2017 event took place in Toronto, where one of our members, Stephanie Martin, conducted the first Canadian performance of *The Apostles*.

*Arthur S. Reynolds, Branch Chairman*

### **North West Branch**

During 2017, the North West Branch held nine meetings, the reports on most of which have been given in the three relevant issues of the *Elgar Society News*. In summary, these were:

January: Annual General Meeting – followed by *Violin and Piano Sonatas in Elgar's Day*, performed by Sara Ewins, violin, and Harvey Davies, piano (a lecture-recital including a complete performance of Elgar's Violin Sonata).

- February: The North West Branch Annual Luncheon held at The Alma Lodge Hotel, Stockport.  
Guest speaker: Paul Grafton.
- March: *My Friend Michael Kennedy* by Andrew Neill (held at Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool).
- April: *Memories for Pleasure* by Joyce Kennedy (who was interviewed by Geoff Scargill).
- May: Our Annual Day Outing (organised by John Mawbey) – *A trip to the Severn Valley including a journey on the ‘Elgarians Express’.*
- October: *Elgar and Me* by Donald Hunt (with vocal items sung by his son, Tom Hunt).
- November: *Elgar: His Contemporaries and The Music of The Great War* by Amanda Crawley (soprano) and Josephine Peach (piano), held at the Quaker Meeting House in Liverpool.
- December: *Elgar as remembered in Radio Interviews by those who knew him* by Chris Wiltshire.

All our meetings were very well attended and the attendance figures ranged from 25 to 50 people.

Each of our Branch meetings is reported in full in our annual newsletter (issued in August) and a link to a pdf file of the full colour newsletter and programme is available on our NW Branch website page.

Particularly in view of the decreasing numbers holding Society membership, we are maintaining our active publicity drive to recruit new members by various forms of local advertising. We are attracting visitors to each of our Branch meetings and a few of these have become Society members as a result.

Our home base for our meetings is at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, but during 2017 we held two meetings at the Quaker Meeting House in Liverpool. We aim to hold one meeting each season in Liverpool.

*David L. Jones, Branch Secretary*

### **Scottish Branch**

A total of five Branch meetings were held in 2017 at our usual venue of St Mark’s Unitarian Church in Edinburgh, maintaining the Scottish Branch’s high standard of stimulating speakers, live music, and tasty teas with home baking.

The first meeting in March saw the return of Andrew Keener giving a lively insight of a renowned record producer in *Diffusing the Red Light* on the processes and decisions involved in commercial recordings of classical music. The Coates Trio (Leon and Heather Coates and Heather Fleck) gave a fine recital of music for violin, cello and piano including pieces by Elgar and Frank Bridge.

In April, David Lyle and singers from the Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society (EDGAS) gave a very enjoyable and much appreciated presentation and musical performance focusing on *The Ladies of Elgar and Sullivan*. The four singers were characteristically lively and entertaining in music and excerpts of both composers.

The May meeting brought Chris Wiltshire to Scotland to deliver the first part of his *Elgar: as we knew him*, a fascinating insight into Elgar from the recorded views of friends and contemporaries. A vibrant and varied recital of music including Elgar, Frank Bridge and Arnold Bax was provided by six talented young students from the Edinburgh School of Music.

For the September meeting Michael Butterfield gave an enthusiastic and analytical presentation on *Elgar and Wagner*, demonstrating many vital links between Elgar's compositions and Wagner's *Ring* cycle and other operas. The highlight of live music, given by Rainer Thonnes (bassoon) and pianist Alan Graham, was a first-ever performance for the Scottish Branch of the Elgar Romance for Bassoon, Op.62. Rainer also introduced us to the four-movement Sonata by William Hurlstone (who sadly died aged 30 in 1906).

Our speaker in October, on *Elgar and Longfellow*, was Arthur Reynolds, who revealed fascinating parallels between the lives of the composer Elgar and the poet who inspired so much of his early choral output such as *The Black Knight* and *King Olaf*. This followed a recital of songs and duets by Elgar, Coleridge Taylor and others, given by Barbara Brodie (mezzo-soprano) and Mike Towers (tenor) with Margaret Donaldson (piano). They were joined by Maureen Kelly and Ian Lawson to give a quartet version of 'As Torrents in Summer' from Elgar's *King Olaf*.

Edinburgh Festivals in August provided an unusual concentration of concerts and recitals of Elgar's music. The highlight of the International Festival was a rare performance of *King Olaf* (supported by the Elgar Society) conducted by Sir Andrew Davis with the excellent Edinburgh Festival Chorus. The following night, the First Symphony was performed by Edward Gardner with the Bergen Symphony Orchestra.

That same week, the Scottish Branch sponsored three daytime recitals of music as part of the Edinburgh Fringe. Elspeth Wiley played beautifully the piano version of the 'Enigma' Variations; Judith Gardner Jones and friends gave a wonderful recital of Elgar songs (including *It Isn't Me* made more winsome by a Scottish fiddle accompaniment); and Neil and Gill Mantle performed a wide range of music for horn and piano, including Neil's own version of *Chanson de Matin*. Audiences for these recitals were regrettably small but very enthusiastic and appreciative.

2017 proved to be difficult for management of the Branch. Our long-standing Chairman, Paul Bassett, became unwell. Our Secretary, James Carter, and our Treasurer, Sharron Bassett, stood down. A new Branch Committee is now in place with Tom Kelly as acting Chairman, Maureen Kelly as interim Secretary, and Ian Lawson as Treasurer.

A great debt is owed to Paul – and Sharron supporting him – for organising a programme of outstanding meetings for so many years, inviting and providing hospitality for excellent speakers, and for keeping active a small but very loyal membership of the Scottish Branch.

At the end of 2017 there were 58 members of the Scottish Branch on the Society's membership roll.

*Tom Kelly, Acting Branch Chairman*

### **Southern Branch**

The Branch held its annual eight meetings in 2017, of which four were at our traditional Havant venue and four at Winchester. All were well attended, usually by twenty to forty individuals comprising members and visitors.

Branch membership (102 in December 2016) fell during the year (currently 89), mostly accounted for by non-acceptance of full membership by those on our free one-year trial offer. Also, sadly, Stella Capp, a long-standing member who regularly attended our meetings, died on 16 December; her god-daughter, Caroline, has kindly donated Michael Kennedy's book *Life of Elgar*, which was to be Stella's Christmas present, to the Branch library. Stella will also be remembered for her voluntary work for Havant Borough's Talking Newspaper that brings local news to blind and partially-sighted people.

The Branch enjoyed a series of very informative and sometimes hilarious talks, as wide-ranging as *Elgar's Hobbies* by Martin Passande (January) and *Adrian Boult* by Christopher Seaman (February). For our March talk

Geoff Hodgkins explored the texts on which Elgar based *The Apostles*, and our spring programme concluded with *Our never-to-be-forgotten friend, Rosa Newmarch* given in April by writer and broadcaster Peter Avis, and *Elgar's music for strings – style, form and influence* presented by musicologist Michael Jameson at our May meeting.

An illuminating account of Elgar's life-time remunerations, *The Dream of Mammon – Elgar's earnings* by John Drysdale, opened our late-year programme; Richard Westwood-Brookes (*Nicholas Kilburn – Elgar's unregarded Muse*) followed in October, and Dr Steven Halls (*Elgar's Orchestral Miniatures*) in November.

At our April meeting Toby Hawks, inspired by chamber music composed while Elgar and Lady Elgar lived near Fittleworth, West Sussex, during 1917–1918, outlined his proposal for an Elgar in Sussex weekend. Few at that time could have predicted the memorable treat that was in store for us. That magical early-June weekend included performances, by Toby and friends Terence Allbright (piano), Iain Gibbs (violin), Mark Gibbs (viola) and Mark Walkem (cello), of the Violin Sonata, Op.82, the String Quartet, Op.83 and the Piano Quintet, Op.84; a selection of diary entries and letters describing Elgar's impressions of Brinkwells cottage and the surrounding area, read by Katie and John Hawks; as well as a Concert Walk, *Wood Magic*, in company with The Edwardians, a group of semi-professional singers based in Sussex and London. The weekend was brought to a close by Evensong, sung in the tiny village church at Stopham, where The Edwardians also sang Elgar's anthem *How Calmly the Evening*, composed to a text by Thomas Toke Lynch.

The Branch was also afforded the opportunity to promote the Society at two prominent musical events in Southampton. Committee members manned displays of Society publicity material, firstly at Turner Sims, where SÓN Southampton's Professional Orchestra's performance of the 'Enigma' Variations, conducted by Robin Browning, was preceded by David Owen Norris's exploration of that work; then on 25 November, when Southampton University Philharmonic Choir, Southampton Philharmonic Choir and the New London Sinfonia, conducted by David Gibson, performed *The Dream of Gerontius*.

*Ed Wiseman*

### **South-Western Branch**

The Branch held eight meetings in 2017 in addition to the AGM where fruit cake and mulled wine were served. John Harcup spoke about Elgar's sense of humour, Richard Westwood-Brookes talked about the composer's life during the Brinkwells period, and Michael Butterfield presented an illustrated discussion of Elgar's part-songs. Duncan Eves examined the Second Symphony and the influence Alice Stuart-Wortley may have exerted on its composition, while Christopher Wiltshire presented recordings and memories of people associated with the composer. Diana McVeagh reminisced over her distinguished career, Christopher Redwood presented a programme of music by William Hurlstone, who was admired by Elgar and about whom he has recently written a book, and the season ended with Andrew Neill paying his tribute to the late Michael Kennedy.

Finally there was the traditional Christmas lunch which although very enjoyable was marred somewhat by the reflection that attendance numbers have been disappointing and it is proving difficult to recruit new members.

*Christopher Redwood, Branch Chairman*

### **West Midlands Branch**

Due to the refurbishment of the Elgar Birthplace, now known as The Firs following its takeover by the National Trust, our meetings were held at St Leonard's Church of the Beauchamp Community in Malvern. We returned to the Birthplace on 16 September and have already established an excellent working relationship with the new trustees.

We have decided to continue to publish our yearly events leaflet independently from the Birthplace, and that will be distributed to our members and the Secretaries and Chairmen of all other Branches early in 2018. We also continue to produce our bi-yearly newsletter in colour and this again will be distributed to all Branch members by post and/or electronically depending on their wishes. Our programme to provide plaques on places of Elgarian significance has slowed as most sites are now well covered. We continue to pursue our object of attempting to bring classical music in general, and Elgar in particular, back to schools. Our first initiative in this field is to write to all schools, initially in Worcestershire and Herefordshire, explaining our aims and attempting to interest them in classical music.

Our programme for 2017 was as follows, and all events were held at Elgar's Birthplace except where otherwise stated.

- January: A presentation by the National Trust on the future of the Birthplace followed by a private showing of the film *Elgar's Enigma*.
- February: Annual Branch Lunch at Christ Church Hall, Malvern.
- March: AGM and a presentation on *Elgar at the Morecambe Festival* by Linda Tolchard.  
St Leonard's Church, Malvern.
- April: *Elgar in America*, an illustrated talk by Joan and Richard Smith on Elgar's visits to the USA and Canada.  
St Leonard's Church, Malvern.
- May: *The Art of Song-Writing*, by the well-known Worcestershire composer Ian Venables.  
St Leonard's Church, Malvern.
- June: *Elgar's First and the Modern Symphony*, an illustrated talk by John Pickard, Professor of Composition and Applied Musicology at Bristol University. St Leonard's Church, Malvern.
- July: *Herbert Howells and Edward Elgar*, a talk and organ recital by Dr Jonathan Clinch, organist and Teaching fellow at Birmingham University Music Department.  
St Leonard's Church, Malvern.
- July: Elgar Day at the Three Choirs Festival in Worcester. *A glorious and unexpected revelation - Elgar's music and young people's education*, the Elgar Society lecture by Ralph Allwood MBE, Director of the Rodolfus Choir and music teacher.  
This was followed by the Elgar Society Lunch.
- September: *Elgar and English Cathedral Music*, a talk by Timothy Day, for many years a music curator at the British Library, cultural historian and writer on English choral music.
- October: *Songs of Elgar and his contemporaries*, a recital by the baritone, Alex Poulton and pianist Simon Watterton, including songs by Elgar, Somervell, Butterworth, Gurney and Finzi.
- November: *Old England*, a recital at the Birthplace by Hannah Roper (violin) and Adrian Partington (piano) including Elgar's Violin Sonata and some of Elgar's salon pieces.
- December: *Elgar's influence on my musical thinking*, a talk by the composer Robert Saxton, Professor of Composition at Oxford University and Fellow and Tutor of Worcester College, Oxford.

*Richard Smith, Branch Secretary*

### **Yorkshire and North East Branch**

Our year started in January with a brief AGM followed by committee member Philip Scowcroft critically examining the erroneous view that Elgar was musically in decline in his later years. We did not have a meeting in February, but in March Dr George Kennaway (for 28 years co-principal cello in the Opera North Orchestra) compared the different 1928 performances of Elgar's Cello Concerto with more modern recordings, at the same time considering whether Elgar was a nightingale or a grumpy old man!

Our by now regular April live music programme, given by Josephine Peach, piano, and Amanda Crawley, soprano, explored Elgar's religious roots and the contemporary world of organ music and organists, and in May we welcomed Richard and Joan Smith who, in a delightful double-act, took us with Elgar on his four American visits and discussed his strong likes and dislikes about the country.

In June Diana McVeagh reflected on the differences and changes that have occurred in the 52 years between her publication of *Edward Elgar: His Life and Music* in 1955 and *Elgar the Music Maker* in 2007. After a summer break we returned in September to welcome Dr John Harcup who spoke of the growing stature and importance of Elgar's work, particularly the part-songs, in the Edwardian era. Our October meeting was a presentation by Dr Christopher Wiltshire of recordings of conversations made by people who knew Elgar: thus we were given a fascinating series of audio clips, memorabilia and images from Dr Wiltshire's extensive collection.

Our final programme of the year came from David Jenkins, archivist and long-term admirer and advocate of the music of Havergal Brian, who spoke of the early encouragement that Elgar gave to Brian, although later in life their paths and musical interests diverged.

Overall it has been a very good year for the Yorkshire and North East Branch and we are grateful for the support of the Society's Executive and Council.

*Tony Pook, Branch Chairman*

## C 2018 INITIAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS

Given the purpose of the Society is the education in and promotion of the appreciation of the public in the music of Edward Elgar and the education of the public in his life, Council have agreed a strategy that enabled our activities to be grouped under the aims mentioned under it, viz:

- a. the provision of educational programmes and activities to widen knowledge of Elgar's music for all and develop the public benefit achieved by the Society;
- b. support for the Elgar Birthplace, museums and educational establishments that attract the general public to Elgar's music and life;
- c. the funding and encouragement of performances and recordings of his works;
- d. the encouragement of research into Elgar's music, and the publication of a scholarly journal containing the results of such research;
- e. the publication of or support for a scholarly edition of Elgar's music.

At national level, and with all due acknowledgement of Branch activities, our efforts will focus on the following areas.

- Elgar in Performance and the Other Projects Fund will be reviewed by Council following its great increase in 2017 and the consequent recordings. Its criteria, German project and funding will be reviewed by Council during 2018.
- We shall continue to support Meinhard Saremba to settle in his role as the Editor of the *Journal* following his auspicious start.
- We shall continue to seek to raise sponsorship and legacies to enable us to expand our work and ensure it extends into the future.
- Council have made restricted progress on how we can meaningfully support educational work associated with Elgar but we shall observe the efforts of West Midlands Branch during 2018.
- Council will consider nominations for the Elgar Society Medal and Certificate of Merit.
- Now that the Birthplace at The Firs is open, we look forward to collaborating with the National Trust.

- The AGM and Birthday Weekend will be reviewed to consider whether a new format and location might stimulate support in another part of the country.
- Elgar Day at the Three Choirs Festival will once more be a pleasurable highlight of our social year.
- We shall continue to work more closely with Elgar Works and the Elgar Complete Edition to make more of Elgar's music available in a timely fashion at a reasonable cost to performers and conductors all over the world.

*Steven Halls, Elgar Society Chairman*

## THE ELGAR SOCIETY

### Statement of Financial Activities for the period ended 31 December 2017

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	27,461	28,656
Gift Aid	3,954	4,137
Royalties	215	317
Legacies	0	57,079
Interest	376	61
Other	1,051	15,227
Donations		0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>33,057</b>	<b>105,477</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<i>Society Objectives</i>		
Journals and Newsletters	9,167	8,639
Events / Branches	12,220	13,029
AGM	429	963
PR and Advertising	570	1,700
Sundry	232	449
Elgar in Performance	40,590	44,228
Elgar Medals	130	825
Support to the Elgar Birthplace	0	3,975
<i>Administration</i>		
Authorised expenses for		
Council and Executive	2,851	3,106
Membership administration	320	265
Cost of investment	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>66,511</b>	<b>77,178</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the period</b>	<b>(33,453)</b>	<b>28,299</b>
Transfer between funds		(12,519)
<b>General Fund brought forward</b>	<b>34,340</b>	<b>18,560</b>
<b>General Fund at 31 December 2017</b>	<b>887</b>	<b>34,340</b>

Other funds	Brought Forward	Received	Spent	2017 £	2016 £
<b>Restricted Fund</b>					
Kay	3,960			3,960	3,960
<b>Designated Funds</b>					
Walker	16,216			16,216	16,216
Ballantine	14,080			14,080	14,080
Elce	36,816			36,816	36,816
Graham	20,056			20,056	20,056
Graves and piano	0	400	400	0	0
Dolan	5,000			5,000	5,000
Branches: London					
West Midlands				14,952	15,227
Total				107,120	107,395
Total movements					
<b>Total Funds</b>					
<b>at 31 December 2017</b>				<u>111,967</u>	<u>145,695</u>

**Balance Sheet at 31 December 2017**

Funds Represented by:

Bank deposits	0	0
Current account	11,298	30,901
Investec investment	84,125	49,125
Lloyds Fixed Term	0	50,000
Branches bank balances	4,215	2,685
Branches' other funds	14,952	15,227
Less owed by Society	<u>(2,623)</u>	<u>(2,243)</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>	<u>111,968</u>	<u>145,695</u>

## Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017

### 1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost in accordance with:

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005);
- Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

### 2. Accounting policies

#### 2.1 Subscriptions

Subscriptions are accounted for in the year in which they are received, except for subscriptions received in advance which are carried forward to the next year.

#### 2.2 Other incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the Society becomes entitled to the resources;

- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (for example, subscriptions) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

#### 2.3 Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are only included in the SoFA when the Society has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

#### 2.4 Tax recoverable on subscriptions, donations and gifts

Incoming resources from tax recoverable are included in the SoFA at the same time as the income to which they relate.

#### 2.5 Branches

Although the regional Branches of the Society are constituted under separate rules, the income and expenditure of the Branches are included in these accounts. 'Branches' other funds': these monies were held previously but not shown in the Society's Accounts. In the event of a Branch being wound up, the monies would revert to the Society and have therefore been added to the accounts.

## 2.6 Taxation

The Society is a registered charity no 298062 and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

## 3. Trustees' expenses

Travel and other out of pocket costs amounting to £2,851 were reimbursed to members of the Council, the Executive and Chairmen of Branches in the year when appropriate claims were made (2016 £3,106).

No member of the Council nor any person connected with them has received any remuneration in the year.

## 4. Donations, sponsorship and projects

Grants and other financial support given to 28 organisations in 2017 were a material part of the total resources expended by the Society. Grants made were as follows:

Elgar in Performance.

Grants	2017	2016
(including expenses)	40,590	44,228

## 5. Restricted funds

Kay legacy – the Society is one of the beneficiaries of the estate of a former member. The will specifies that the legacy shall not be used for routine running expenses but shall be devoted to capital or other longer term projects.

## 6. Elgar Enterprises

A wholly owned trading subsidiary, Elgar Enterprises (a company limited by Guarantee; Registration No: 3821653), was established in 1999. The Articles of Association prescribe that membership is limited to serving members of the Council of the Society and its directors include, inter alia, the officers of the Society. The company is now dormant and has paid the majority of its funds to the Society, retaining sufficient to meet any remaining liabilities.