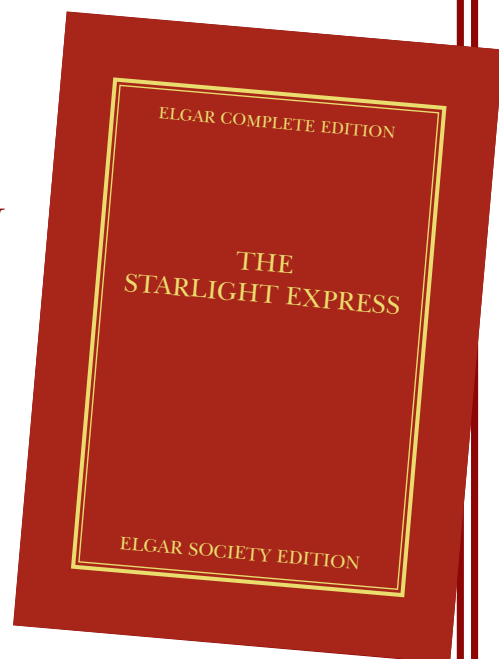


PRESS RELEASE

THE ELGAR COMPLETE EDITION
VOL. 19 :
THE STARLIGHT EXPRESS

xlvi + 346 pages – 250mm x 350mm – hardback
10 monochrome illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-904856-19-1
Publication date: 26 March 2010

Recommended Retail Price : £85.00



Even by the standards of the Complete Edition, this is a ground-breaking volume. For some, the full score of Elgar's incidental music to *The Starlight Express*, edited by Roger Dubois and published here in its entirety for the first time¹, will be sufficient incentive to acquire their copy.

But painstaking months of editorial effort have resulted in a volume which offers so much more. Jerrold Northrop Moore's close comparison of the score with the text of the play and his scrutiny of Elgar's annotations on the composer's copy of the play typescript have made it possible to delve behind the staves and come up with a word-by-word correlation of spoken dialogue and music. Features of Elgar's score, meaningless when taken in isolation, are revealed to have a direct bearing on actions on stage, taking us much closer to the melodrama evolved in rehearsal, enacted during the production run of the play, and never recorded for posterity. And the composer's typescript annotations have been assimilated to provide a fascinating insight into the development of the play and its characters in parallel with Elgar's composition of the score, in part to meet musical and dramatic requirements, but also to comply with the financial realities of the production.

Unusually for an academic edition, this volume places particular emphasis on performance aspects. The play has always suffered an unenthusiastic reception and contemporary press reviews make clear that the original production run at the Kingsway Theatre in London in January 1916 was doomed from the start. We shall never know how successful the play might have become had it been refined and revived the following Christmas, as was at one time suggested; but it is clear that subsequent radio broadcasts have handled the play unsympathetically. It is the sincere wish of the editors and publishers of this volume that the detailed insight it provides will stimulate further productions which recognise the composer's intentions and bring out the subtleties of Elgar's score.

¹ only the three Organ-grinder's songs, one to introduce each act, have previously been published and these have a piano accompaniment not by Elgar but by Julius Harrison, who conducted the orchestra for the theatre run of the play.

VOLUME 19 : THE STARLIGHT EXPRESS - CONTENTS

- The full score of Elgar's complete incidental music for *The Starlight Express*, published for the first time.
- The full text of the play, with Jerrold Northrop Moore's interpolation of the accompanied text and music.
- An editorial Foreword providing an historical introduction to the play, including new material on its development determined from the editors' study of the manuscript full score and Elgar's annotations on his copy of the play typescript.

THE ELGAR COMPLETE EDITION

In 1981 Novello & Co launched the Elgar Complete Edition, a major project to produce a comprehensive uniform edition of Elgar's music. The project began with the publication of the First Symphony (Vol.30) and *The Dream of Gerontius* (Vol.6), and over the next ten years 12 further volumes were completed. Sadly, Novello suspended the venture in 1994 and the project languished until 2000, when the Elgar Society revived the scheme under the auspices of the **Elgar Society Edition Ltd** (ESE). Its first volume (Vol.25: *The Wand of Youth/Dream Children*) appeared in October 2001, and Vol.18: *The Crown of India* followed in February 2005.

As originally conceived, **Elgar Society Edition Ltd** would act primarily as a fund-raising body, appointing editors and commissioning established publishing houses to produce the volumes. But it became increasingly apparent that commercial publishers could not be expected to share ESE's charitable objectives and, without certainty over publication schedules, fundraising also proved difficult. In late 2004, the decision was taken to bring production and distribution aspects in-house and the establishment in early 2007 of sister company Elgar Works saw these changes come to fruition. Two further volumes – Vol.37: Music for Violin; and Vol.4: *King Olaf* – were published during 2007; followed in August 2008 by Vol.22: *Music for Powick Asylum*. After the current volume, two further volumes – Vol.16: *20th Century Songs for Solo Voice with Piano Accompaniment* and Vol.24: *Music for String Orchestra* – are scheduled for publication in the next twelve months; and a further seven volumes are now in active preparation.

To be published in Summer 2010:

**VOL.16: 20th CENTURY SONGS
FOR SOLO VOICE WITH PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT;**

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

To be published in Spring 2011:

VOL.24: MUSIC FOR STRING ORCHESTRA