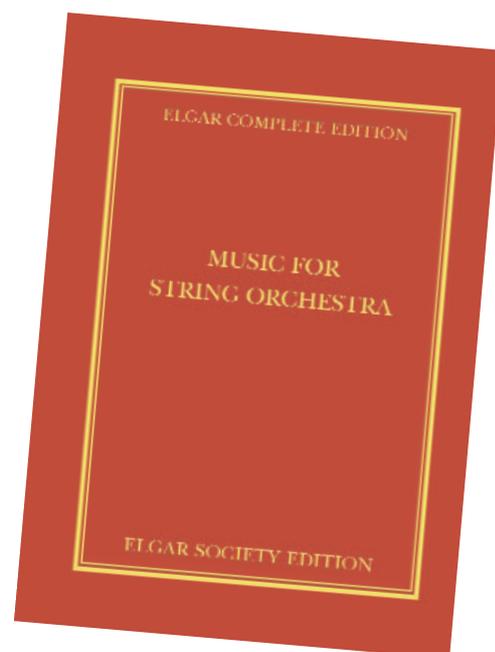


THE ELGAR SOCIETY EDITION LTD

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PRESS RELEASE

THE ELGAR COMPLETE EDITION VOL.24 : MUSIC FOR STRING ORCHESTRA



xxxii + 124 pages – 250mm x 350mm – cloth binding
9 b/w illustrations – ISBN: 978-1-904856-24-5 – Publication date: 20 May 2011

Recommended Retail Price : £85.00

The Elgar Society Edition Ltd is pleased to announce the imminent publication of a further volume in the Elgar Complete Edition – Volume 24: Music for String Orchestra. With an official publication date of 20 May 2011, the volume is now in the final stages of production and will be available for shipping in the next two weeks.

The volume brings together four of Elgar's best-loved works:

- the enchanting *Serenade for Strings*, one of his earliest orchestral works : possibly deriving from an even earlier (1888) work for string orchestra, it was first performed by the Worcester Ladies' Orchestral Class in 1892 but did not receive its public première until 1896 in Antwerp and, in the UK, 1899 in New Brighton;
- the solemn *Elegy*, commissioned by Novello Chairman Alfred Littleton at the suggestion of the Worshipful Company of Musicians in response to the sudden, premature death of its Junior Warden Rev Robert Haddon in 1909 : it was originally performed under the name *Dirge*, a title Elgar seemingly preferred despite heading the manuscript with the word by which the work is now known;
- the wistful, haunting *Sospiri*, written on the outbreak of the First World War as a companion piece to *Salut d'Amour* and *Carissima* : rejected by its commissioning publisher Elkin for being too sombre, it was eventually published as a separate piece by Breitkopf & Hartel, firstly in a version for violin and piano and then in the arrangement for string orchestra, harp and optional harmonium which appears in this volume;
- and the exhilarating *Introduction and Allegro for Strings*, composed in 1905 to enable the string section of the then recently formed London Symphony Orchestra to show off their virtuosic skills : by far the most complex of the four pieces, his 'string thing' contains (in Elgar's own words) 'a devil of a fugue' and the 'Welsh tune', supposedly caught on the wind by Elgar across a bay in West Wales, but first sketched as the curious 'Pattern for a Bag Poet', published last Autumn in Vol.16.

Edited by Professor Emeritus Julian Rushton, the volume is dedicated to Sir Colin Davies in view of his own long association with the London Symphony Orchestra and in grateful recognition of his championing of the works of Elgar. The volume can be obtained through all good wholesalers, book stores and specialist music shops, or directly from the publisher at the addresses below.

VOLUME 24 : MUSIC FOR STRING ORCHESTRA – CONTENTS

- 4 edited full scores : **Serenade Op.20** for String Orchestra
Introduction and Allegro Op.47 for Strings
Elegy Op.58 for Strings
Sospiri Op.70 Adagio for String Orchestra
- Editorial Foreword, Source Description, Critical Commentary and Illustrations.

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. 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. This is the sixth volume since to have been published, and a further nine are now in active preparation.

In parallel, **Elgar Works**, whose objective is to support and stimulate the performance of Elgar's less frequently performed works, offers vocal scores and orchestral parts prepared from the full scores of published and future Complete Edition volumes. Elgar Works parts have been used in a number of recent CD recordings, with new recordings of the wartime Recitations and *The Starlight Express* expected within the next two years. In parallel the publication of parts for *The Black Knight* has led to a resurgence of performances of that work, with *King Olaf* now seemingly set to follow and the preparation of the full score and parts of *The Banner of St George* now under way.

The Next Volumes

VOL.21: THE SANGUINE FAN / BEAU BRUMMEL

Publication Date: 2 December 2011

VOL.12: SACRED MUSIC, UNACCOMPANIED OR WITH ORGAN

Publication Date: 2 June 2012