THE ARTISTS

SOFIA LARSSON SOPRANO

Sofia Larsson is an OAE Rising Star for the 19/20 - 20/21 seasons and recently made her international debut with the orchestra at the George Enescu Festival in Bucharest. This Autumn she makes her Royal Festival Hall and Théâtre des Champs-Elysées debuts and returns to Kings Place as part of the programme. She is a Britten-Pears Young Artist.

MERTON COLLEGE CHOIR

The Choir of Merton College is one of Oxford's finest mixed-voice choirs. The choir's principal focus is the sung services in the thirteenth century chapel at Merton College, in addition to recordings and concert tours which have taken the choir all over the world. Benjamin Nicholas became Director of Music at Merton following a period as Director of Tewkesbury Abbey Schola Cantorum.

PROTEUS ENSEMBLE

One of the UK's leading professional chamber choirs, Stephen Shellard Artistic Director. Their debut CD was hailed by MusicWeb as "A disc then for contemplation, but also for profound literary and musical enjoyment."

STEPHEN DARLINGTON

Stephen Darlington is one of the country's leading choral conductors, having served as Director of Music and Tutor in Music at Christ Church from 1985 to 2018. Darlington will discuss "the modernism of Elgar's First Symphony."

PAVEL ŠPORCL

The most distinctive member of the young generation of Czech violinists, million-selling recording artist Pavel Šporcl has been triumphantly received by audiences in major music venues throughout the world thanks to the combination of a rich classical background and unique, unorthodox stage presence. Making regular appearances on television, radio and virtually all other media outlets, Pavel's music is right at home on the top of the charts.

KENNETH WOODS

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Ken also serves as Artistic Director of the English Symphony Orchestra and Colorado MahlerFest, one of only two North American organisations to receive the Gold Medal of the International Mahler Society. A prolific recording artist, his first disc of the music of Elgar was a Classic FM Disc of the Month and spent eight weeks in the UK Classical Charts.

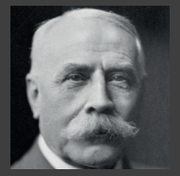
THE ESO

ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Hailed as The International Orchestra of Elgar Country, the ESO has a proud legacy of collaboration with leading Elgarians and major figures in British musical life including Yehudi Menuhin, Vernon Handley, Nigel Kennedy and Sir Michael Tippett. The orchestra's discography of over seventy recordings includes many works of Elgar, and their recordings continue to appear on "Best of the Year" listings in publications including The Times, Gramophone, Forbes and The Arts Desk.

WWW.ELGARFESTIVAL.ORG

THIS IS ELGAR FOR EVERYONE



Our 2020 Festival celebrates the sound of the human voice and the places that inspired Edward Elgar.

World-class choral singing abounds in 2020, with performances by the Choir of Merton College, Oxford and the acclaimed Proteus Ensemble. It all sets the perfect stage for the debut performance of the Elgar Festival Chorus and the Enigma Youth Choir. The Festival is anchored by our Orchestra-in-Residence, the English Symphony Orchestra, who will be performing Elgar's First Symphony as the crowning work in a busy weekend of performances embracing the full breadth of Elgar's orchestral genius.

THE HIVE

ARCHIVE DISPLAY **ALL WEEK** *on Level 2*

CHILDREN'S STORY-TELLING **SAT AM**

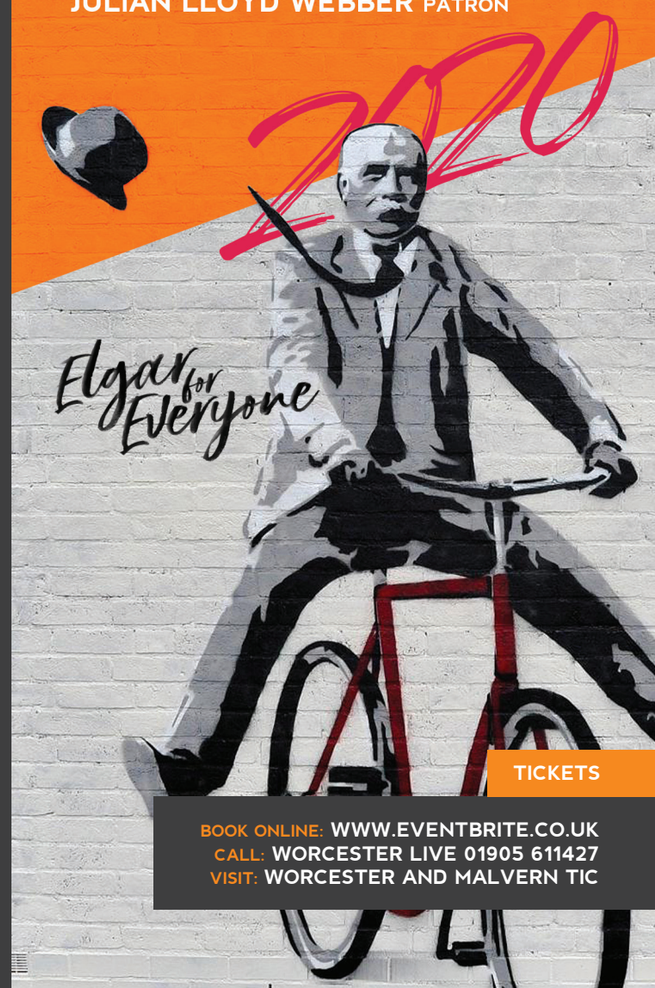
LIVE MUSIC **SATURDAY**

WWW.ELGARFESTIVAL.ORG

28 - 31 MAY 2020

ELGAR FESTIVAL

KENNETH WOODS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER PATRON



TICKETS

BOOK ONLINE: WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK
CALL: WORCESTER LIVE 01905 611427
VISIT: WORCESTER AND MALVERN TIC

THURS 28 MAY

ANNUAL ELGAR FESTIVAL EXHIBIT AT WORCESTER GUILDHALL

FREE

THURS - SAT | **10:00 AM - 4:00 PM**

Worcester Guildhall, High St, Worcester WR1 2EY

GUIDED ELGAR TOURS IN THE HIGH STREET, WORCESTER

FREE

THURS - SUN *High Street, Worcester*

Visit **www.elgarfestival.org** for details

ENIGMA YOUTH CHOIR WORKSHOPS AT ROYAL PORCELAIN WORKS

£20

WED - THURS *Royal Porcelain Works*

Under the direction of Daniel Perkin, Music Director of Welsh National Youth Opera, the Enigma Youth Choir will make their public debut in the annual Elgar for Everyone FamilyConcert on Sunday, 31 May. Participants should plan to participate fully in all three days' events. Anyone aged 9 - 14 (unbroken voices) can join, because not only is Elgar for Everyone, Singing is for Everyone!

To join the course, please visit our website for details.

ELGAR'S PIANO QUINTET WITH ZOË BEYERS, KENNETH WOODS AND FRIENDS

£15

7 PM *Worcester Guildhall, High St, Worcester WR1 2EY*

The first concert of the 2020 Elgar Festival celebrates one of Elgar's last works, his powerful and passionate Piano Quintet in A minor in the beautiful setting and superb acoustic of the Worcester Guildhall. Join us for a celebratory drink at 6:15 PM as we launch the 2020 Festival.

FRI 29 MAY

PIANIST AND COMPOSER ADRIAN WILLIAMS: IMPROVISING WITH ELGAR

£12

12 PM *Lumby Room, Elgar School of Music WR1 2ES*

ELGAR AT THE ELGAR SCHOOL OF MUSIC

£15

2 PM *Lumby Room, Elgar School of Music WR1 2ES*

Staff and students of the Elgar School of Music will present a programme of English music.

FILM: THE TENTH MUSE

£5

3:30 - 4:30 PM *Royal Porcelain Works*

James Fox stars in this film which tells the story of how Elgar found new musical inspiration in his final years upon meeting the violinist Jelly d'Arany

ON THE ROAD WITH EDWARD ELGAR AND THE ENGLISH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

£10-25

7 PM *Worcester Cathedral WR1 2LA*

The English Symphony Orchestra and international superstar violinist Pavel Šporcl offer up an evening showing some of the lighter side of Elgar's music, with a selection of his music inspired by travel and place.

Club Elgar WITH THE MISHA MULLOV-ABBADO GROUP

£18

10 PM *Royal Porcelain Works Hall*

We welcome one of the UK's most ground-breaking jazz ensembles for an evening of genre-bending music, and surely a healthy dose of Elgar... as you've never heard him before.

SAT 30 MAY

THE ELGAR CHORALE AT THE FIRS

£7

10:30 AM

The Firs, Elgars Birthplace

A wonderful programme as the Elgar Chorale under their conductor Piers Maxim celebrate both the music of their namesake and their 40th Anniversary.

PROTEUS ENSEMBLE AT WORCESTER GUILDHALL

£15

1 PM *Worcester Guildhall, High St, Worcester WR1 2EY*

The Proteus Ensemble's Elgar Festival debut was a highlight of 2019. 2020 sees this renowned professional chamber choir return for an afternoon programme featuring highlights of Elgar's choral music.

THE CHOIR OF MERTON COLLEGE, OXFORD PRESENT ELGAR AND VENABLES

£15

3 PM *Great Malvern Priory, Malvern WR14 2AY*

One of the UK's greatest choirs comes to Malvern Priory to give the first Worcestershire performance of one of the most acclaimed new choral works of recent years, the Requiem by internationally-acclaimed, Worcester-based composer, Ian Venables.

CHORAL EVENSONG AT WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

FREE

5:30 PM

Worcester Cathedral WR1 2LA

SAT 30 MAY

ELGAR'S FIRST SYMPHONY: MODERNIST OR NOT?

FREE

6:15 PM *Henry Sandon Hall WR1 2NE*

Leading conductor and musicologist Stephen Darlington delivers this year's A. T. Shaw Lecture, exploring the work Hans Richter called "The Greatest Symphony of Modern Times"

FESTIVAL GALA CONCERT ELGAR'S FIRST SYMPHONY & THE SPIRIT OF ENGLAND

£10-25

7.30 PM *Worcester Cathedral WR1 2LA*

English Symphony Orchestra
– Kenneth Woods *Conductor*
Elgar Festival Chorus
– Stephen Shellard – *Director*
– Sofia Larsson – *Soprano*

Highpoint of the 2020 Festival, the Gala Concert includes Elgar's bracing choral masterpiece The Spirit of England with the newly-established Elgar Festival Chorus, and Kenneth Woods conducts the ESO in the breakthrough First Symphony.

Club Elgar

£18

10 PM *Royal Porcelain Works Hall*

Accordion virtuoso Miloš Milivojević and acclaimed violinist Sophie Rosa present an evocative evening of tangos in Club Elgar.

SUN 31 MAY

£8

ELGAR FOR EVERYONE FAMILY CONCERT

2 PM *Rogers Theatre at Malvern College*

The Second Annual Elgar for Everyone Family Concert with the ESO Combined Youth Orchestra, Enigma Youth Choir and musicians from the English Symphony Orchestra.