

27 MAY - 2 JUNE 2024



ENGLISH
SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

ELGAR FESTIVAL 2024

KENNETH WOODS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER PATRON

CONCERTS,
MASTERCLASSES,
RELAXED EVENTS,
TALKS AND ACTIVITIES
FOR ELGAR FANS
OF ALL AGES

*Elgar for
Everyone*

£2

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS

The Elgar Festival is hugely grateful to the following organisations and individuals for their most generous support of the 2024 Festival:



LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Worcester City Council is proud to support the 2024 Elgar Festival. The Festival provides a unique opportunity to celebrate Worcester's rich heritage, attracting national and international recognition.



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**And to everyone who has donated through
our GoFundMe page**

BOX OFFICE: www.elgarfestival.org / Worcester Theatres 01905 611427
/ on the door where available; or in person at Huntingdon Hall Box
Office, Crowngate, Worcester WR1 3LD (Sat nav postcode: WR1 2ES)

WELCOME



Welcome to new and old friends to this year's annual Elgar Festival. We hope you agree we have a programme that really delivers Elgar For Everyone! Music includes the Violin Concerto, Cockaigne and Steve Elcock's Wreck, and our high quality guests include Esther Abrami, The Jenny Lind Singers and Julian Lloyd Webber.

This Festival is the only official Elgar Festival, in the city and county of his birth - one of a kind. Our Elgar for Everyone philosophy offers free and accessible concerts and events as well as ticketed performances at reasonable prices. We value the support of the growing number of partners and stakeholders locally and nationally. By continuing to source sustainable funding we can maintain the high quality live performances we want to present to you.

Our thanks go to the many administrative and musical volunteers who give their time and talents to contribute to making this one of the most exciting new festivals in the county and beyond. I hope you enjoy this year's Festival and I look forward to seeing you again!

Dr Adrian Gregson *Chairman*



ABOUT THE 2024 FESTIVAL

The 2024 Elgar Festival is an examination of the origins of inspiration. Through concerts, talks, workshops and exhibitions, we'll illuminate the experiences that ignite the creative spark, to help audiences to understand better the creative process and to express their own creativity.

The artistic focal point of the '24 Festival is Elgar's Violin Concerto, one of his most autobiographical, confessional works. Building around this greatest of all violin concerti, we explore not only what inspired Elgar to write that work, but where he and other composers found their inspiration. Music inspired by friendship, love, pain and loss is contrasted with music inspired by place, events and even the music of the past.

Through two concerts by our English Symphony Orchestra, a family concert hosted by Esther Abrami and Julian Lloyd Webber featuring young performers, two relaxed concerts, choral events, chamber music concerts, youth courses for over 200 children, a public exhibition, lunchtime and late night events, and talks with leading musicians and composers, we celebrate the most diverse gamut of music with our community. I'm so pleased to welcome you.

Kenneth Woods *Artistic Director*

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Photography: Michael Whitefoot

KENNETH WOODS

Artistic Director

Hailed by Gramophone Magazine as 'a symphonic conductor of stature', American conductor Kenneth Woods was appointed Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the English Symphony Orchestra in 2013, and has quickly built up an impressive and acclaimed body of work and recordings with them. Woods is also the Artistic Director of both the Colorado MahlerFest – the only US organisation other than the New York Philharmonic to receive the International Gustav Mahler Society's Gold Medal – and the Elgar Festival in Worcester.



Kenneth's fascination with the music of Elgar began when, as a young American cellist exploring music for his instrument, he stumbled upon Elgar's Cello Concerto. He has since become a passionate exponent of Elgar's music outside Britain, often bringing Elgar's works to audiences and orchestras whose knowledge of the composer was previously limited to a tiny



portion of his output. In 2015, Kenneth led the English Symphony Orchestra in the premiere of Donald Fraser's orchestration of the Elgar Piano Quintet, a concert Birmingham Post Critic Christopher Morley called '[One] of the most exciting events I have experienced during a reviewing career approaching half a century' declaring that Fraser's orchestration 'deserves to be acknowledged immediately as a worthy addition to the Elgar canon.' That performance was also singled out by Classical Music Magazine as 2015 Premiere of the Year, and the resulting recording on Avie Records was Classic FM Disc of the Month in May 2016. In 2022, Ken and the ESO released Elgar Reimagined in partnership with the Elgar Festival. Through it all, the Cello Concerto has remained a huge part of his musical life. Since discovering the work as a teenager, he's performed it as a soloist many times and conducted many more, perhaps most memorably when he had the honour of conducting the official 100th Anniversary performance of the work with Raphael Wallfisch and the ESO in Worcester Cathedral at the 2019 Elgar Festival.

As a guest, Woods has conducted ensembles including the National Symphony Orchestra (Washington), Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Cincinnati Symphony, BBC National Orchestra of Wales, Budapest Festival Orchestra, Royal Northern Sinfonia and the English Chamber Orchestra, and has made numerous broadcasts for BBC Radio 3, National Public Radio and the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He has appeared on the stages of some of the world's leading music festivals, such as Aspen, Scotia and Lucerne.



Photography: Michael Whitefoot

His discography of over thirty-five recordings includes numerous world premieres, and has received accolades including Gramophone Editor's Choice, the Diapason d'Or and has appeared on Best of the Year lists in the Sunday Times, Gramophone, MusicWeb International, The Arts Desk, Forbes Magazine and NPR.

A widely read writer and frequent broadcaster, Woods' blog, A View from the Podium, is one of the 25 most popular classical blogs in the world. He has spoken on Mahler on NPR's All Things Considered and is a regular speaker on BBC radio programmes. Since 2014, he has been Honorary Patron of the Hans Gál Society.



ABOUT ESO, OUR ORCHESTRA-IN-RESIDENCE

Hailed as the International Orchestra of Elgar Country, the English Symphony Orchestra 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. In recent years the orchestra has become synonymous with artistic excellence, innovative and visionary programming, distinctive commissioning, ground-breaking recording, a welcoming and immersive concert experience, transformative youth programmes and service to the community.

The orchestra's discography of over seventy recordings includes many works of Elgar. These recordings, and those of other major 20th century British composers, continue to appear on 'Best of the Year' listings in publications including The Times, Gramophone, Forbes and The Arts Desk. The orchestra has a commitment to the music of our time with particular affiliation to the works of Sir Michael Tippett, John Metcalfe, John Joubert, Michael and Lennox Berkeley, John McCabe, Philip Sawyers, David Matthews and Adrian Williams. In 2017 the ESO under conductor Kenneth Woods launched the 21st Century Symphony Project, a multi-year endeavour to commission, premiere and record nine new symphonies by leading composers of our time.

The partnership with the Elgar Festival began in 2018 when the festival was established by decree of Worcester City Council as an annual event.



JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER

Festival Patron

In 2007, at the invitation of the Secretary of State for Education, Julian founded the UK Government's *In Harmony* programme, introducing the power of music to thousands of school children from the least privileged parts of England.

Julian was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Music in 1994 and is the recipient of a Crystal Award from the World Economic Forum (1998) the Classic FM Red Award (2005) and the Incorporated Society of Musicians' Distinguished Musician of the Year Award (2014). Julian has represented the music education sector on BBC1's Question Time and The Andrew Marr Show, BBC2's Newsnight, and BBC Radio 4's Today, The World at One, PM, Front Row and The World Tonight.

In 2014 Julian was forced to retire from playing the cello owing to a neck injury which reduced the power of his bowing arm. In July 2015 he was appointed principal of Birmingham Conservatoire. During his five-year tenure he oversaw the move to a new £57 million building and the merging of the existing Conservatoire with the Birmingham School of Acting. In September 2017 the Conservatoire was awarded the Royal status by Her Majesty the Queen.



ESTHER ABRAMI

Artist-in-Residence

Esther Abrami is much more than a musician: she's an inspiration to a new generation of music enthusiasts.

Through her large social media platform, Esther shares her passion for music, performance and practice sessions and shares behind-the-scenes glimpses into her life as a musician with an ever-growing community worldwide. With her dazzling talent, infectious personality and boundless enthusiasm for music-making, Esther Abrami is a rising star and her new album *Cinéma* is not to be missed.

The 26-year-old violinist studied at the Royal College of Music and completed her master's degree at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, for which she received a full scholarship. In 2019, she became the first classical musician ever to win the 'Social Media Superstar' category at the Global Awards and in 2021 she was featured in Classic FM's '30 under 30 Classical Artists to Watch' series, curated by Julian Lloyd Webber and was listed as a 'Rising Star' by BBC Music Magazine. In 2021 she was signed to Sony Classical and made her Royal Albert Hall debut in 2022.

In the UK, Esther Abrami is considered one of the most promising young classical artists of her generation and has been appointed Creative Partner and Artist in Residence by the English Symphony Orchestra. With her debut album 'Esther Abrami' (2022) and an EP dedicated to women composers recorded with Her Ensemble,





a free-form group that seeks to address the gender gap and gender stereotypes in the music industry, Esther has become an artist who achieves wide attention outside the classical sphere. In her podcast 'Women in Classical', Esther Abrami regularly interviews outstanding women musicians and composers from the world of classical music with the hope of inspiring young people to pursue a career in music.

EDWARD ELGAR WELCOMES FEATURED COMPOSER STEVE ELCOCK



As an aspiring young composer growing up in 'Das Land ohne Musik' ('the land without music', as Britain was then known), I had to find my own way. I had to teach myself. Well, to be fair, my teachers were the scores of Beethoven, Wagner, Brahms and Bach, and my classroom was the orchestral rehearsal rooms of Herefordshire and Worcestershire, where I learned what did and didn't work. I'm proud to call myself a self-taught composer, and I'm always keen to celebrate my fellow autodidacts like Sir Michael Tippett and Philip Sawyers.

This year's Visiting Composer, Steve Elcock is another distinguished member of our brotherhood of the self-taught. Working on his own, completely outside of the music industry, Steve immersed himself in the scores of the great composers of the past and gradually developed one of the most original and powerful voices of his time. His is music of strength, conviction and beauty, and I'm delighted to have it sitting alongside my own works at this year's festival. I trust you will enjoy discovering his music as much as I have.

Sir Edward Elgar

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TUESDAY 28 MAY

Open to the public
FREE

12.30PM

The Firs, Elgar's Birthplace, Lower Broadheath WR2 6RH

PIANO RECITAL BY MARCEL ZIDANI



Edward Elgar *In Smyrna*
Chopin *Bolero*
Keith Jarrett *Koln Konzert Part 1*

The Elgar Festival is delighted to welcome members of the Morgan Sports Car Club to The Firs at the end of their rally following the Elgar route, with a short piano recital given by distinguished pianist Marcel Zidani.

The café and museum only (not the cottage) will be open from 10am – 4.30pm

The Morgan Rally will arrive at approximately 12pm



Scan here
for more details

WED 29 MAY - SAT 1 JUNE

Open to the public
FREE

10AM – 4PM DAILY

*Jury Room, Worcester Guildhall, High St,
Worcester WR1 2EY*

ELGAR FOR EVERYONE EXHIBITION

Pop in to the beautiful and historic Guildhall in central Worcester throughout the 2024 Festival to sample this fascinating exhibition of Elgar memorabilia on loan from prestigious international private collections.

This exhibition, which includes original manuscripts, letters, photographs and personal possessions, tells the story of how Worcester's Ted Elgar became Sir Edward Elgar, First Baronet of Broadheath.

Plus '10 Things you Didn't Know about Elgar' exhibit, and a video exploring Elgar's life and music. Please, walk in, discover, explore and enjoy.

Elgar for Everyone

Photography: Michael Whitefoot

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WEDNESDAY 29 MAY

Open to the public
FREE

12PM – 4.30PM

Worcester Cathedral, WR1 2LA



E4E: THE ELGAR FOR EVERYONE OPEN REHEARSAL

Join us in the Cathedral as we rehearse the 100+ young musicians of the ESO Youth Orchestras for this evening's concert

7.30PM

Worcester Cathedral, WR1 2LA

E4E: THE ELGAR FOR EVERYONE FAMILY CONCERT

£15

£10 for ESO
family members/
under 18s free



ESO Youth Orchestras and Ensembles
Musicians of the English Symphony Orchestra
James Topp *conductor*
Esther Abrami *violin*
Julian Lloyd Webber *presenter*



PROGRAMME

ESO Intermediates

Richard Wagner (arr. KW Rokos) *Overture to 'Die Meistersinger'*

Williams arr J Brubaker *The Complete Harry Potter*

ESO Beginners

Henry Purcell (arr. L Ryan) *Trumpet Tune*

Gustav Holst (arr. N Hare) *Themes from Jupiter (The Planets)*

ESO Musicians

Elgar Festival Young Composers' Competition Winners

KS5: Callum Bisson: *String Quartet in C minor 'The Chase'*

KS4: Jinwoo Shin: *The Sounds of One Grieving*

INTERVAL

Esther Abrami & ESO Youth Strings

Edward Elgar *Salut d'Amour*

ESO Youth Harps

Monika Stadler *Preseli Skies and African Reflections*

Skaila Kanga *My Dancing Days*

ESO Youth Orchestra

Morfydd Owen *Morfa Rhuddlan*

ESO Festival Orchestra

Igor Stravinsky (arr. G Glyn) *The Firebird (Finale)*



The annual Elgar For Everyone (E4E) Family Concert has been one of the most beloved and highly anticipated events of the festival since its inception in 2018. Each year a large number of young musicians from across Elgar Country join the three ESO Youth Orchestras, members of other ESO Youth Groups and the Elgar Virtuosi to bring their music to an audience of families, young people and Elgar fans from all walks of life.

This year we're delighted to welcome our Festival Patron Julian Lloyd Webber and Festival Artist-in-Residence Esther Abrami as co-hosts, coaching, conducting and performing alongside our young musicians.

The concert also includes a performance of the winning entries in this year's Young Composer's Competition. Join us for this uniquely uplifting event, sure to bring a smile to listeners of all ages.





THURSDAY 30 MAY

Tickets must be booked
FREE

11AM – 12.10PM

Henry Sandon Hall, The Royal Porcelain Works,
Severn St, Worcester WR1 2NE

RELAXED ELGAR

Members of the English Symphony Orchestra

Catherine Handley *flute*

Rebecca Wood *oboe*

Alison Lambert *clarinet*

Rosie Cow *bassoon*

Elgar for Everyone means Elgar for EVERYONE. Join us for a Relaxed Concert for people living with disabilities, dementia or other challenges

PROGRAMME:

Elgar *Chanson de Matin*

Bach *Minuet & Badinerie*

Delibes *Flower Duet (from Lakmé) (trio)*

Mozart *Voi Che Sapete*

(from Le Nozze di Figaro)

Elgar *Chanson de Nuit*

Traditional *Danny Boy (trio)*

J A Glover-Kind *I do like to be*

Beside the Seaside

Abreu *Tico Tico (trio)*

Ron Goodwin *Those Magnificent Men*

Richard Rodney Bennett *Travel Notes*

1. *In an air-balloon*

2. *In a bath-chair*

3. *Car-chase*

Gershwin *Promenade 'Walking the Dog'*

Howard *Fly Me to the Moon (trio)*

Traditional *Down by the Riverside*

Cole Porter *Anything Goes*



THURSDAY 30 MAY

Tickets must be booked
FREE

1.30PM

*The Firs, Elgar's Birthplace,
Lower Broadheath WR2 6RH*



TALK: STEVE ELCOCK IN CONVERSATION

Edward Elgar is surely one of music's greatest autodidacts, an essentially self-taught composer who rose to become the greatest and most important British composer of all time. But Elgar is not an isolated case – Sir Michael Tippett and Philip Sawyers are also fascinating examples of self-taught composers who have written some of the most compelling music of the last 100 years.

Steve Elcock is the Festival's featured composer for 2024 and the current John McCabe Composer-in-Association with the English Symphony Orchestra. Also self-taught, here in conversation with festival director Kenneth Woods, he shares his powerful story of finding his voice as a symphonist far from the intrigues and access of the classical music establishment.

'It is humbling that a self-taught European composer in his sixties can have written such a stack of well-crafted, emotionally honest and non-derivative music without anybody really noticing and with hardly a note being performed professionally'

GRAMOPHONE (October 2017)

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THURSDAY 30 MAY

Tickets must be booked
FREE

3.30PM

The Firs, Elgar's Birthplace, Lower Broadheath WR2 6RH



TALK: JENNY LIND, NATIONAL TREASURE

Soprano April Fredrick and researcher-librettist Michèle Lammas from Hatpin Productions CIC, a non-profit arts organisation in Worcestershire, are hosting a workshop on 'Jenny Lind: For One Night Only'.

On the 2nd of February 1849, the 'Swedish Nightingale' Jenny Lind performed with other notable artists at College Hall, Worcester, to raise funds for charity. The event was a great success, with proceeds benefiting the local infirmary.

On the 2nd of February 2024, Hatpin Productions commemorated the 175th anniversary of this event. They created a special performance at the Jenny Lind Chapel, in the infirmary building on the University of Worcester's city campus, which was featured on BBC Hereford and Worcester radio, BBC Breakfast news and ITV evening news. The Elgar Festival has invited the group to re-enact this historic anniversary event as part of the festival celebrations.

The talk at The Firs will include a performance by April Fredrick of a beloved Bellini aria previously sung by Jenny Lind; *Qui la voce sua soave*, accompanied by guest violinist Grace Shepherd. Music and heritage learning specialist Sue Pope and aspiring archivist Cat Lammas from the project's creative team will be providing a period costume try-on corner, a garden treasure hunt and an art table, with support from the University of Worcester and volunteers.

Ormerod Rutter Chartered Accountants are sponsors of Hatpin Productions CIC for the event at The Firs.

The café and museum only (not the cottage) will be open from 10am – 4.30pm

THURSDAY 30 MAY

Tickets must be booked
FREE

3PM - 4.10PM

Great Malvern Priory, Church Street, Malvern, WR14 2AY

RELAXED ELGAR

Members of the English Symphony Orchestra

Catherine Handley *flute*

Rebecca Wood *oboe*

Alison Lambert *clarinet*

Rosie Cow *bassoon*

Elgar for Everyone means Elgar for EVERYONE. Join us for a Relaxed Concert for people living with disabilities, dementia or other challenges

PROGRAMME:

Elgar *Chanson de Matin*

Bach *Minuet & Badinerie*

Delibes *Flower Duet (from Lakmé) (trio)*

Mozart *Voi Che Sapete*
(from *Le Nozze di Figaro*)

Elgar *Chanson de Nuit*

Traditional *Danny Boy (trio)*

J A Glover-Kind *I do like to be*
Beside the Seaside

Abreu *Tico Tico (trio)*

Ron Goodwin *Those Magnificent Men*

Richard Rodney Bennett *Travel Notes*

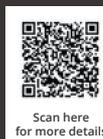
1. *In an air-balloon*
2. *In a bath-chair*
3. *Car-chase*

Gershwin *Promenade 'Walking the Dog'*

Howard *Fly Me to the Moon (trio)*

Traditional *Down by the Riverside*

Cole Porter *Anything Goes*



Scan here
for more details

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FRIDAY 31 MAY

Bring your own lunch/cash bar
£10

1PM

Huntingdon Hall, Crowngate, Worcester WR1 3LD



LUNCH WITH ESTHER ABRAMI

Esther Abrami *violin*
Daniel King Smith *piano*

Vaughan Williams *The Lark Ascending*
César Franck *Violin Sonata in A major*
Edward Elgar *Salut d'Amour and Mot d'Amour op 13. No 1*

Enjoy a well-earned lunchtime break in the company of inspirational violinist Esther Abrami, one of the most exciting young rising stars currently in the classical music world and the festival's Artist in Residence for 2024.



6 JULY 2024

St. Peter's Church, Inkberrow

SUMMER 'CHORALE CLASSICS' CONCERT WITH ELGAR CHORALE

A concert with a difference - an opportunity for audience participation! The Chorale will perform choral favourites in a variety of styles. Then there's a chance for **you** to join in pieces ranging from *Panis Angelicus* and *Jerusalem* to a medley from *Oklahoma!*
Details at www.elgarchorale.com





FRIDAY 31 MAY



7PM

Assembly Room, Worcester Guildhall, High St, Worcester WR1 2EY

ELGAR'S STRINGS: ELGAR'S WARTIME MASTERPIECE

English String Orchestra
Kenneth Woods *conductor*

Imogen Holst *Variations on 'Loth To Depart'*

Steve Elcock *Concerto Grosso Op. 12 (world premiere)*

Elgar arr David Matthews *String Quartet in E minor Op. 83*



Our annual celebration of the unique and glorious tradition of British music for string orchestra, heard in the magnificent acoustic of Worcester Guildhall. Elgar's lone String Quartet is a powerful example of Elgar's mastery of the chamber music idiom, and his deep reverence for this most revered genre, particularly the legacy of Beethoven's late string quartets. This version of the Quartet in its arrangement for full string orchestra was heard at the inaugural Elgar Festival when David Matthews was the featured composer and has since been recorded by the English String Orchestra to international acclaim.

Imogen Holst's Variations are a beautiful addition to the string orchestra repertoire, but also a poignant example of what might have been had the talented female composers of her generation been given greater opportunities and encouragement.

While composers like Steve Elcock, David Matthews and their contemporaries have drawn international acclaim for the way in which they and their peers have reinvigorated the symphony as a genre, Elcock's Concerto Grosso, heard here in the world premiere of the final/revised version, shows Elcock's ability to bring fresh vision, humour, mischief and profundity to other ancient musical forms. Elcock's Concerto Grosso also offers an exceptional showcase for the talents of the ESO's principal players.

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FRIDAY 31 MAY

cash bar available

£10

9.30PM

Worcester Guildhall, High St, Worcester WR1 2EY

Club Elgar 1

WITH ESTHER ABRAMI & FRIENDS

Esther Abrami *violin*
ESO Chamber Players

Club Elgar events have become a staple of our 'Elgar for Everyone' ethos and this evening's show is no exception as we welcome back the hugely successful and highly versatile violinist and Festival Artist-in-Residence Esther Abrami for her second appearance here this week.

Esther's new album, *Cinéma*, was released in September 2023 on Sony Classical. With a captivating collection of lush new arrangements for violin and orchestra of film and TV scores, classical music from the movies, anime hits and new compositions by Oscar-winning composers, *Cinéma* showcases Esther Abrami's versatility, musical sensitivity and technical mastery, performed here with intimate stripped-down arrangements for violin, piano and string quartet.

Esther carefully curated each piece on the album, noting:

'I am so thrilled about my new album. I wanted to curate a diverse collection that reflects my classical background, my French and Jewish heritage, my support of women in music, the films and anime that moved me the most and to offer a rich tapestry of music that spans genres, cultures and generations. I often reflect on the similarities between film music and classical music – the intricacy of the orchestral arrangements, the emotional depth, and the timeless beauty of both – and I hope that listeners will fall for the music of 'Cinéma' just as I have.'





PROGRAMME:

James Newton Howard *The Hanging Tree* from *'The Hunger Games Mockingjay Pt 1'*

Shostakovich *Youth Romance* from *'The Gadfly'* Op. 97

Toshio Masuda *Naruto, Alone* theme

Go Shiina *Kamado Tanjirou No Uta* from *'Demon Slayer'*

Shigaru Umabayashi *Yumeji's Theme* from *'In the mood for love'*

Julian Lloyd Webber *Jackie's Song*

Louise Farrenc *Andante Sostenuto*

Anne Dudley *Chasing Rainbows*

Angela Morley *Reverie*

Rachel Portman *Themes from Chocolat*

Yann Tiersen *Comptine d'un autre été* from *'Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie'* Poulain'

Khaled Mouzanar *Zeyn* from *Capharnaum*

Tchaikovsky *Valse Sentimentale* Op.51, No.6

Sergei Rachmaninoff *Paganini Variation*

Delibes *Flower Duet*

Michael Nyman *If* from *'The Diary Of Anne Frank'*

Nicola Piovani *Buongiorno Principessa* from *'La vita e Bella'*

Bruno Coulais *Vois sur ton chemin* from *'Les Choristes'*

Sonya Belousova/Giona Ostinelli *Toss A Coin To Your Witcher* from *The Witcher*

Astor Piazzolla *Libertango*



SATURDAY 1 JUNE

£10

11AM

St Martin in the Cornmarket, Worcester WR1 2DJ



Photography: Michael Whitefoot

THE ELGAR CHORALE IN CONCERT

The Elgar Chorale presents a short programme of music exploring the subject of the sea

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875 – 1912)

Part Songs:

'Sea Drift' and 'Isle of Beauty'

Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934)

Nimrod/Sancte Deus

Edward Elgar

Part Songs:

As Torrents In Summer

The Shower

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Part Songs:

The Lee Shore

Summer Is Gone

Edward Elgar arr Donald Fraser

Sea Pictures

Sea Slumber Song

In Haven

Sabbath Morning At Sea

Where Corals Lie

The Swimmer

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

The Viking Song



Scan here
for more details



SATURDAY 1 JUNE

FREE

1.30PM

Lower Hall, Worcester Guildhall, High St, Worcester WR1 2EY

DISCOVERING ELGAR'S ORCHESTRA

Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra

Keith Slade *conductor*

Sally Alexander and Kate Moon *cellos*

Elgar *Introduction and Allegro, Op.47*

Vivaldi *Concerto for two cellos in G min*

J.S. Bach *Brandenburg Concerto No. 1 in F maj BWV 1046*

In 1905 Elgar helped found the Worcestershire Symphony Orchestra which still has a thriving membership and concert diary to this day. In this free event, all are invited to enjoy a diverse range of works by Elgar, Bach and Vivaldi.



Scan here
for more details



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SATURDAY 1 JUNE

£10

3.30PM

Assembly Room, Worcester Guildhall, High St, Worcester WR1 2EY

THE JENNY LIND SINGERS IN CONCERT

Lynne Lindner, *conductor*, Anwen Mai Thomas, *harp*, Tim Sidford, *piano*

Edward Elgar (1857 –1934)

Fly, Singing Bird Fly (Words: Caroline Alice Elgar)
With violin obligato

Sarah Quartel (b. 1982)
Alec Roth (b. 1948)

Songbird
When Maidens are Young
(Words: Aphra Behn)
From 'A Time To Dance'

Liz Dilnot Johnson (b.1964)

Anagram 3 – JIGBAREDOSH
Piano solo

Carol Jones (b. 1993)

All shall be well (Words: Julian of Norwich)
With harp

Hildegard of Bingen (1098 – 1179)
Catrin Finch (b.1980)

O virtus Sapientie
Pictures
Harp solo

Edward Elgar arr Donald Hunt

Stars of the Summer Night
(Words: Henry Wadsworth Longfellow)
With violin obligato

Elizabeth Poston (1905 – 1987)

An English Song-Book:
A Charm Against the Bumble Bee
Interlude for Harp
Sweet Suffolk Owl
With harp

Edward Elgar

From The Bavarian Highlands:
Lullaby
False Love
The Dance

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
Liz Dilnot Johnson

Choral hymns from Rig Veda Op.26 no.3
Nimrod Reimagined
(world premiere)
With harp



Scan here
for more details



SATURDAY 1 JUNE

FREE

5.30PM

Worcester Cathedral, 8 College Yard, Worcester WR1 2LA

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL EVENSONG

Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir
Stephen Shellard *Director*

Festival Responses *Ian King*

Canticles *Stanford in G*

Anthem *Elgar: Great is the Lord*

As 2024 marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Charles Villiers Stanford, both evensong events in this year's festival pay tribute to his legacy. The responses for both evensongs are also by Worcestershire composers. Ian King was born in 1962 and sadly passed away in 2020. His festival responses were written for the chamber choir.

The service lasts approximately 45 minutes

Photography: Michael Whitefoot

WWW.ELGARFESTIVAL.ORG

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SATURDAY 1 JUNE

Cash bar available
£10-£27

7.30PM

Worcester Cathedral, 8 College Yard, Worcester WR1 2LA

THE ELGAR FESTIVAL GALA CONCERT



English Symphony Orchestra

Kenneth Woods *conductor*

Zoë Beyers *violin*

April Fredrick *mezzo soprano*

Elgar *Violin Concerto in B minor Op. 61*

Steve Elcock *Wreck Op.10*

Elgar *Cockaigne (In London Town) Op. 40*

Elgar *Pomp and Circumstance Marches Op.39 Nos 4 and 1*

Elgar's Violin Concerto is unique in its epic scope, virtuosic demands and emotional range. Composed at the height of his formidable musical powers and at the peak of his international fame, Elgar's Violin Concerto is a work both intimate and grandiose, universal and personal, confessional yet private. Throughout his career, Elgar often found inspiration in the unattainable attractions of various muses. None of these 'might have been' loves seems to have affected him as much as the woman he called "Windflower", who inspired this greatest of all violin concertos. In a festival which celebrates the 'Origins of Inspiration', surely love lost or unfulfilled has inspired more great music than anything else in the human condition.

Steve Elcock owes a degree of his late-in-life success as a composer to a midi mock-up made in 2014 of his epic tone poem, *Wreck*, which the English Symphony Orchestra finally premiered in Malvern Theatres in 2022. When critic Martin Anderson, owner of Toccata Classics, heard the work for the first time he called it, simply 'some of the best orchestral music by a British composer in the last fifty years.'



Photography: Michael Whitefoot

If love and longing were the most frequent and important source of inspiration for Edward Elgar, surely place and landscape runs a close second. The Elgar Festival is unique in the world in letting audience members immerse themselves in the countryside, hills, villages and forests which informed so much of Elgar's music. But Elgar's ability to find inspiration in place was not limited to rural Worcestershire and Herefordshire. And like his Italy-inspired tone poem, *In the South*, his rousing *Cockaigne*, which brings this year's festival to a thrilling conclusion, was inspired by the sights, sounds and smells of Elgar's beloved London Town.



Scan here
for more details

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SATURDAY 1 JUNE

£10

10:15PM

Henry Sandon Hall, The Royal Porcelain Works,
Severn St, Worcester WR1 2NE

Club Elgar 2

WITH BLUE ENIGMA &
SPECIAL GUEST
ALEX VOYSEY



Kenneth Woods *guitar*
Alex Voysey *guitar*
Joe Hoskin *bass*
Nathan Thomas *drums*



When not busy conducting orchestras and directing festivals in the UK and USA, Kenneth Woods is a lifelong guitarist and student of the history of the blues and the African American musical traditions that grew from it. In a festival week in which we explore the Origins of Inspiration, Woods, his bandmates, and special guest, Alex Voysey, take listeners on a journey through the history of this most important musical form. From the birth of the

Delta blues in the poverty-stricken Jim Crow south, through the worldwide triumph of rock and roll, this concert is a celebration of how a generation of self-taught musicians inspired millions and changed the world forever.

Featuring music by: Son House, Skip James, Robert Johnson, Lead Belly, Howlin' Wolf, Willie Dixon, Led Zeppelin, Lennon and McCartney, Joe Bonamassa, Kenneth Woods and Elgar.



SUNDAY 2 JUNE

FREE

11AM

Museum of Royal Worcester, Severn Street, Worcester, WR1 2NE

THE A.T. SHAW LECTURE WITH JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER

Photography: Simon Fowler



Internationally renowned cellist, educator and Festival Patron, Julian Lloyd Webber, shares a lifetime of insights and memories about the Elgar Cello Concerto, the profound and intimate work with which he has had a close personal connection for the entirety of his professional career.

Refreshments available from 10.30am

12 NOON

Museum of Royal Worcester, Severn Street, Worcester, WR1 2NE

£31

THE ELGAR SOCIETY LUNCH



The Elgar Society hosts its annual festival lunch, open to all, in the beautiful setting of the Museum of Royal Worcester surrounded by treasures of the past.

Tickets available only from:

chairman@elgarsociety.org

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SUNDAY 2 JUNE

£10

2PM

Henry Sandon Hall, The Royal Porcelain Works, Severn St, Worcester WR1 2NE

ELGAR'S PIANO QUINTET

ESO Chamber Players

Zoë Beyers *violin*

Suzanne Casey *violin*

Carl Hill *viola*

Joely Koos *cello*

Mike Escreet *bass*

Daniel King Smith *piano*

Steve Elcock Piano Quintet, op.34

Elgar Piano Quintet, op. 84

The world-class principals of the English Symphony Orchestra perform Elgar's 20th century masterpiece alongside the world premiere of festival composer Steve Elcock's lyrical and powerful quintet, unusually scored to include double bass.



Photography: Michael Whitefoot

SUNDAY 2 JUNE

available

FREE

4PM

Worcester Cathedral, 8 College Yard, Worcester WR1 2LA

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL EVENSONG



Worcester Cathedral Chamber Choir
Stephen Shellard *Director*

Festival Responses *Tomkins*

Canticles *Stanford in B flat*

Anthem *Elgar: The Spirit of the Lord*
Elgar: Ave Verum

Sunday's evensong brings together two composers whose music has had a profound impact on Worcester cathedral throughout the ages: Thomas Tomkins (1572 - 1656) who was organist of Worcester Cathedral for 50 years wrote some of the best church music of the late Tudor, early Stuart period and of course Edward Elgar. Elgar said, 'if you want to hear how my music should sound, you should come to Worcester Cathedral.

The Spirit of the Lord is the opening chorus from the oratorio *The Apostles* written for the 1903 Birmingham Music Festival. Elgar's publishers saw its potential as a stand-alone anthem and as a result it has become a favourite of cathedral choirs.

We also celebrate the 100th anniversary of the death of Charles Villiers Stanford in 2024. His *Canticles in B flat* were written in 1879 while he was organist of Trinity College, Cambridge and have remained on the music lists of all cathedrals and parish choirs since its publication in 1902.

Elgar's *Ave Verum* will be sung during the annual wreath-laying at the Elgar memorial window, bringing the 2024 Elgar Festival to a close.

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CONCERT SEASON 2024 - 2025

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

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conductor:

KEITH SLADE

Programme includes:

BRAHMS DOUBLE CONCERTO

soloists: Victoria Lee and Sally Alexander

CHRIST CHURCH
AVENUE ROAD
MALVERN

SATURDAY JULY 6th 2024 at 7.30pm

TICKETS: [TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk) or ON THE DOOR or:



Photography: Michael Whitefoot



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THE OFFICIAL ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF SIR EDWARD ELGAR IN HIS HOME CITY OF WORCESTER.

The Festival is a Registered Charity No. 1186804. The organisation is managed by a volunteer TEAM of members and trustees.

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Hannah Webb – Worcester Wine

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Tim Burton – Website Management

Oksana Davydova – Museum of Royal Worcester

...and our Festival Volunteers, acting as stewards at our venues - **Thank you!**

All artist biographies and programme notes are available on the website or by scanning the QR code next to each event

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Elgar for Everyone



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