

*A Workshop on*  
**BRITISH ORGAN MUSIC OF THE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES**

*Presented by*  
**NIGEL POTTS**

**Workshop Handout**

**Sir Hubert Parry (1848-1918)**

Organ compositions include:

- Two sets of *Seven Chorale Preludes*
- Larger works: *Fantasia & Fugue in G* and *Toccata & Fugue 'The Wanderer'*

Workshop listening included:

- 'Eventide' (Abide with me) from *Seven Chorale Preludes*, Set II (1915)

Recommended Reading:

- *C. Hubert H. Parry: His Life and Music* - Jeremy Dibble (Oxford University Press)

Recommended CDs:

- *The Complete Organ Works of Sir Hubert Parry* - James Lancelot, Durham Cathedral (Priority: PRCD 682AB. 2-disc set)
- *Parry Complete Symphonies* - London Philharmonic/Matthias Bamert (Chandos: CHAN 9120-22. 3-disc set)

**Sir Charles Stanford (1852-1924)**

Organ compositions include:

- Five Sonatas, two sets of *Six Short Preludes and Postludes*, *Fantasia & Toccata in D minor*, Op.57, in addition to many other works

Workshop listening included:

- Excerpt from *Fantasia & Toccata in D minor*, Op.57 (1894) - see CD details below

Recommended Reading:

- *Charles Villiers Stanford: Man and Musician* - Jeremy Dibble (Oxford University Press)

Recommended CDs:

- *Music for a Grand Organ* - David Drury, Sydney Town Hall (ABC Classics: 432 527-2) *This CD only includes the 'Fantasia & Toccata' of Stanford*
- *The Stanford Sonatas* (No. 2-4) - Charles Callahan, St. Mary Redcliffe Church, Bristol, England (Pro Organo: CD7010)
- *Stanford Symphonies 1-7*. Ulster Orchestra/Vernon Handley (Chandos: CHAN 9279-82. 4-disc set)
- *Stanford Piano Concerto No.2* - Ulster Orchestra/Vernon Handley (Chandos: CHAN 7099)

### **Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934)**

Organ compositions:

- *Sonata in G* and *Vesper Voluntaries*
- Various transcriptions (*Sonata No.2*, *Nimrod*, *Chanson de Nuit* & *Chanson de Matin*, *Imperial March* etc)

Workshop listening included:

- Excerpt from *Sonata in G* (the exposition of the first movement 'Allegro maestoso')

Recommended CDs:

- *Edward Elgar at Woolsey Hall* (Yale University) - Thomas Murray organist (Gothic: G49076)
- *Elgar: (Orchestral) Symphony No.1* & *Organ Sonata* (transcribed by Gordon Jacob) (Chandos: CHSA 5049)

Reading of interest:

- *Elgar in America - Elgar's American connections between 1895-1934* - Richard Smith (Elgar Editions)

Useful link:

- Elgar Society (*with an American Branch*) [www.elgar.org/welcome.htm](http://www.elgar.org/welcome.htm)

### **Edwin Lemare (1865-1934)**

Organ compositions include:

- A vast output of original works (and transcriptions) published by Wayne Leupold [www.wayneleupold.com](http://www.wayneleupold.com)
- One of Lemare's most popular works is: *Andantino in D flat* (Moonlight & Roses)

Workshop listening included:

- Rondo Capriccio (*a study in accents*), Op.64 - see CD details below

Recommended CD:

- *An Evening with Edwin H. Lemare* – Thomas Murray, Kotzschmar Memorial Organ, Portland Town Hall, Maine (AFKA Records: SK-515)

### **Alfred Hollins (1865-1942)**

Organ compositions include:

- A Trumpet Minuet; Grand Choeur No.1 & 2; Intermezzo; Song of Sunshine; Concert Overture in C minor

Workshop listening included:

- Song of Sunshine (*final section*)

Recommended CD:

- The Organ Music of Alfred Hollins - David Liddle, The Organ of Hull City Hall (Priory: PRCD 398)

### **Sir Edward Bairstow (1874-1946)**

Organ compositions include:

- His output for the organ is small (13) but a worthy collection of quality music which includes: *Three Short Preludes, Meditation, Evening Song, Sonata in Eb*

Workshop listening included:

- *Veni Emmanuel* from *Three Short Preludes* - see CD details below

Recommended Reading:

- *Blessed City – The Life and Works of Edward C. Bairstow* - Francis Jackson (William Sessions Limited, York, England)

Recommended CD:

- *Bairstow – The Complete Organ Works* - Francis Jackson, York Minster (Amphion PHI CD 143)

### **Healey Willan (1880-1968)**

Organ compositions include:

- A large output including *Epithalame; Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue* and many Chorale Preludes

Workshop listening included:

- ‘*Gelobt Sei Gott*’ (Good Christians all, rejoice and sing) from *Six Chorale Preludes*, Vol. 1

### **Herbert Howells (1892-1983)**

Organ compositions include:

- *Psalm Preludes* (2 sets); *Rhapsodies; Six Pieces; Two Sonatas; Partita* etc

Workshop listening included:

- Psalm Prelude Set 2, No.3 (Psalm 33, v3 - *Sing unto the Lord a new song; sing praises lustily unto him with a good courage*) Stephen Cleobury, King’s College Cambridge – *see CD details below*

Recommended Reading:

- *Herbert Howells* - Paul Spicer (Seren, Poetry Wales Press Ltd, Bridgend, Wales)

Recommended CDs:

- *The St. Paul’s Service and music by Herbert Howells* - John Scott/ St. Paul’s Cathedral Choir, London (Hyperion CDA 66260)
- *The Organ Music of Herbert Howells* - Stephen Cleobury, King’s College, Cambridge (Priory PRCD 480)

Useful links:

- [www.howellstrust.org.uk/index.html](http://www.howellstrust.org.uk/index.html)
- [www.paulspicer.com/howells.html](http://www.paulspicer.com/howells.html)

### **Percy Whitlock (1903- 1946)**

Organ compositions include:

- *Four Extemporizations; Five Short Pieces; Six Hymn Preludes; Seven Sketches on verses from the Psalms; Plymouth Suite; Two Chorales; Sonata in C minor*
- Score: *The Complete Shorter Organ Music* published by OUP includes many practical pieces for all organists

Workshop listening included:

- *Paeon* from *Five Short Pieces*

Recommended Reading:

- *Percy Whitlock, Organist and Composer* - Malcolm Riley (Thames Publishing)

Recommended CDs/Broadcasts:

- *Percy Whitlock Organ Music* - Robert Gower, Selby Abbey (Abacus: ABA 505-2)
- *Percy Whitlock Organ Sonata in C minor* - John Scott, St. Paul's Cathedral, London (Hyperion: CDA 67470)
- Pipedreams: *A Percy Whitlock Centenary Tribute* (Program No. 0321)  
<http://pipedreams.publicradio.org/listings/2003/0321/>
- You-Tube: Search 'Nigel Potts' for three tracks in concert from *The Riverside Church*

Useful link/s:

- The Percy Whitlock Trust <http://www.percywhitlock.org.uk/>

**General Reading:**

- *British Organ Music of the Twentieth Century* – Peter Hardwick (The Scarecrow Press)

**Future Questions:** Please feel free to email me if you have any questions [nigel@nigelpotts.com](mailto:nigel@nigelpotts.com)

## CD - British Fantasies & Fanfares



Nigel Potts plays the Schoenstein Organ of St. Paul's Parish, Washington, D.C.  
*Music by: John Cook; Howells, Whitlock, York Bowen, Bairstow, Paul Spicer, Elgar, Walton*

"Nigel Potts is a consummate musician who knows how to communicate the essence of this music."

"Instrument, music, and performer combine to create musical magnificence not to be missed."

*The American Organist, December 2009*

"...a young New Zealand organist whose credentials merit respect and whose interpretive talent is obvious...the gradual decay (in 'Nimrod') is superb...an excellent recording."

*American Record Guide, Nov/Dec 2009*

**[www.nigelpotts.com](http://www.nigelpotts.com)**