



# THE SPIRIT OF ENGLAND

NEWSLETTER OF THE ENGLISH MUSIC FESTIVAL – SPRING 2013 – ISSUE 13



## Booking open for the Seventh English Music Festival

This year's English Music Festival will take place in and around Dorchester-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, over the weekend of 24th to 27th May 2013, and features a tantalising programme of Vaughan Williams and Walford Davies world premières, Sullivan's masterpiece *The Golden Legend*, gems of chamber, choral and orchestral music by a host of composers from Tudor times to Britten, and an entire concert of new works written specifically for this occasion by highly-respected contemporary British composers.

Tickets can be purchased online at [www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/boxoffice.html](http://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/boxoffice.html), or by postal booking form (please contact the Festival office to request a form).



Bjorn Bantock



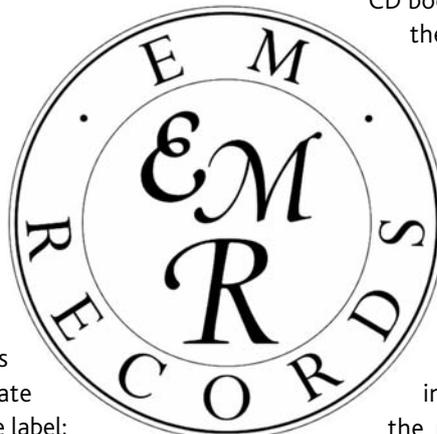
Martin Yates

Photo: Eric Richmond

Photo: Lavonne Bosman

## Subscriptions to EM Records

EM Records is pleased to announce that, due to the success of its scheme whereby music-loving members of the public may subscribe to individual discs, we will, from 1st April 2013, also be offering Foundation Subscriptions to the label itself. An annual Foundation Subscription to EM Records will cost £120, and benefits will include invitations to every disc launch; invitations to all private recitals, receptions and parties promoted by the label; free copies of every disc that EM Records produces, sent direct to the subscriber immediately on the disc's release; and



automatic individual subscriptions to all the discs for which EM Records offers this (including the subscriber's name in the CD booklet and free copies of the discs signed by the artists). EM Records guarantees to produce between four and eight discs a year, of which at least two will be "individual subscription" discs.

In its first year, 2011, EM Records released four discs, two of these "subscription" discs; in 2012 we released five discs, two of these "subscription" discs. As of 1st April 2013, three discs will have been released, and we intend to release at least four more during the rest of 2013. At least two of these will, again, be "individual subscription" discs. A Foundation Subscription form is enclosed with this newsletter.

# The Seventh English Music Festival

The opening concert of the 2013 English Music Festival, on Friday 24th May in Dorchester Abbey (to be recorded for later broadcast on BBC Radio 3), featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra conducted by Martin Yates, will include no fewer than three significant world première performances. The first of these is the previously unpublished and gorgeous early Serenade in A Minor by Ralph Vaughan Williams, his first work for orchestra. The second world première is Vaughan Williams's early tone poem, *The Solent* (from the unpublished suite *In the New Forest*) and the third is Henry Walford Davies's Symphony no. 2 in G major. The concert also includes Parry's *Jerusalem* (in EMF tradition), Britten's effervescent *Canadian Carnival* and Holst's atmospheric *A Winter Idyll*.

The English Music Festival Gala Luncheon on Saturday 25th May will be held in the New Pavilion at Radley College and will include a buffet lunch and sparkling wine; a wonderful opportunity to meet other English music aficionados. The luncheon will be followed by a concert of the finest string repertoire from the London Chamber Strings, conducted by Bjorn Bantock (Sir Granville Bantock's great-grandson) in the Silk Hall. The programme will include Holst's *A Moorside Suite*, Bantock's *From The Far West*, Alwyn's Sinfonietta For Strings, Finzi's Romance For String Orchestra, Ireland's *Elegiac Meditation* and Britten's *Variations On A Theme By Frank Bridge*.

Also on the Saturday, the English Symphony Orchestra returns to Dorchester for a performance of another great, yet overlooked work: *The Golden Legend* by Sir Arthur Sullivan – an unmissable event, and one that will be preceded by a special Festival talk. Sunday sees Radley College Chapel hosting the Elysian Singers in works by Stanford and Parry – the glorious *Blest Pair of Sirens* being the opening work, and Sunday's late evening event invite audience members to see the lighter side of life – in the urbane company of Noel Coward, Ivor Novello and Ray Noble, with a foot-tapping tune or two from those Music Hall stars of the '30s and '40s, the wonderful Flanagan and Allen.

We also present, on the last day of the Festival, a concert celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Coronation of Her Majesty the Queen, with a pageant of 450 years of music, from William Byrd, a composer of the first Elizabethan age, to Benjamin Britten – whose centenary the EMF is joining in celebrating this year. The closing Festival concert will be devoted entirely to works commissioned for the occasion. The programme will include a Symphony by David Owen Norris and orchestral works by Richard Blackford, David Matthews, Philip Lane, and Ben Palmer, who is also conducting the concert with the Orchestra of St Paul's. In addition, there will be a pre-concert forum in which the EMF New Commission composers will provide us with valuable insights into their premièred works. This will be a unique and unmissable concert; a fitting conclusion to this year's EMF.

As usual, the main evening concerts will be preceded by talks and other events (including the launch of EMR CD016 – the EM Records release of Parry's String Quartet in G major of 1878 and String Quintet of 1884) and two EMF lunches are available at Radley on the Saturday and Sunday to enable audience members to enjoy a convivial lunch whilst not risking missing the start of the next event! The Festival bus will be running between Didcot and Dorchester-on-Thames, and Dorchester and the other Festival venues as always. Seats are limited and pre-booking is strongly advised (either on our website or by contacting Em for a postal booking form). Full Festival passes and day passes are available and offer significant discounts for those who are able to join us for a day or more.



Richard Blackford

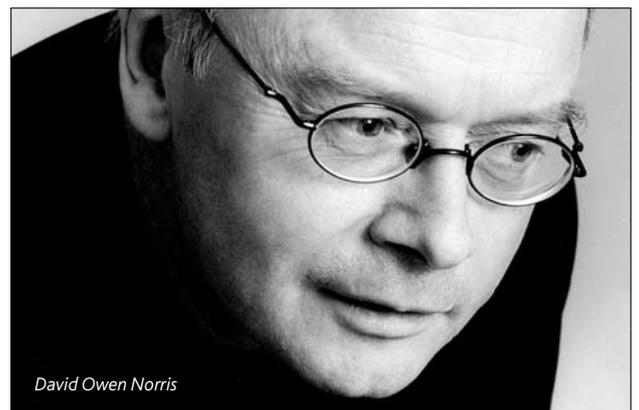
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## Forthcoming EMF and related events

### MUSIC BY DAVID OWEN NORRIS

**Saturday 6th April 2013 from 5.45pm – O'Reilly Theatre, Keble College, Oxford OX1 3PG**

This concert features music by David Owen Norris, to include two song cycles, *Tomorrow nor Yesterday* (settings of poems by John Donne) and *Think only this* (Poems of the First World War by John McCrae, Siegfried Sassoon and Rupert Brooke), and *The Jolly Roger (or Pugwash Walks the Plank)*, a Radio-Opera. The performers are Mark Wilde, tenor; Amanda Pitt, soprano; Thomas Guthrie, baritone; Joseph Spooner, cello; and David Owen Norris at the piano. Further information and tickets (£15 / £10 concessions) are available from [www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/events.html](http://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/events.html) or by sending a cheque to the Festival Office, made payable to The English Music Festival. Tickets can be posted to you for an extra charge of £1.50 (please add this to the total amount). All tickets will otherwise be held for collection on the door.



David Owen Norris

## LAUNCH OF THE BANTOCK SOCIETY

Friday 3rd May 2013 from 6.45pm onwards  
Bantock Room, Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music  
and Dance, King Charles Court, Old Royal Naval  
College, Greenwich, London SE10 9JF



This special event will include a concert, featuring critically-acclaimed artists Rupert Marshall-Luck and Matthew Rickard playing the Third Violin Sonata by Bantock (amongst other performers and works), which will be followed by a reception in the Bantock Room. Further information and tickets (£12) are available from [www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/events.html](http://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/events.html) or by sending a cheque to the Festival Office, made payable to The Granville Bantock Society. Tickets can

be posted to you for an extra charge of £1.50 (please add this to the total amount). All tickets will otherwise be held for collection on the door.

## EMF AUTUMN FESTIVAL: THE COTSWOLD CONNECTION

Friday 20th and Saturday 21st September 2013

Friday 20th September 2013 at 7.30pm at Pittville Pump Room, East Approach Drive, Cheltenham, GL52 3JE – Herbert Howells: Violin Sonata in B minor (World Première performance); Ralph Vaughan Williams: *Concerto Accademico*; Gustav Holst: Five Pieces; Sir Arthur Bliss: Violin Sonata. Rupert Marshall-Luck (violin), Matthew Rickard (piano).

Saturday 21st September 2013 at St Laurence's Church, Wyck Rissington – A morning organ recital with Duncan Honeybourne and an afternoon concert featuring English part-songs with the Oxford Liedertafel. We are also planning an EMF lunch in between these events.

Further information and tickets (including a Festival Pass for all events) will go on sale for these events on 1st May and will be available on the EMF website.

## Norman O'Neill: *A Life in Music* – a new edition



Many readers of *Spirited* may be familiar with Derek Hudson's charming book Norman O'Neill: *A Life in Music*. This book has been out of print for many years, much to the loss of admirers and scholars of O'Neill's exquisite music. EM Publishing has been

offered the publication for re-print in a new edition, with a foreword by O'Neill's grand-daughter, Katherine Jessel. However, in order for us to take on this project, we need help raising funds as setting and printing costs are high. Can you help us to bring this gem of a book back into circulation? We are looking for one, or several, individuals to assist us by sponsoring this important edition. Any such support would be acknowledged in the book (unless the donor should wish to remain anonymous), and the donor would of course receive several free copies. Any interested parties should contact Em Marshall-Luck.

## Can you help?

If you are able to help by distributing EMF programme leaflets or brochures in your area please contact Em – any help in spreading the word further would be greatly appreciated!

The EMF is also seeking a volunteer to assist with updates to the EMF website. Knowledge of HTML is essential and familiarity with and access to Adobe Dreamweaver highly desirable.

## *Spirited*

We would be very grateful for the contribution of any articles, letters, reviews, or other relevant material for our next issue of *Spirited*. Please refer to the Guidelines for Contributors at [www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/spiritedguidelines.html](http://www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/spiritedguidelines.html). The deadline for submission is 13th October 2013.

## Subscriptions to *Spirited* are now due!

Unfortunately, whilst we were able to keep the UK subscriptions to *Spirited* at a cost of £6, it is with regret that we have had to increase the charges for overseas subscribers wishing to receive hard copies of the magazines, as a result of increased postal costs. For those in Europe, subscriptions to *Spirited* are £12 and for the rest of the world, subscriptions are £15. Should you wish to receive copies of the Gazette as a PDF, subscriptions will remain at £6. Likewise, if anyone based in the UK would be willing to receive the Gazette in electronic format, please let Em know – we would be most grateful if you could change to an electronic subscription to help us with ever-escalating postage costs! Please note that Allies and Supporters of the Friends' Scheme no longer automatically receive a copy of *Spirited*, and will need to subscribe separately if they wish to continue receiving the publication. We are sorry about this, but have regretfully had to adjust the benefits we offer Friends in order to stay within Gift Aid boundaries!

## EMF Friends' Scheme

If you are not already a Friend of the EMF, please consider joining this dynamic group. The Friends' Scheme plays a major part in ensuring the continued success of the Festival and offers an extensive range of benefits including invitations to exclusive EMF events, free tickets, advanced booking, reserved seating and recognition in the Festival programme.

# EM Records News

## Recording of the Month

**EMRCD011** has already received remarkable acclaim. The disc features Ivor Gurney's intense and passionate Sonata for Violin and Piano in E-flat complemented by the much-loved Violin Sonata by Edward Elgar and Lionel Sainsbury's virtuosic *Soliloquy* and it made the headlines of the BBC Entertainment news on the day of its release. It has also been featured on BBC Radio 3's *In Tune* and was chosen as a MusicWeb International Recording of the Month.

**EMRCD012-13**, E.J. Moeran: The Complete Solo Piano Music, featuring the young and brilliant pianist, Duncan Honeybourne, presents the complete, deeply atmospheric, piano music by E.J. Moeran alongside works by some of his English and Irish contemporaries. This double-disc set has also been extremely well received and has likewise enjoyed airplay on BBC Radio 3.

## Season Songs

Released this month, **EMRCD014**, *Season Songs*, is a striking collection of song-cycles, featuring Benjamin Britten's *Winter Words*, op.52 (Lyrics and Ballads of Thomas Hardy) alongside the world première recordings of John Parry's *Six Songs* (to poems by Catherina Marriott), Ben Parry's *Season Songs* (to poems by Cecil Lay) and Andrews Leach's *Four Songs* (to poems by R.S. Thomas). These colourful song-cycles perfectly complement Britten's insightful and brilliant Hardy settings, and are performed by the internationally-acclaimed tenor Richard Edgar-Wilson, with pianists Eugene Asti and Andrew Leach and percussionist Sam Wilson.

## Look out for ...

In the very near future, EM Records will be releasing three more discs.

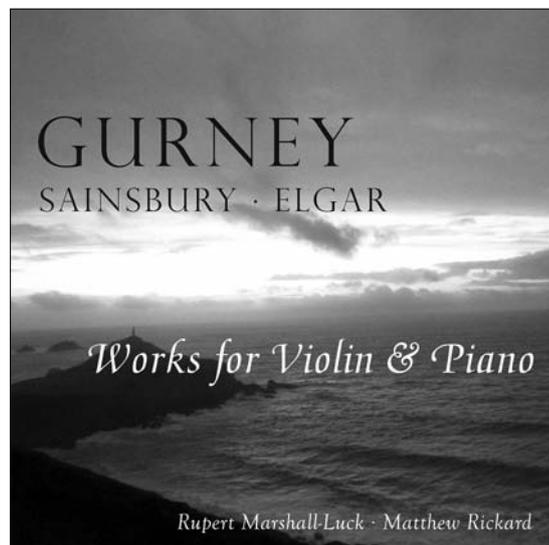
**EMRCD015**: *Fame's Great Trumpet* features the poems of John Donne, set to music by Benjamin Britten and David Owen Norris. The disc features Norris's staggeringly powerful and moving *Think only this*: Poems of the First World War: a song-cycle for tenor, cello and piano, performed by Mark Wilde, Joseph Spooner and Norris.

**EMRCD016**, our next "individual subscription" disc, will feature the superb Bridge Quartet performing Parry's G Major String Quartet (1878) and the String Quintet (1884). The disc will be released during the Festival, at a special launch party to which all are invited. A subscription form for this is enclosed – please help us to cover the significant costs of this wonderful disc if you can!

**EMRCD017** features the Chamber Ensemble of London performing a splendid programme of English string music, including works by Purcell, Arnold, Fisher, Jenkins, Darke, Farnaby, Elgar and Ireland.

## EM Records' website

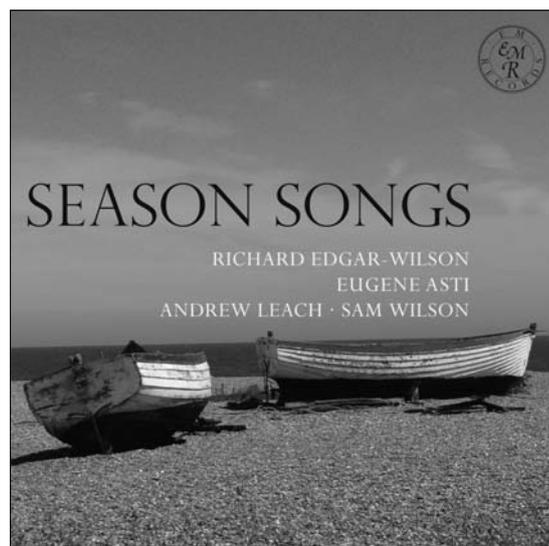
EM Records' dedicated website, [www.em-records.com](http://www.em-records.com), will be launched on 1st April 2013. In order to further promote the glorious works that our label represents, the new website will feature audio programme notes, with the artists talking in intriguing detail about the music and recordings, thus bringing the works even more vividly to life. The website will also offer all the usual information, such as audio clips, all disc details and track listings, purchasing pages and subscription opportunities.



EMRCD011



EMRCD012-13



EMRCD014



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