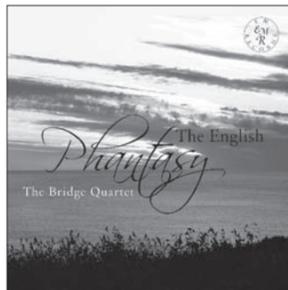


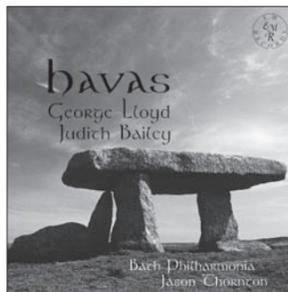


▲ EMRCD024

EMRCD025 ▼



▼ EMRCD026



EM RECORDS NEWS

PARRY FILM LIVE

A film overviewing the life and work of Charles Hubert Hastings Parry and exploring his works for violin and piano has just been released by EM Records. The 16-minute documentary was filmed, with the kind permission of the Hon. Laura Ponsonby and Kate and Ian Russell, in the beautiful and atmospheric surroundings of Shulbrede Priory in West Sussex, a 12th-century building that belonged to Parry's son-in-law, Arthur Ponsonby, and which Parry himself visited frequently. The film's main purpose is to raise awareness of Parry's chamber music – a genre with which he is not popularly associated – and, in particular, his works for violin and piano, which EM Records plans to record shortly and for which project we are currently fundraising. The film can be viewed on the EM Records website, www.em-records.com/videos/parry-documentary.html.

IN THE PRESS

EM Records discs have been receiving glowing acclaim in the press recently, with Professor Jeremy Dibble writing in *Gramophone* of our *English Phantasy* disc, EMRCD025, 'The Bridge Quartet approach these pieces with a sympathetic and insightful warmth, and confirm their ambassadorial credentials for British chamber music. A lovely, radiant disc'; while William Hedley in *International Record Review* commented of *The Towers of Man*, EMRCD028, our recent disc of music by Francis Pott: 'This is music of great beauty and integrity, and the performances fully do it justice. It would be criminal to let it pass you by', and *International Piano* says of our *Irish Idyll* disc, EMRCD024: 'Duncan Honeybourne's playing is astonishingly affectionate, yet never saccharine... Honeybourne plays... with suave confidence'. Audio clips and full details for these can be found on the EM Records website www.em-records.com, along with purchasing mechanisms.

FUTURE RELEASES

The next EM Records disc planned for release comprises the Sonata for Violin and Piano by Herbert Sumsion and the First Sonata by Harold Darke, alongside the Sonata for Organ and Violin by contemporary composer Richard Pantcheff, recorded in the Chapel at Jesus College, Cambridge (with its magnificent organ), with violinist Rupert Marshall-Luck and pianist / organist Duncan Honeybourne. Further releases over the spring of this year will include *Dream Shadows*, a disc of Frederick Kelly's *Gallipoli* Sonata, Bax's Second Sonata and Somervell's beautiful and moving *Two Conversations About Bach* for two violins and piano; works for cello and piano by Gurney, Scott and Ian Venables (including the world première recording of Gurney's magnificent Cello Sonata), and works for string quartet, tenor and piano by Gurney, Butterworth and Warlock from the Bridge Quartet, pianist Michael Dussek and tenor Charles Daniels. Over the rest of the year and into next year, we intend to issue many more recordings, with some highly exciting projects in the pipeline, including more discs from the Chamber Ensemble of London spanning the centuries; a couple of solo violin discs (including rare Elgar and important world premières); and more chamber music from the Bridge Quartet and from Marshall-Luck and Rickard. We are also planning various discs of both choral and chamber works by composers including Parry, Tovey, Butterworth, Farrar, Vaughan Williams, Coles, Ireland and Elgar, as well as a further recording to be made with the BBC Concert Orchestra in January 2016 of the New Commissions written by composers for the English Music Festivals in 2008 and 2013.

HERACLITUS

Meanwhile, we are opening up one of the aforementioned discs to subscriptions (a subscription form is enclosed with this issue of *The Spirit of England*): *Heraclitus* will feature the Bridge Quartet, tenor Charles Daniels and pianist Michael Dussek, and includes the World Première recordings of George Butterworth's miniaturist Suite for String Quartet – an eulogy to the 'untouchable England' before the First World War, but also a perfectly expressed prophetic warning from a young man extinguished in his prime – and Ivor Gurney's epic and moving threnody, *Adagio*. These are set alongside songs by Gurney and Peter Warlock. Please help us to make this release the success it deserves to be by supporting it, and reap the benefits of being a subscriber!



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THE SPIRIT OF ENGLAND

NEWSLETTER OF THE ENGLISH MUSIC FESTIVAL – SPRING 2015 – ISSUE 16

ENGLISH MUSIC FESTIVAL 2015

Booking has now opened for the Ninth English Music Festival, to be held at Dorchester-on-Thames from 22nd to 25th May, over the second May Bank Holiday weekend.

Highlights include Raphael Wallfisch performing Finzi's glorious and intense Cello Concerto with the BBC Concert Orchestra and conductor Martin Yates, and Roderick Williams joining the Symphonia Academica in a programme to include Butterworth's Six Songs from *A Shropshire Lad*, Boughton's *Aylesbury Games*, Milford's *Miniature Concerto*, Finzi's *Romance* and Holst's *St Paul's Suite*. George Butterworth receives further special attention with the première of the completion of his *Fantasia for Orchestra* and a rare performance of another major work, the *Suite for String Quartet*, to be performed at Radley College, where it was most likely composed. The programme also features a performance of Frederick Septimus Kelly's *Gallipoli* Sonata, an evocation of the English countryside that Kelly so loved, which was composed in his tent during the Gallipoli Campaign; glorious sacred choral music by Howells, Vaughan Williams, Finzi and Walton from the Elysian Singers; British folk-songs in the beautiful venue of All Saints' Church, Sutton Courtenay; the British wartime popular song from EMF regulars, the toe-tapping-inducing New Foxtrot Serenaders; and early music by composers such as Purcell and Lawes from Horologe.

As well as this, the Festival features talks and a Festival lunch and pre-concert buffets, to ensure that the inner man is not forgotten in a busy schedule of music enjoyment! Tickets are available online at www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/boxoffice.html, or by the programme and booking brochure.



▲ Raphael Wallfisch



Roderick Williams ▲

EMF FORTHCOMING UK & EUROPEAN CONCERT SERIES EVENTS

LONDON CONCERT

Booking has now opened for our London EMF event in April, with the Orchestra of St Paul's under their conductor, Ben Palmer, performing Britten's wonderful *Serenade for tenor, horn and strings*, Vaughan Williams's *The Lark Ascending* and *Fantasia on Greensleeves*, Malcolm Arnold's *Serenade*, Dowland's *In This Trembling Shadow* and Paul Patterson's *Serenade* for violin and orchestra. Soloists include tenor Richard Edgar-Wilson and violinist Midori Komachi. The concert will take place at St Paul's Church, Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9ED on Tuesday 21st April at 7.30p.m. To book, please visit the Forthcoming Events page of the EMF website: www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/forthcoming-events.html, or send a cheque, made payable to The English Music Festival, to the EMF address. Tickets are priced £15 each (children under 12 are free) and there is an extra charge of £1.50 if you would like tickets posted to you – otherwise they will be held at the door for collection. If booking by post, please remember to include your full details so that we can contact you if need be.



Orchestra of St Paul's ▲

DORSET CONCERT

A concert of Richard Pantcheff's powerful *Sonata* for violin and organ, Donald Tovey's fiendishly virtuosic *Sonata Eroica* for solo violin, Robert Hugill's *Faith, Hope and Charity* for violin and organ (world première performance), J.S. Bach's Partita in E major, BWV 1006, Herbert Howells's *Psalms Preludes* set 1 no.s 1 and 2, Vaughan Williams's *Prelude on the Welsh Hymn Tune 'Rhosymedre'* and Harold Darke's *Meditation on Brother James' Air* will be given by EMF regulars, violinist Rupert Marshall-Luck and pianist Duncan Honeybourne at All Saints Church, 1 Portland Road, Wyke Regis, Weymouth, Dorset DT4 9ES on 6th May at 7.30pm. Tickets will be available from www.englishmusicfestival.org.uk/forthcoming-events.html from 31st March or by sending a cheque, made payable to EMF Endeavours, to the EMF address. Tickets are priced £10 each and there is an extra charge of £1.50 if you would like tickets posted to you – otherwise they will be held at the door for collection. If booking by post, please remember to include your full details so that we can contact you if need be.



▲ Ivor Gurney

LAUNCH OF GURNEY CELLO SONATA DISC

A launch event, including a recital of Gurney's magnificent Cello Sonata, alongside works by Ian Venables and Cyril Scott, performed by Richard Jenkinson and Benjamin Frith, will be held on Bank Holiday Monday 4th May at 6.30p.m. at the Elgar Birthplace Museum (Crown East Lane, Lower Broadheath, Worcester WR2 6RH). The launch is for our forthcoming EM Records disc containing the world première recording of Ivor Gurney's substantial and important Cello Sonata, alongside Cyril Scott's Cello Sonata and music for cello and piano by Ian Venables. Tickets are free to EM Records Foundation Subscribers and those who have subscribed to the disc on an individual basis; otherwise they will be available, priced £10.00, from www.em-records.com/events.html from 31st March or by sending a cheque made payable to EMF Endeavours to the EMF address. There is an extra charge of £1.50 if you would like tickets posted to you – otherwise they will be held at the door for collection. If booking by post, please remember to include your full details so that we can contact you if need be.

KING OF INSTRUMENTS; INSTRUMENT OF KINGS EM RECORDS LAUNCH

A second EM Records launch event, including a recital, will follow shortly on the heels of the aforementioned. This will take place in the Chapter House of Gloucester Cathedral on Saturday 16th May at 3p.m. It will include a performance of Herbert Sumsion's Violin Sonata in E minor and Harold Darke's Violin Sonata no.1, given by Rupert Marshall-Luck and Duncan Honeybourne. Tickets are likewise free to Foundation subscribers and individual disc subscribers, and are also otherwise priced £10.00, from www.em-records.com/events.html or by sending a cheque made payable to EMF Endeavours to the EMF address. There is an extra charge of £1.50 if you would like tickets posted to you – otherwise they will be held at the door for collection. If booking by post, please remember to include your full details so that we can contact you if need be.



EMRCD029 ▲

EMF YORKSHIRE FESTIVAL

Following the success of the EMF Cotswold Autumn Festival in 2013, we will this year be holding a Yorkshire Autumn Festival, on 11th, 12th and 13th September. The main venue will be the atmospheric church at Richard III's Middleham, whilst the churches at Aysgarth and Thornton Steward will also host events – the latter is one of the few churches left in England without electricity, so patrons of the concert will be treated to an event lit entirely and solely by gas-light. Performances will include an English solo song recital with Philip Lancaster; an organ recital by Duncan Honeybourne; Albion performing British folk music; a violin and piano recital, and two solo violin recitals, one of which will be a Richard III programme, including works about the enigmatic monarch specially written for the concert by Paul Carr and Richard Pantcheff.



Middleham Castle ▲