

Southwell u3a Music Lovers Group – 5 February 2020

YouTube Playlist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faAcaaA-kl&list=PLQHiO9b3DnluOR7xRjKRaXWNH4y-pKlrK>

Sir Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934) Introduction and Allegro Op 47 14:43

A Far Cry - New England Conservatory

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faAcaaA-kl>

A Far Cry ensemble was established in 2007 as a self-conducted orchestra, in which decisions are made collectively and leadership rotates among the players (“Criers”).

Introduction and Allegro for Strings, Op. 47, was composed in 1905 for performance in an all-Elgar concert by the newly formed London Symphony Orchestra. Scored for string quartet and string orchestra, Elgar composed it to show off the players' virtuosity. Though initial critical reception was lukewarm, the score soon came to be recognized as a masterpiece. The work is like a multi-layered symphonic poem for string orchestra, with several prominent themes.

William Walton (1902 – 1983) Violin Concerto 33:42
BBC National Orchestra of Wales Conductor Thomas Søndergård, James Ehnes Violin

I. Andante tranquillo (12:05) II. Presto capriccioso alla napoletana (7:24) III. Vivace (14:03)

The Violin Concerto was commissioned by the great virtuoso Jascha Heifetz, whom Walton had first met in 1936. In May 1939 Walton made a short visit to the USA to work with Heifetz on refining details in the solo part. But by the time of the premiere, in December of that year, with Artur Rodziński conducting the Cleveland Orchestra, Britain was at war and Walton was unable to risk the crossing to the USA to hear it.

The initial stages of the work's composition had taken place in 1938, in Ravello, Italy, where Alice Wimborne, his partner at the time, had taken Walton to recover from surgery. Ever since he first visited the country as an 18-year-old, Italy had been Walton's spiritual home and the concerto undoubtedly reflects this love. It is suffused with Italianate warmth and a lyrical, singing quality, and perhaps even more prominently, Italian popular song. Temperamentally, too, it displays Latinate volatility, with capricious changes of mood at every turn.

Eric Coates (1886 – 1957) The Three Elizabeth's Suite

Parts 1 and 2 Added November 2020

Eric Coates: The Three Elizabeth's Suite - 1. Halcyon Days (Elizabeth Tudor)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pffbfKPLMRw>

8:19

Eric Coates: The Three Elizabeth's Suite - 2. Springtime in Angus (Elizabeth of Glamis)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bG6yJGOzPRE>

8:10

Eric Coates Three Elizabeth's Suite 3 The Young of Britain (Princess Elizabeth) 6:03

Taipei Wind Orchestra <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NMGyen9--FQ>

Eric Coates was born into a musical family in Hucknall Nottinghamshire, but despite his wishes and obvious talent, his parents only reluctantly allowed him to pursue a musical career. He studied viola and composition at the Royal Academy of Music and played in string quartets and theatre pit bands, before joining symphony orchestras conducted by Thomas Beecham and Henry Wood. He later concentrated on composing.

Of Coates's thirteen suites, the most often played are the London Suite (1932), London Again (1936) and a later work, The Three Elizabeths (1944), alluding musically first to Elizabeth I, then Elizabeth of Glamis (the then Queen Consort - later Queen Mother), and finally the latter's elder daughter, the future Elizabeth II. The suites generally follow a pattern of robust outer movements with a more reflective inner movement.

Bohemian Rhapsody Freddie Mercury (1946 - 1991) / Cover **6:22**
The Indiana University Studio Orchestra Nicholas Hersch Conductor
Sarah Harball Viola, Patrick Hunninghake Trumpet
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCFnzSCzoYA>

"Bohemian Rhapsody" is a song by the British rock band Queen. It was written by Freddie Mercury for the band's 1975 album *A Night at the Opera*. It is a six-minute suite, consisting of several sections without a chorus: an intro, a ballad segment, an operatic passage, a hard rock part and a reflective coda. It topped the UK chart for nine weeks when it was released in 1975 and for five weeks when Freddie Mercury died in 1991.

Benjamin Britten (1913 - 1976) Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes Op 33a **17:28**
NorrlandsOperans Symfoniorkester, Umeå, Sweden, Conductor Elim Chan
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBY5TIUTRLs>

1 Dawn 2 Sunday Morning 3 Moonlight 4 Storm

The opera's rich and intricate score actually includes six orchestral interludes. Britten extracted four of these as a stand-alone concert piece. In these interludes, the all-important setting of the sea comes into focus and provides its own chorus-like commentary through Britten's evocative orchestral writing. The first ("Dawn") forms the transition between the trial scene of the Prologue (where Grimes is exonerated over the death of his apprentice) and the first act. Against the thin glint of sunlight breaking through on high, menacing brass harmonies swell from below. This music returns to end the opera.

The second interlude ("Sunday Morning") prefaces act two with extroverted, brightly rhythmic tolling as the community gathers for worship.

"Moonlight," the third interlude, is the prelude to the final act, a counterpart to "Dawn." A silvery rain of woodwind and percussion intermittently splashes, while yearning harmonies slowly throb with increasingly troubled intensity. Britten isn't interested in picturesque "nature painting." The seascapes here reflect human emotions.

This is especially apparent in the fourth interlude ("Storm"). Britten modulates between outer landscape and inner psyche. The music's thrashing violence mimics Grimes's turmoil; temporary refuge from the storm opens in a wide melodic arc taken from the aria Grimes sings as he tries to envision a way out ("What harbour shelters peace?") The hope it expresses is battered by the tempest's savage final surge.

Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears Songs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7nlzGsnwWmE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1A2W30NcXE>

First transmitted on BBC radio in 1964, this is from an informal concert of traditional English songs given to an audience of friends at the Riverside Studios, London, by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears.

Few composers have arranged folk songs so imaginatively as Benjamin Britten. Starting with a group of seven settings, written for his recitals with Peter Pears when they were in the US during the war, he went on to compose more than 50 folk-song arrangements, most of them with extraordinarily inventive piano accompaniments. A late sequence of six has guitar accompaniments instead.

From Three songs reflecting the nature of woman

An Unforgettable memory: Foggy Foggy Dew 2:47

Woman as Deceiver: Wally Wally 3:29

Woman as faithful companion: Polly Oliver 3:23