The Empire March

Sir Edward Elgar

transcribed by Tom Winpenny
for organ

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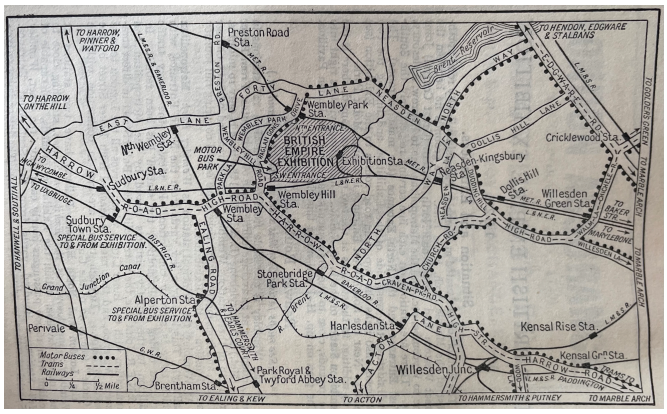
Introductory note

The rousing yet dignified style of Elgar's ceremonial marches helped to establish him as a composer of considerable repute, beginning with Imperial March, Op. 32 (composed for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee of 1897), and continuing with the first four Pomp and Circumstance marches, Op. 39 (1901-1907). The Empire March was composed for 'Pageant of Empire', a historical pageant performed in July and August 1924 at Wembley Stadium, and forming part of the British Empire Exhibition. The 1920s were a fallow period for Elgar, but this stirring work nevertheless demonstrates Elgar's supreme gift for energetic orchestral writing, for lyrical melodies, and for great harmonic flair. The work also exists in a transcription by the composer for piano trio: March for the Grafton Family. The central melody (featuring a characteristically Elgarian descending seventh) can additionally be found amongst sketches for the composer's planned sixth Pomp and Circumstance march.

Tom Winpenny



Map of railway stations, bus and tram routes serving the Exhibitions

About this edition

Ossia markings (small noteheads) provide notes in an alternative octave in order to avoid large stretches. They are not intended as extra notes. Passages marked with a bracket may be played on a separate manual (or solo reed where appropriate).

This organ score has been transcribed with permission from the original orchestral version, as produced in a copyright edition, based on a surviving set of printed draft orchestral parts (with corrections in Elgar's own handwriting), and published by Acuta Music (study score, 2008) and Goodmusic Publishing Ltd. (full score and orchestral parts). Tom Winpenny has also considered the piano/conductor score, published in 1924 by Enoch & Sons Ltd.

Recording

This transcription for organ of Elgar's work has been recorded by John Challenger. The recording, *Elgar from Salisbury*, is released on the Regent Records label (cat. no. REGCD463).

Duration

about 4½ minutes

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The Empire March (1924)

SIR EDWARD ELGAR (1857–1934)
transcribed by Tom Winpenny (b. 1983)

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11
sonoramente
f
sf
sf
risoluto
14
sf
6
sf
6
poco allarg.
a tempo
17
ff
20
sf

23
sf
fp
f
26
ff
sf
29
sf
sf
31
tutta forza
f