

# ELGAR

## School of Music

April 2019



As I step down from my role as Head of School, I look back with fond memories at the amazing work that I have witnessed at the Elgar School. I have watched students grow and teachers

work in freedom, using their creative skills to their true potential. What we have at the Elgar School is an exciting platform for performance and the sharing of music at all levels.

The art of performing live can at first be the most nerve-racking experience, especially for any first-time soloists, but the many showcase concerts we provide create that crucial opportunity for students to learn the many skills needed to stand up in front of an audience, share their music and make a difference.

I have experienced so many students who at first feel like they have failed, but then blossom and enjoy their music making. With skills of focus, concentration, practising and performing, they reach the stage where they know they can perform and then the real enjoyment of communication begins!

It's a big journey for any musician but one that is so rewarding, and it is always worth it, however much frustration you meet

along the way. The key ingredient for any musician is sheer determination. Never stop practising, and never say "no" to any performing opportunities. Feel the fear and do it anyway. Vow to yourself to keep learning from every performance and you will always develop, but do it with a smile!

It's been nothing but a privilege to work with the staff and students of the Elgar School. I am pleased to be handing over to Noriko Tsuzaki as Head of School and Kate Fawcett as CEO, who I know will do a sterling job of handling the ever-increasing workload as the school grows. I will remain connected with the Elgar School and look forward to hearing students in future concerts and watching the school grow into its next phase.

Thank you to everyone!

*Janine Parsons*

### Exam Success!

As an exam centre for Associated Board, Trinity, RGT and London College the reception area is often a busy hub of activity at the end of term but this gives a lovely sense of 'buzz' to the school. Congratulations to all our students who passed their exams this term. It's an important part of the journey of becoming a musician.

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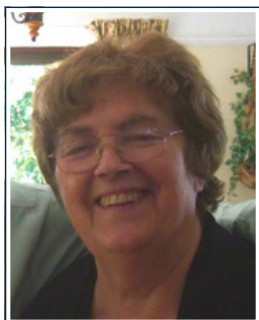
# Community

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## Jo Hunt

For those who don't already know, we are sorry to announce that Jo Hunt died on February 13th, just three weeks after attending a memorial event at Worcester Cathedral in honour of her husband Donald.

As the local representative for



the ABRSM exams, Jo was for many years a regular and delightful presence at the school. Many parents and pupils will have extremely fond memories of her welcoming and calming presence outside the exam room.

There was a very well-attended Evensong service for Jo at the Cathedral on 31st March, appropriately enough on Mother's Day.

We will all miss her.

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## News

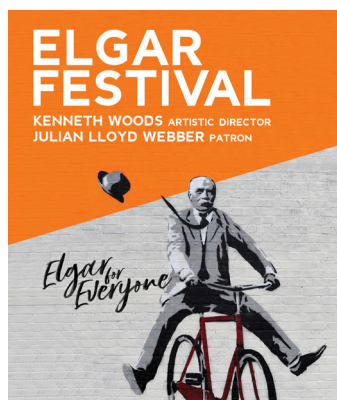
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### Elgar Mini Strings

Looking for a way into music for your little one but feel they are too young to start one-to-one lessons? This could be for you. Last term saw the launch of Elgar Mini Strings for ages 3-5. Through funding we have been able to purchase some mini violins, and we are looking at investing in some mini double basses to join in the fun. Want to know more? Call 01905 28613 for more information or to book a free trial session.



### The Elgar Festival



The Elgar Festival will attain new heights this year with some sensational concerts on the horizon. Don't forget to put them in your diary now!

The Elgar School will be taking part on Friday 31st May with a lunchtime concert featuring Maria Moll (soprano), Wilhelm Theunissen (tenor) Janine Parsons (piano) and students, with a programme including the piano version of Sea Pictures.

Visit [www.elgarfestival.org](http://www.elgarfestival.org)

# News

## First Bus Launch

It was a cold Friday morning, but teachers of the Elgar School headed out to perform Elgar's music in front of the Guildhall for the launch of the new Elgar Nimrod buses in Worcester. The First Bus Company are doing a great job of raising the profile of the city's greatest composer,

Sir Edward Elgar  
age and garden exhalt you  
presence  
its changing insightful  
ing musical performances  
er modern Tea-room



**LUKE SWATMAN**  
*The Worcester Pavlova*

FINALIST The Voice 2019  
Elgar School Alumnus

**ELGAR**  
School of Music

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30 MAY - 2 JUNE 2019

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someone of course who is close to our hearts! For any of you who are regular bus travellers keep your eyes peeled as the Elgar School advert, along with those for the Firs and the Elgar Festival, will be appearing in 13 of their new buses. This is great PR for the work all of our organisations are doing to promote Elgar and his inspirational music. Note Luke Swatman, student of Wilhelm Theunissen, whose incredible talent you may have seen on the finals of The Voice recently will be giving us that much-needed PR support. Thanks Luke!



We welcomed some local VIP's on the day including Worcester MP Robin Walker, the Managing Director of First Bus Company, Nigel Eggleton and the Mayor, Councillor Jabba Riaz. We were joined by Worcester News and BBC Hereford and Worcester Radio.

Pictured below are teachers Corinne Frost and Matthew Peters. Passers-by were treated to

music by Elgar, including a selection of songs performed by Wilhelm Theunissen, a selection of his chamber works, *Nimrod*, and even the *Elgar Cello Concerto*, performed with such grace by Corinne, even with the coldest of fingers!

The new eco-friendly buses which have been refurbished to a high standard even include charging points. Fancy ditching the car?



## Worcester's Pavarotti – Luke Swatman

Commercial Manager by day, opera singer by night, Worcester's Pavarotti Luke Swatman appeared on The Voice UK, successfully getting through the blind auditions and appearing on The Battles. We



were all glued to our TVs as Luke stunned the audience with his powerful rendition of *Il Mare Calmo Della Sera*, made famous by Andrea Bocelli. Luke has been a student at the Elgar School since 2016 under the tutelage of Wilhelm Theunissen. Check out Luke's busy performing schedule at [www.lukeswatman.co.uk](http://www.lukeswatman.co.uk)





# Events

## Woodwind/Brass Showcase

A great evening of entertainment was had featuring the many talents of our Woodwind and Brass department.



The Raglejazz Band demonstrated the wonderful skills of improvisation

that they have been developing under the leadership of Katie Hawcutt. The Doodle Band, a mixed age group led by Sue Sneath and our long- established recorder group directed by Andy Watts also performed. The evening featured many of our young soloists. Thanks to our Head of Woodwind and Brass, Marie McNally, for organising the event



## Piano Showcase

What would our piano department be without these incredibly useful showcase concerts? We had another great turnout this term and some wonderful performances. There is no point learning an instrument if you are not prepared to share the experience, in whatever form, and these concerts are where it all begins no matter what age you are! Many thanks to our Head of Piano and Keyboard, Euodia Jordan.



# Events

## Popular Vocals Showcase

What an exceptional Popular Vocals Showcase we were treated to. There was standing room only, which made us realise that we need to extend the building! There were first time performers,



who did an incredible job of performing in front of such a big audience! It is thanks to the inspirational teaching of Lindsay Martin who does nothing but encourage her students and



give them an exciting opportunity to learn this valuable skill. The evening was supported by the talented fingers of guest guitarist Stuart Elwin

## Elgar Baroque Singers

To end the term, the Baroque Singers gave a stunning concert in the beautiful setting of St Martin's Church in the Cornmarket. We enjoyed a programme that included Haydn's *Creation* and *Nelson Mass*, that welcomed guest soloist Brittany King. Special thanks go to director John Wilderspin for his continued dedication to the choir, and of course John Brierley, organist who had more than a few notes to play on the night!



## Tiny Tunes

Tiny Tunes audience numbers are growing and this is so encouraging to know that youngsters are receiving the wonderful gift of music and



learning as they go along.

This term we have been treated to the bright and brassy sounds of trumpeter Edward Malpass with his homemade hose pipe trumpet, the magical sounds of the harp and guitar with the fun-loving Cherry Stone Duo,



and finishing in March with an array of medieval instruments and melodies with the multi-talented Andy Casserley. Watch out for our May concert which will be Tiny Tunes 3<sup>rd</sup> Birthday, when we welcome back John Grayson, narrator, and pianist Janine Parsons for a performance of the well-known children's classic

*Peter and the Wolf.*

Edward and Janine also appeared at the Firs on Good Friday to a friendly audience!



We are performing during holiday times at the Firs, so check out our facebook page [www.facebook.com/TinyTunesConcerts](http://www.facebook.com/TinyTunesConcerts) to keep up to date for the next one.



## Strings Showcase

This term saw our first Strings Showcase which will be the first of many to come.



Pictured here are students enjoying the limelight with our Head of Strings (and new Head of School) Noriko Tsuzaki.



## Rehearsal Diary

### Folk Ensemble

Sundays 4 - 5.30pm

5th May, 9th June, 7th July.

### Doodle Band

Saturdays 2-4pm

4th May, 1st June, 6th July.

### Elgar Baroque Singers

Tuesdays 8-9.15pm

30th April (St. John's Church); 7th, 21st May; 4th, 18th June; 2nd, 9th July (St John's Church)

### String Ensemble

Mondays 10.30 - 12pm

29th April, 13th May, 10th, 24th June; 1st July

### Recorder Consort

Tuesdays 8-9:30pm

30th April; 14th, 28th May; 11th, 25th June; 9th July

## Pam Harding Memorial Prize

We are pleased to announce that **George Fisher-Edwards** has been awarded this year's bursary for the Pam Harding Memorial Prize.

## Term Dates

### Summer Term 2019

Term starts: Saturday 27th April

Term ends: Friday 19th July

Half Term: 25th May - 31st May

Closed: Monday 6th May

### Autumn Term 2019

Term starts: Saturday 7th September

Term ends: Friday 13th December

Half Term: 26th October - 1st November

16-20 Deansway, Worcester, WR1 2ES

Telephone: 01905 28613

E-mail: [enquiries@elgarschoolofmusic.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@elgarschoolofmusic.org.uk)

## Farewell

We bid **Jane Whittle** farewell from our Monday Community choir and would like to thank her for all the wonderful energy she has brought to the school. We welcome **Wilhelm Theunissen** who will be taking over this term.

We also say a huge thank you to **Hattie Amos** who will be stepping down from the Tuesday Community Choir. Hattie has worked so hard with the group over the years and we look forward to welcoming **Lauren Gilbert** who will be also taking over this term.

**Jonathan Woodhouse** will be stepping down from the flute group as he begins his new journey as Alto Lay Clerk at Salisbury Cathedral and we welcome back **Hannah Talbot Cooper** to resume the good work.

We will be saying a fond farewell to one of our exceptionally gifted students **Isabella Hulbert** who has been offered a place at the Junior Guildhall as of September. We wish her well in her next musical journey.



## Sponsors and Partners

The R & D Turner Charitable Trust

The Firs, Elgar Birthplace Museum

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A logo for Dominic Tunnell Opticians, featuring a stylized eye icon and the text 'dominic tunnell opticians'.

[www.elgarschoolofmusic.org.uk](http://www.elgarschoolofmusic.org.uk)