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## Edward Elgar and Adrian Boulton

Nigel Simeone

### DESCRIPTION

Considers Boulton's interpretations of Elgar's major works by drawing on their correspondence, Boulton's annotated scores, broadcast performances, commercial recordings and press reviews, ranging from the composer's lifetime to Boulton's final public appearances.

Edward Elgar (1857-1934) and Adrian Boulton (1889-1983) first met in 1904 and they saw each other frequently over the next thirty years. This book documents how Boulton's Elgar interpretations evolved and the ways in which Boulton drew on his experience of Elgar's own performances as well as their personal contacts. It provides fascinating biographical context, with a particular focus on the role played by the charismatic music patron Frank Schuster. A misunderstanding led to Elgar and Boulton falling out in 1924 and it was not until 1931 that Elgar sought to restore their friendship.

The book considers Boulton's interpretations of Elgar's major works, drawing on a variety of sources including Boulton's annotated scores as well as his broadcasts and commercial recordings of Elgar's music, ranging from those made in the composer's last years to Boulton's final public appearances in 1978. The view of contemporary critics provides further evidence. All the works with which Boulton was closely associated are considered in detail: the two symphonies, *The Dream of Gerontius*, *The Kingdom* and *The Apostles* and orchestral works including the *Enigma Variations*, *Falstaff* and the Violin and Cello Concertos. The text is complemented by appendices including a chronology of performances and a discography. These provide invaluable information for anyone interested in this fascinating composer-conductor relationship, and in Boulton's advocacy of Elgar's music throughout his long career.

### AUTHOR/EDITOR BIOGRAPHY

NIGEL SIMEONE is a scholar, writer and broadcaster specializing in twentieth-century music. He was editor of *The Leonard Bernstein Letters* (Yale, 2013) and for the Boydell Press has published *Charles Mackerras* with John Tyrrell (2015), *The Janáček Compendium* (2019) and most recently *Ralph Vaughan Williams and Adrian Boulton* (2022).

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