

Program Notes by Chris Darwin. Please use freely for non-commercial purposes.

Edward Elgar (1857-1934) Andante & Allegro for oboe & string trio (c.1878)

This short work is one of the earliest pieces that Elgar wrote. After leaving school at 15, and teaching himself the violin, he earned a living in Worcester taking piano and violin pupils and playing the violin in concerts. He started to conduct, and from about the time this piece was written, he held a post at the local lunatic asylum composing dances for the gallimaufry of instruments in the staff band, which he conducted. This piece however may have been written for performance at the Worcester Glee Club which met at the Crown Hotel. It has only recently been published, liberated from an oddments folder in the British Museum, its minimal markings enriched to make it playable. The only title is the seasonal inscription 'Xmas music' on the oboe part.