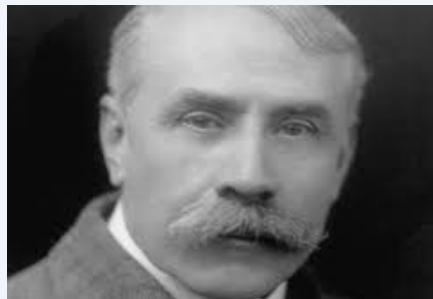




KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: ENGLISH COMPOSER 3

EDWARD ELGAR

1857-1934



- Elgar had a magnificent moustache!
- Elgar's dad owned a music shop and he would study the printed music and travel with his dad on his rounds to tune people's pianos. He was a self-taught musician from humble beginnings! He often thought he wasn't a good enough composer!
- Elgar's music is mainly Romantic music
- Elgar was knighted by King Edward VII in 1904. He is SIR Edward Elgar.
- Until 2010, Elgar's face could be found on a £20 note
- Elgar stopped composing in 1920 when his wife died as he was so sad

Elgar's most **SIGNIFICANT WORK** is **THE ENIGMA VARIATIONS** written in 1899.

There is a main theme and a series of variations on that theme. There are 14 variations. Each variation describes in music either the personality, an event or a memory he had of one of his friends. Each variation is like a musical picture. Elgar turned his music into a puzzle; an enigma. He put the initials of his friends at the top of each variation. His friends had to puzzle out which variation belonged to who.

One variation is about a friend's pet bull dog, Dan, who fell in the river (No. 11). Another is about the time he got caught in a storm when walking home with a friend (No. 7). One is about his wife (No. 1) and the most popular is Nimrod (No. 9) which is about a friend who he would spend long evenings talking with about music.

Romantic Music	A term that refers to a style of music that is beautiful, emotional and dramatic.
Theme	This is a musical phrase that is repeated like an idea that keeps coming back.
Variation	This is the theme but is played slightly differently. It might be the notes of the theme played in a different order or played with different instruments. It is an altered version of the theme.
Concerto	A piece of music for a solo instrument accompanied by the orchestra.
Patriotic Music	A song that makes you feel pride for the country you live in or were born in.
Adagio	Music that is played slowly.

ELGAR'S CELLO CONCERTO

*Composed during the summer of 1919 at Brinkwells near Fittleworth in West Sussex

*Elgar got the idea for the main theme after coming round from having an operation in 1918.

*The first movement is an Adagio.

POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE

*The tune of this piece of music is sung to the words Land of Hope and Glory

*Land of Hope and Glory is now a Patriotic Song

*Traditionally, this is sung and performed at the Last Night of the Proms.