

CHANDOS

NOVEMBER 2018 NEW RELEASE

DISC OF THE MONTH

Distinguished British music interpreter Sir Andrew Davis joins forces with the BBCSO once again, this time with acclaimed soloists Dame Sarah Connolly and Andrew Staples, in this thoughtful presentation of the last two substantial choral works of Sir Edward Elgar.

The maturity of Elgar as an orchestrator is obvious in both works on this disc, notably, in *The Music Makers* (1912), during passages in which he quotes from *Sea Pictures* and the Violin Concerto, and in representing the sound of aircraft in *The Spirit of England* (1917).

Elgar uses self-quotation to reflect: *The Music Makers* is a canvas of self-reflection, written quickly following a period of illness. The orchestral introduction is introspective, melancholic and noble, before the words of Arthur O'Shaughnessy's poem and much self-quotation within the music offer an insight into the sense of nostalgia and awareness of the loneliness of the creative artist felt by the composer. *The Spirit of England* reflects on the sadness and desolation of war felt by a nation, with the inclusion of quotations from *The Dream of Gerontius* in some of the more negative stanzas that Elgar found harder to set. Specified in the score for tenor or soprano, all three movements are sung here by a tenor in a recording first.

Content

Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934):

The Music Makers*

The Spirit of England#

Artists

Sarah Connolly | Mezzo-soprano*

Andrew Staples | Tenor#

BBC Symphony Orchestra

Sir Andrew Davis

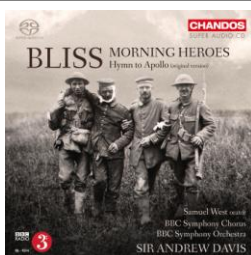
Also Available: **Previous releases featuring Sir Andrew Davis and the BBC Symphony Orchestra**



CHSA 5169

CHORAL & SONG CHOICE
'Davis's reading is warm and full of subtle atmospheric nuances'
BBC Music

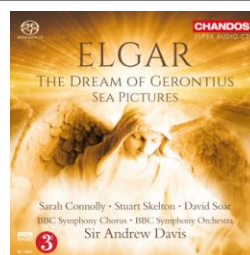
Musica



CHSA 5159

CRITIC'S CHOICE
Gramophone

STAR REVIEW
'The recording is exemplary in every respect. A splendid release'
Choir & Organ



CHSA 5140

WINNER CHORAL
Gramophone Award

ALBUM OF THE WEEK
'Elgar at his most dramatic'
The Sunday Times

BBC Music

Elgar: The Music Makers, The Spirit of England

BBC Symphony Orchestra | Sir Andrew Davis



RELEASE DATE: 2 November 2018

Cut-off date: 22 October 2018

Reference • CHSA 5215

ISRC code • GBLWD18045NN

Barcode • 095115521526

Title • Elgar: The Music Makers, The Spirit of England

Label • Chandos

Genre • Classical

Format • SACD



Further information |

- **CONCERTS:** BBCSO play Elgar: Nottingham (UK) Nov. 18

- **OTHER:** Super Audio CD in Surround Sound

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