

## 191. Pomp & Circumstance Backgrounds of S. Radic

Sir Edward William Elgar (1857-1934), was an English composer. His most famous work is the "Pomp & Circumstance March No.1", whose trio part is borrowed from the anthem "Land of Hope and Glory", which is played every year at the Last Night of the Proms.

Edward Elgar was the son of the music dealer, piano tuner and organist William Henry Elgar (1821-1906) and spent his first years at his parents' music store, the Elgar Brothers' Music Shop. He played various instruments from an early age. After working briefly for a notary public, he entered his father's business. At 16 he decided to pursue a musical education. In 1877 he was accepted into the Worcester Glee Club and became the leader of the new Worcester Amateur Instrumental Society. He led the rehearsals and began to play the bassoon. He set up an atypical wind quintet with the existing musicians, consisting of two flutes, oboe, clarinet and bassoon, often playing the bassoon. It played under the name "The Sunday Band" or "The Brothers Wind". He wrote the chamber music for this instrumentation himself, simple and pleasing everyday music for the Sunday performance. He described this music in 1905 in an interview in "The Strand Magazine":

"In the early days I was talking about, five of us got together to form a wind quintet. We had two flutes, an oboe, a clarinet and a bassoon. I played the latter myself for some time until I later gave it up in favour of the cello. There was no music at all that would have suited our peculiar needs, because in an ideal wind quintet there should be a horn and not a second flute; therefore I usually wrote the music. We met on Sunday afternoons and it was a matter of course that we had a new play every week. The sermons in our church usually lasted at least half an hour and I spent the time composing the piece for the afternoon. It was a great experience for me, as you can imagine, and since



Sir  
Edward  
Elgar



the books are all still there, some of these pieces of music still exist. "Occasionally we played for friends and I remember one moon night I stood in front of a house to put the bassoon together."

His best-known work is Land of Hope and Glory based on Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1, which is the most famous British anthem alongside Rule, Britannia! and God Save the Queen/King. Among other things, it is played annually at the Last Night of the Proms and as the English national anthem at the Commonwealth Games. Because of the great popularity of this work, Elgar's musical work was limited to his patriotic works by posterity - largely wrongly so. The death of his wife Alice in 1920 caused Elgar's creative power to run dry. In addition, his compositional style was considered old-fashioned in the 1920s. Nevertheless, he was named "Master of the King's Music" in 1924 and ennobled to Baronet, of Broadheath, in 1931. Once again he dedicated himself to the composition with the Severn Suite. When he died of cancer in 1934, two works remained unfinished: the Third Symphony and an opera "The Spanish Lady".

Edward Elgar was the first outstanding composer working in England since Georg Friedrich Händel. He is regarded as an important representative of the musical late romanticism. He was often seen all too restricted only as a pomp and circumstance composer and representative of a past imperial epoch. But his best works show a composer of remarkable musical sensitivity. His revival of the oratorio genre is also commendable. His portrait adorned the 20 pound banknote until 2007.

**Tempo: 70**  
**Auflösung: 4-4**

**Step-by-Step-Program.**

	1	2	3	4
Cymbal	○	○	○	○
Snare	●	●	●	●
B-Drum	●	●	●	●

**Real-Time-Program.**

**Drums** (Bass clef, common time): Shows cymbal and snare hits corresponding to the step-by-step program.

**CHORD** (Treble clef, common time): Shows a series of chords.

**BASS** (Bass clef, common time): Shows a bass line.

*Programming instruction*

*This beat programming is correctly described as "quasi tango", because the tango elements are unmistakable. Nevertheless, programming is not a tango, but could be described even better under the broad term "effect rhythm": The piece is opened like a hymn and in addition the rhythm or the accompaniment plays a "straight" quarter formation with tutti character!*