

Elgar Society Presentation in Poland



Society Awards Highest Honour to M. Jacek Kaspszyk

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Conductor Jacek Kaspszyk is to be presented with the Elgar Society Medal – the society's highest honour - during the opening concert of the NFM Wroclaw Philharmonic Orchestra's 2012/2013 season on Friday 5 October. A major part of Wroclaw's cultural life, M. Kaspszyk and the Orchestra celebrate with an all Elgar programme which includes the concert overture 'In the South', the Cello Concerto in E minor and the Enigma Variations. Leonard Elschenbroich, the exciting young cellist recently named as a 'New Generation Artist' by the BBC, makes his Wroclaw debut in the much-loved cello concerto.

'Maestro Kaspszyk was a natural and unanimous choice for this honour,' says Elgar Society Chairman Steven Halls, who is making the presentation in Wroclaw on behalf of the society, accompanied by John Norris and Ann Vernau of the Elgar Complete Edition. 'Not only has he conducted Elgar's music with different orchestras across Europe but he has brought Elgar back to the United Kingdom, with his London performance of In the South having been described as moulded to perfection. So thank you, Maestro Kaspszyk, for showing us how to perform Elgar in England!'

The Elgar Society Medal recognises performers, scholars or organisations who have contributed significantly over the last decade or more to the wider appreciation of Elgar and his music. The select assembly of recipients includes conductors Leonard Slatkin, Jerzy Maksymiuk, Tadaaki Otaka, Andrew Litton, Sakari Oramo and Vladimir Ashkenazy, together with composer, writer and broadcaster Anthony Payne, musicologists Barry Collett, Michael Kennedy CBE and Jerrold Northrop Moore, and the Danube Symphony Orchestra.

Formed in 1951 to encourage the study, performance and appreciation of the music of Sir Edward Elgar and to foster research into his life and works, the Elgar Society brings members together at branch, national and international levels through meetings, lectures, recitals and visits, with members' individual and collective research contributing significantly to a greater understanding of Elgar and his legacy.

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Notes

Maestro Jacek Kaspszyk was appointed Conductor and Artistic Director of the NFM Wroclaw Philharmonic Orchestra in 2006, having previously been Artistic & General Director of the Polish National Opera. He continues to be in demand as principal guest conductor with orchestras across Europe, America and the Far East.

M. Kaspszyk's performances of Elgar works include:

- Symphony No. 2 with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales on tour in the UK
- Falstaff with the LPO at the Royal Festival Hall
- Violin Concerto (with Nigel Kennedy) with the English Sinfonia tour in England, with the Wroclaw Philharmonic Orchestra in Warsaw and Wroclaw and with Sinfonia Varsovia in Poland, Schleswig Holstein Festival and on tour in Germany
- Enigma Variations with the Wroclaw Philharmonic Orchestra in Warsaw and Wroclaw
- Dream of Gerontius as the opening concert of Wratistlavia Cantans Festival
- Polonia during Chopin and his Europe Festival in Warsaw
- Introduction and Allegro with the Wroclaw Philharmonic Orchestra
- Polonia during the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra European Tour

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