

**SIR  
EDWARD ELGAR**

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Sir Edward Elgar by J. F. Porte

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**J. F. PORTE**

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# SIR EDWARD ELGAR

*O.M., Mus. Doc., LL.D., M.A.*

BY

J. F. PORTE

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*Sir Charles Stanford, etc.*

WITH A PORTRAIT OF SIR EDWARD ELGAR  
AND  
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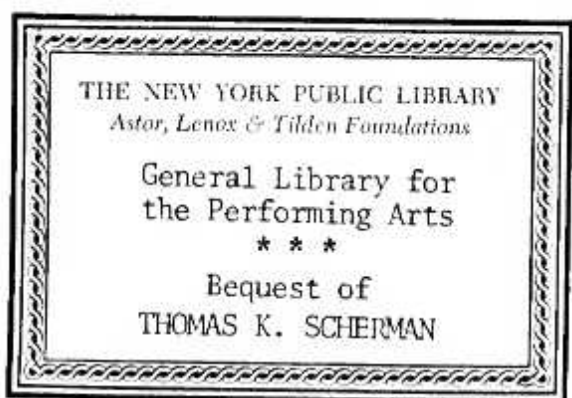
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## ELGARIAN MAXIMS

*"When I see one of my works by the side of, say, the Fifth Symphony, I feel as a tinker might do when he sees the Forth Bridge."* (Note.—This remark was made before Elgar's own symphonies had appeared, although his attitude towards Beethoven always remained the same.)

*... "the creative artist suffers in creating, or in contemplating the unending influence of his creation. Yes, suffers; this is the only word I dare use, for even the highest ecstasy of 'Making,' is mixed with the consciousness of the sombre dignity of the eternity of the artist's responsibility."*

*"I do not think that among those persons who are able to pay liberally for music, a love of music has grown very much, but among those who are not able to pay for luxuries the love of good choral music and good orchestral music has grown by leaps and bounds."*

*... "the highest kind of music, with its soothing, elevating and beneficent influences."*

*"English orchestral players are second to none."*

*"I would like you to think seriously whether the humanising sphere of music could not be enlarged by municipal aid—by assisting choral societies and orchestras from the rates."*

*"We ought to bring the best music to the people who are least able to pay for it."*

*"The time is coming when all towns must be able to give the people the good music they want."*

*"Under existing circumstances it too often is a matter of cry special enterprise to get up a well-equipped performance*

*of a large work. This should not be; larger halls are necessary, and sooner or later municipal aid is bound to be given.*" (Note.—This, and the preceding remarks on the assisting of musical bodies by local councils, were made before the Labour Party had widely advertised the support of music from the rates as being part of their programme.)

*"The new education should include music in the widest sense and tend to create listeners—not merely executants; this can best be accomplished by means of the Gramophone."*

*"Early experience is required to endow audiences with understanding and appreciation; therefore it is desirable that old-fashioned and worse than useless trifling with the keyboard should give place to reasonable and easily attainable methods."* (Note.—This is a further reference to the Gramophone.)

*"I regard a concert hall as essential to every town."*

*"I am intensely very grateful for any interest taken in my work."*

*"The symphony without a programme is the highest development of the art."*

*"The Third Symphony of Brahms is the height of music."* (Note.—This statement was made with reference to the absolute quality of the work.)

*"Music which exists without any poetic or literary basis is the foundation of the art."*

*"Cultivate the love of music for its own sake."*

*"Programme music is essentially the literary man's attitude towards an art with which he has sympathy, but of which his knowledge is comparatively small."*

*"The worship of technique is regrettable, the musician needs education and experience. There is no authority in uncultured players, however skilful, neither is there in very youthful artists, however clever."*

*"I would go a hundred miles to hear a Wagner Opera."*