

## Course details

### Course title

Music Appreciation: From Elgar to Tippett - The C20th English Musical Renaissance

### Course code

Q00017296

### Course date

Start: 15/10/24

End: 19/11/24

### Number of classes

6 sessions

### Timetable

Tue 15th Oct, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 22nd Oct, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 29th Oct, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 5th Nov, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 12th Nov, 10:30 to 12:30

Tue 19th Nov, 10:30 to 12:30

### Branch

Wallingford Branch

### Tutor

Christopher Carter

### Fee range

Free to £60.00

## How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes at the venue indicated. Some materials may be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

In venue

## Venue

Pyrton Village Hall (Watlington)

Pyrton

Watlington

OX49 5AP

## Level of study

Beginners

## Course overview

The early 20th Century witnessed an extraordinary flourishing of English musical talent – dormant since the death of Purcell 200 years earlier. With the premiere of Elgar's Enigma Variations in 1899, the country at last began to put paid to the German gibe of it being "The Land without Music". With the help of musical extracts, we trace the course of the Renaissance and the individuals who shaped it - featuring Elgar, Delius, Vaughan Williams, Holst, Britten, Walton and Tippett. We also explore how conscious they were of heading a revolution, and address the elusive issue of what we really understand by Englishness in music.

## Course description

English music is most commonly associated with the pastoral and folk tradition launched by Vaughan Williams and Holst. Yet Elgar and Delius, paradoxically owed more to German influence. We will learn how Elgar's overpowering success was achieved in the face of discrimination for being both self-taught and, as a Catholic, an establishment outsider. In the meantime, Delius only found his true voice by abandoning an England which he found stuffy and restrictive. You will learn how Vaughan Williams successfully replaced the influence of Wagner with that of the home-grown melodies of the common man and the modal harmonies of the Tudor age. Like Holst, he nevertheless wrote in a variety of styles, developing a uniquely visionary voice. We shall see how Holst himself pioneered a pared-down, minimalist style which had a powerful influence on Britten, who emerged as the first English composer of world-wide appeal. Finally, you will learn how the different paths taken by Walton and Tippett, the one a neo-Elgarian and the other a ceaseless progressive, sustained the key principles of the Renaissance in combining tradition and modernity to the highest professional standards. As a theme throughout,

we will explore the key aspects of these composers' lives and works, the range of influences from which they drew, and the degree to which any of them could ever really put their finger on what exactly was "English" about their music.

## **What financial support is available?**

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

## **What other support is available?**

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

**Source URL:** <https://www.wea.org.uk/courses/languages-culture/art-history/15-october-music-appreciation-elgar-tippett-c20th-english>