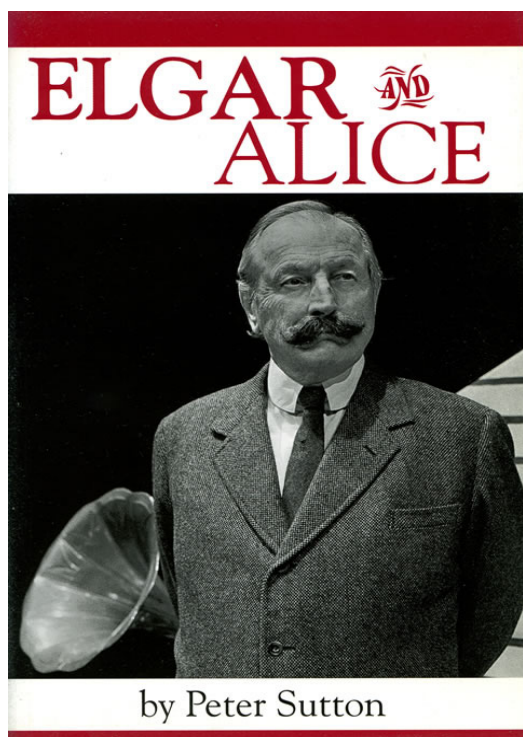


ELGAR AND ALICE BY PETER SUTTON

REVIEWS



My wife and I were absolutely bowled over by your play about Elgar. A really marvellous achievement.

Sir Charles Mackerras

Very neat. It's neatly done, altogether. Sutton's text, equally neat, builds in Elgar's searing awareness of his humble origin and self-made stature... and her unthinking snobbery. More fundamental is her pride in her poems, which she longs for him to recognise. Alice's hurt at being a second-best amanuensis flares into jealousy of his succession of friends-patrons-muses.

Oxford Times

Elgar and Alice is an absorbing work which gives an insight not only into the Elgars' married life but also into the working of the artistic mind. Peter Sutton's portrayal of his characters bore the stamp of authenticity. This play deserves to find a larger audience in all places where Elgar's music is performed and appreciated.

Seen and Heard International (MusicWeb International)

Sutton's masterpiece...is a truly powerful drama... Sir Edward Elgar is one moment playful, the next cantankerous. He is as unapproachable as he is engaging. As the tensions between Elgar and Lady Alice surface, so do the insights into their marriage. He disregards Alice's poetry, treats her, at times, like a child and it's upsetting to watch. He repeatedly tells her she doesn't understand him, never has and never will, and it's heartbreaking.

Worcester News

Peter Sutton has got right under Elgar's skin. Each character is quickly drawn, and there is humour and wit, physical energy, and emotional tension. The deeply affecting conclusion is the stuff of us all. This is a play which asks questions; it moves; it hurts; it is funny. Its end even suggests an answer to the eternal Enigma question.

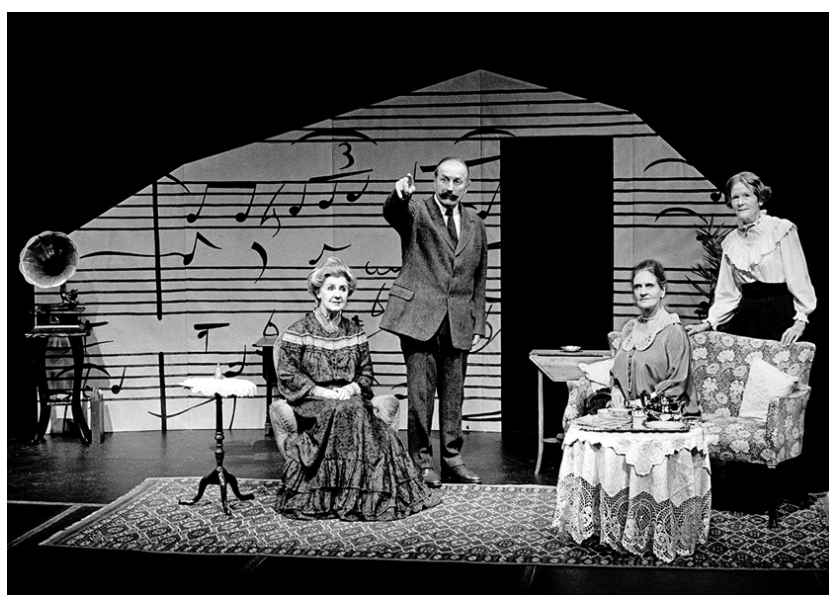
Martin and Jane Bird, Elgar Society Journal

When Alice Roberts, daughter of a major-general, married her piano teacher, her family was horrified to be linked to a tradesman. That was one reason for the underlying tension in the marriage of Sir Edward and Lady Elgar. Others explored in this absorbing new play include his refusal to set her poetry to music and, most notoriously, his relationships with other women. Sutton does a skilful job of weaving historic information, and Elgar's reflections on his art, into a plausible picture of the Elgars at home.

Birmingham Post

Congratulations.

Steven Isserlis



The cast of the 2007 production (l. to r.):

Janet Hargreaves, Gerald Harper, Katrina Norbury & Joy McBrinn