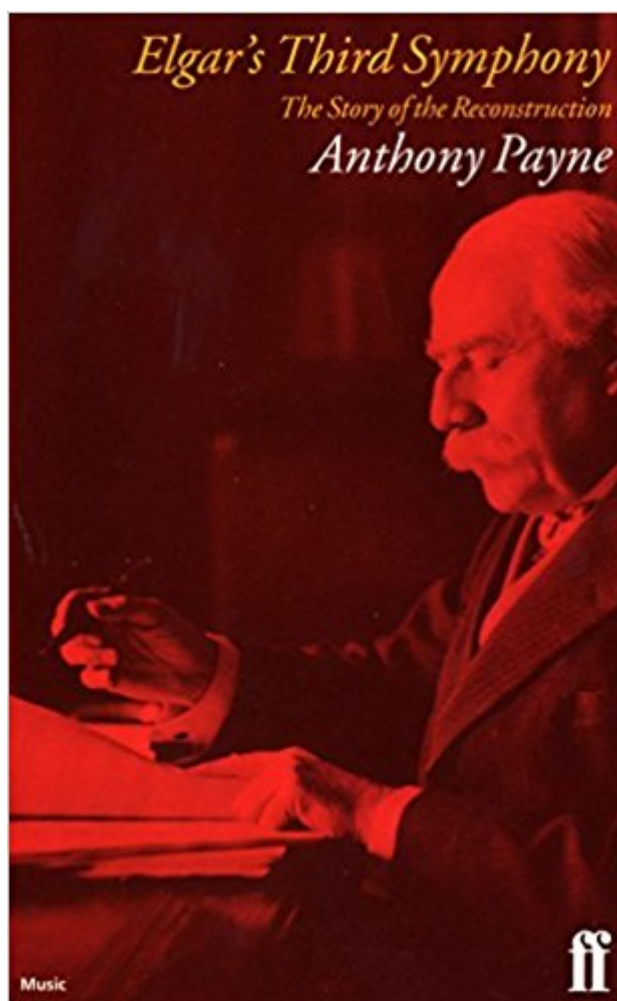


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Elgar's Third Symphony: The Story Of The Reconstruction



Synopsis

Commissioned in 1932 by the BBC, Elgar's Third Symphony was fragmentary and disorganized when he died two years later. He had despairingly asked for the sketches to be destroyed, ordering that "no one must tinker with it", but he continued to talk about the symphony and, shortly after his death, his friend W.H. Reed published many of the sketches in facsimile, allowing a glimpse of the composer's final thoughts. This meant that the published sketches would eventually come out of copyright, allowing anyone to "tinker with it". Before this could happen, Elgar's family asked composer Anthony Payne to make a full-length realization of the work. The result, first performed in February 1998, is presented in this book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

When Edward Elgar died in 1934, he left behind 130 pages of sketches for his uncompleted Third Symphony. In the 65 years since, musicologists have often disagreed about the musical value of the sketches. Did they show Elgar breaking new ground as a composer, or were they merely a reworking of old themes in ways that showed Elgar in decline? At the request of Elgar's heirs, British composer Anthony Payne has produced an "elaboration" of Elgar's final musical thoughts. This is not a "completion" of the work; only Elgar could have done that. It is a way of presenting Elgar's ideas in full orchestral dress, while also adding some developmental and transitional passages that were missing from the sketches. The resulting work, "Elgar/Payne Symphony No. 3," was a great success when it was premiered in the UK and released on CD early in 1998. The work received its

US premiere in Philadelphia in November of 1998 and will be performed during 1999 in New York, Washington and Chicago. More than 60 other performances have been scheduled around the world. In this book, Payne describes how he fell in love with this music and worked with it over a period of years to create a finished work. This is essential reading for Elgarians, but it will also fascinate anyone who has ever wanted to look over a composer's shoulder and see how a symphonic composition is created.

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