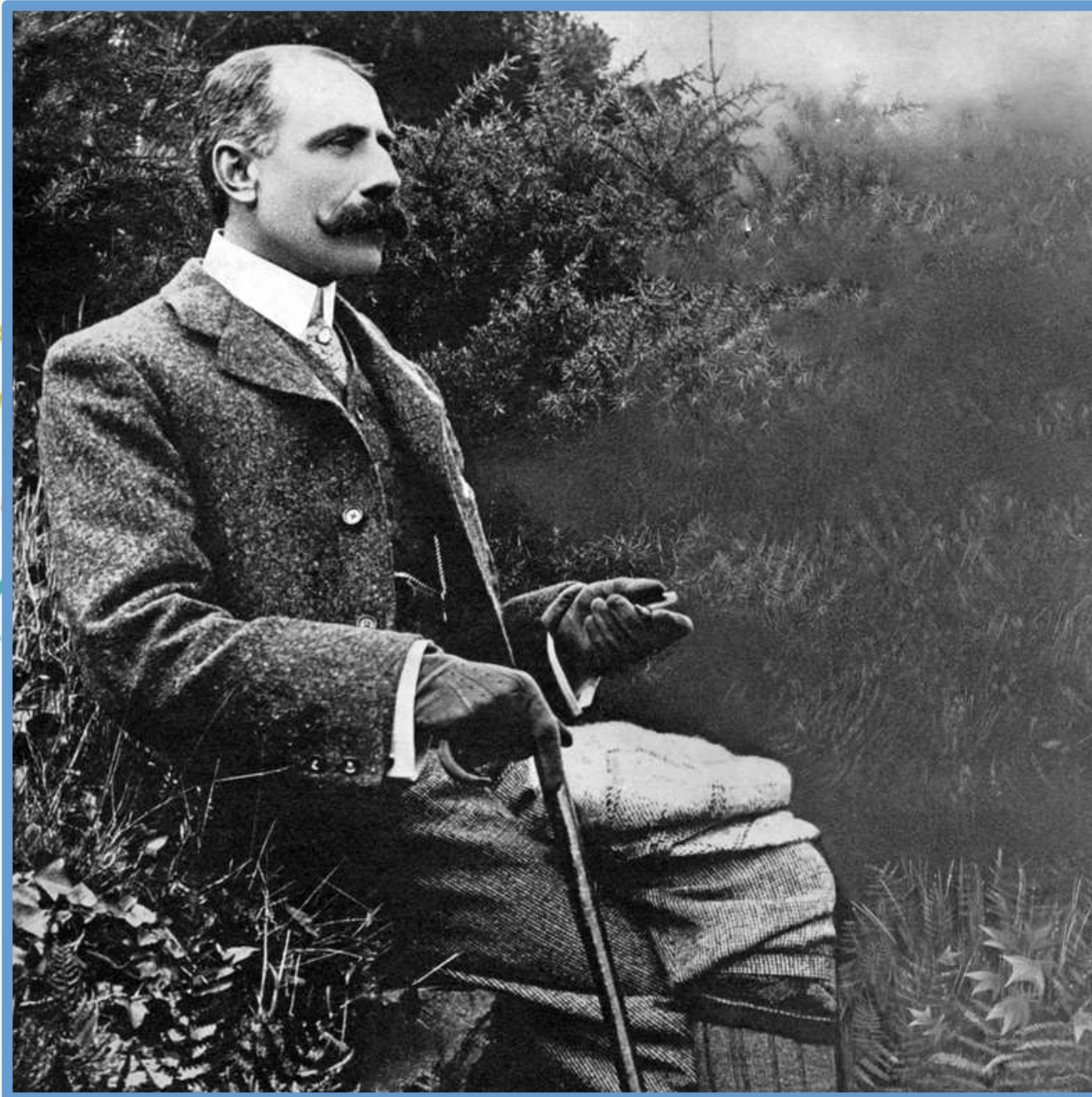




Edward Elgar

Composer of the Week





Born in Worcester,
England, in June 1857.



Died in Worcester,
England, in February 1934.

The background features a stylized tree with a brown trunk and branches. The foliage is composed of various musical notes, clefs, and instruments like trumpets and saxophones in soft colors like green, yellow, and blue. The entire scene is set against a light cream background.

Elgar is regarded by many as the most famous British composer to have lived.

Many of his works are still performed regularly today.

Apart from Piano and Violin lessons as a child, Elgar did not receive any other musical education. He taught himself to compose.

After a short spell working in a solicitor's office, the young Elgar began playing the violin in local orchestras and conducting small choirs and orchestras in the Worcester area.

Soon his compositions began to be well known and one of his first great successes was his **Enigma Variations**.

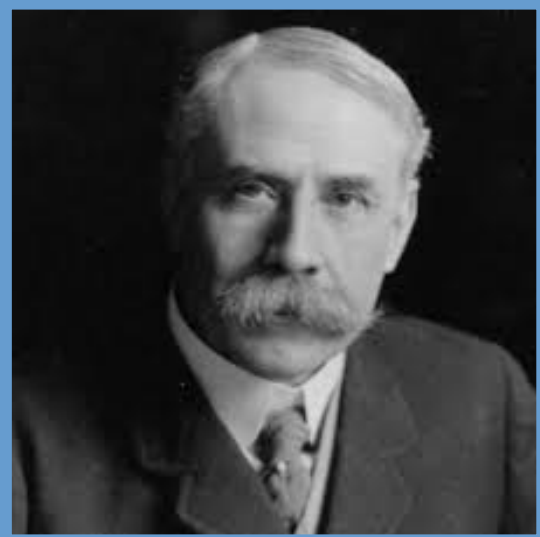
Variations are a set of **movements** (pieces) based on one **theme** (tune), each movement varying or changing the theme.

Elgar wrote 14 **Enigma Variations**, each one based on one of his friends. One about his wife, Alice and even one about his friend, the organist George Robertson Sinclair's bulldog Dan, (pictured right) who fell into the River Wye.

Can you hear the splashing water and the dog barking?



The most famous **Variation** is written about his friend and publisher Augustus Jaeger, whom Elgar called **Nimrod**.



Look at these photos of Elgar. People say he had the best moustaches in the 20th Century.

Do you agree?



Elgar was one of the first composers to record his own works. He was very interested in recording music, which was very new at the time.

So, unlike the music of Bach, Beethoven and Brahms, we can hear today how Elgar would have liked his music played.



Elgar's most well-known composition is his **Pomp and Circumstance March No.1.**

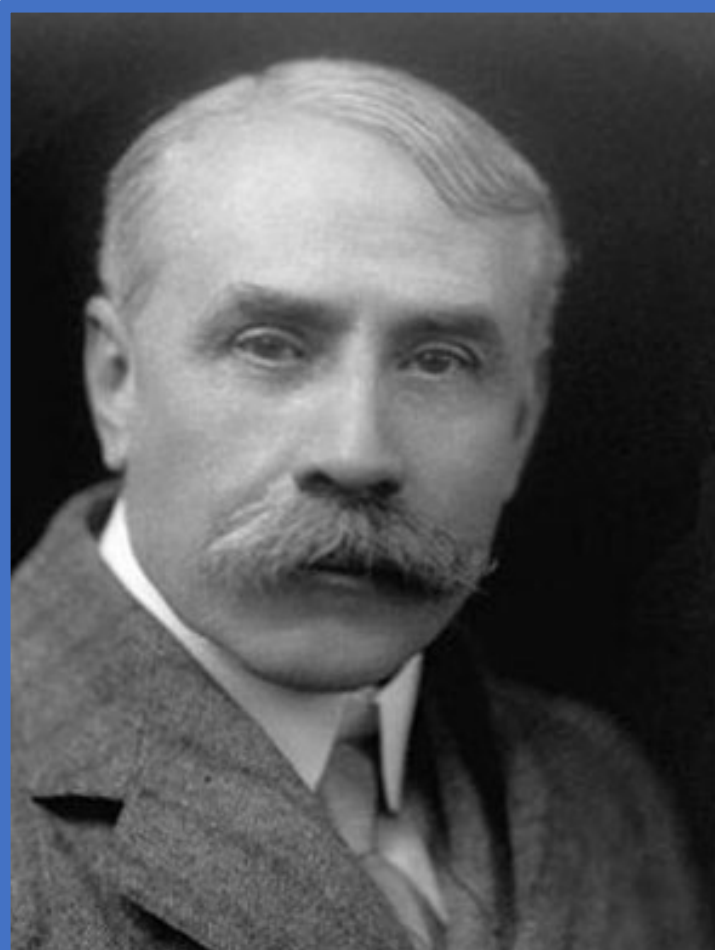
It was popular from the first performance and the poet A.C.Benson set words to the final section – **Land of Hope and Glory.**

When he was writing it Elgar told his friend, **“I've got a tune that will knock 'em – knock 'em flat.”**

It is played every year at the last night of the **Proms.**

The Proms are a series of Concerts at The Royal Albert Hall, that last from June-September every year. There is a special room inside the Royal Albert Hall called the Elgar Room.





My idea is that there is music in the air, music all around us; the world is full of it, and you simply take as much as you require.

— *Edward Elgar* —

AZ QUOTES

