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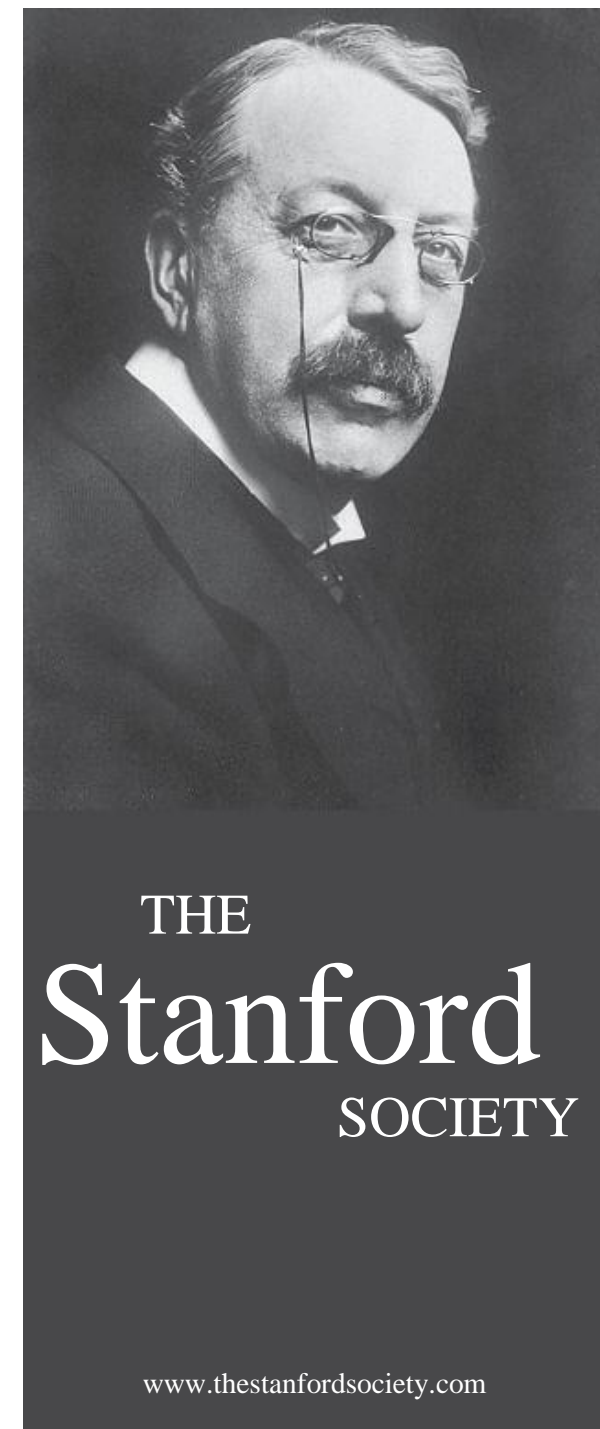
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Aims of the Society

The Society was formed to further the appreciation, understanding and knowledge of Sir Charles Villiers Stanford's life and music and of his contribution to the history and development of English music.

The formal aims of the Society are:

1. To substantially widen the knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the music of Charles Villiers Stanford both in the United Kingdom and overseas.
2. To encourage performances of Stanford's music and the music of his students and colleagues at the Royal College of Music and Cambridge University.
3. To increase understanding of Stanford's life and music and of his contribution to the development and history of British music.
4. To encourage and support recordings of Stanford's music.
5. To provide members of the Society with an opportunity to share their love of English music and to develop their knowledge of the life and music of Charles Villiers Stanford and of his impact on the history of English music.



Charles Villiers Stanford

Charles Villiers Stanford was one of the leading musicians of his generation and had a profound effect on the development and history of English music as a performer, conductor, composer, teacher and writer.

Born in Dublin in 1852 to a family of amateur musicians where his musical gifts were recognized early, he entered Queens' College Cambridge in 1870 as both an organ and classics scholar. While still an undergraduate he became Assistant Conductor of the Cambridge University Musical Society, and held the position of Conductor from 1875 to 1893. Stanford transferred to Trinity College in 1873 to take up the post of Organist and subsequently studied composition in Germany.

He was appointed Professor of Composition at the Royal College of Music in 1883 and Professor of Music at Cambridge University in 1888 and subsequently held appointments as Conductor of The London Bach Choir and of The Leeds Philharmonic Society and The Leeds Festival.

Stanford was a prolific composer, completing seven symphonies, eight string quartets, nine operas, more than 300 songs, 30 large-scale choral works and a large body of chamber music. He also composed a substantial number of works for the organ, and anthems and settings of the canticles for the Anglican Church. He wrote extensively on music including three volumes of memoirs and a popular text on composition.

Today he is largely remembered for his songs and religious music, as well as for his influence on several generations of students at the Royal College of Music. These included Sir Arthur Bliss, Frank Bridge, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Ivor Gurney, Gustav Holst, Herbert Howells, John Ireland, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Charles Wood.

Stanford was knighted in 1902 and in 1904 he became the first British composer to be elected a member of the Royal Academy of Arts in Berlin. His ashes are interred in Westminster Abbey near the remains of Henry Purcell.

Why a Stanford Society?

The Stanford Society was formed by a small international group of English music enthusiasts to promote greater interest in Stanford's life and music and to encourage and support increased performances and recordings of his compositions. The Society was officially launched at a Stanford Celebration Weekend held in Cambridge, England in March 2007.

Following his death in 1924 Stanford's music fell into a period of neglect. Apart from his music for the Anglican Church and a small number of songs, it was largely un-heard for more than 60 years. There were certain notable exceptions. Three of the *Songs of the Sea* were included in the first-ever BBC broadcast of a Henry Wood Promenade concert in August 1927.

In 2002, the 150th anniversary of Stanford's birth was celebrated with the publication of major biographies by Professor Jeremy Dibble (Oxford) and Dr. Paul Rodmell (Ashgate). These were the first biographies to appear since Harry Plunket Greene's pioneering volume in 1935. For the first time, a fuller and more balanced picture emerged of Stanford's life and of his contribution to the history of English music.

The Stanford Society is following in the footsteps of the various societies and trusts formed to promote interest in the life and music of a number of Stanford's contemporaries and students. The Society's goals include holding a Festival Weekend which will include music by, and talks about, Stanford, his contemporaries and students. These gatherings have been held in a number of major Cathedral cities within the UK and Ireland including Cambridge, London, Dublin, Durham and Canterbury. Concerts have included premiers of Stanford's music as well as performances or rarely performed works. The Society publishes a regular newsletter for members and has supported first recordings of Stanford's music as well as performances of his lesser-known works.

Membership Application and Subscription Fees

Annual Membership Fees

- £15 for UK addresses
- £10/US\$15 for under 30s
- £20/US\$30 for addresses outside the UK

Name

Address:

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Postcode: Country:

Email address:

All information will remain confidential to The Stanford Society.

Please tick here to consent to the Stanford Society sending you information on events, concerts and activities using the information provided above. ☐

Please send membership applications to:

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All payments should be made to "The Stanford Society"