



Walking with Elgar

15–16 September 2017

A sponsored walk through the landscapes the composer knew and loved

You are cordially invited to join us on a two-day guided walk through a particularly delightful part of England in support of **The Musical Brain**.

The Route



Day One – 9 miles

We start at the Elgar Birthplace Museum at Lower Broadheath, where there will be an introductory talk about the composer given by **Stephen Johnson**, who will accompany the walk and give further short talks during the course of the two days. We will also be joined by **Ian Brown**, *piano*, and **Maureen Smith**, *violin*, who will perform works by Elgar on the Saturday.

The route, along the Three Choirs Way, follows the River Severn through Worcester, with a lunchtime stop at the Cathedral, then continuing along the river and across farmland to Stanbrook Abbey where we will pause for refreshments before a final couple of miles to Madresfield where we will break for the day.



Day Two – 6 miles (a more demanding day walking up into the Malvern Hills)

The second day starts at Craig Lea, one of several Elgar homes around Malvern. We then walk into Great Malvern, where Stephen Johnson will give a lunchtime talk at Malvern St James Girls' School, in discussion with Ian Brown, *piano*, and Maureen Smith, *violin*, who will play works by Elgar, including the Violin Sonata.



After lunch, our route takes us up North Hill and then along the ridge of the Malvern Hills for about three miles, offering spectacular views over the Severn Valley to the Cotswolds in the east, and across Herefordshire to the Welsh mountains in the west. The finishing point is the Church of St Wulstan in Little Malvern on the side of the Hills, where Elgar is buried.



Stephen Johnson with Barbara, Fiona and Norman at the top of Worcestershire Beacon last year.

Accommodation and transport

The Musical Brain will provide a list of local accommodation in Great Malvern available for the dates of the walk.

Road transport will be needed between the starting and finishing points on each day and to and from accommodation. Bring your car if it is convenient but don't feel that you must have a car to participate. There will be enough cars available. There are good train services to Great Malvern from Paddington and major cities. We will provide details.



Elgar enjoying himself!

Sponsorship

One of the aims of this walk is to raise funds for The Musical Brain. As you may know, we are a tiny charity with no reserves. All our funds go towards our events, making us totally reliant on ticket sales, grants, donations and fundraising events such as this.

During the tour, we ask that you pay for your accommodation and meals, which we all eat together.

The cost price per walker for the two days is £150, which covers the administrative costs and the professional involvement from our leader and the musicians. Anything over that goes to support the work of The Musical Brain.

You may be surprised at how easy it can be to raise sponsorship. Last year, our walkers, all of whom had never asked for sponsorship before, raised an average of £675 each by simply setting up an online sponsorship page and emailing it to friends and family. One astonished walker raised £1,280 in just a couple of days! Greg, our administrator, will be happy to assist you in supplying the text and setting up your sponsorship page.

15 miles, some rather hilly, over two days is no mean feat and those that know you may be happy to have an opportunity to support The Musical Brain and sponsor something that is a bit of a challenge for you. In fact, if the mileage seems a little far, we are able to offer a ride to the next rendezvous at any time during the walk, so don't let the distance put you off!

But of course, if you prefer, you can simply pay the costs (£150 for both days, £75 for one day) and add a donation yourselves.

Email us to reserve your place and if you have any questions.

Places are limited, so don't wait too long. We all had a great time last year.