

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry(1st Baronet) (27th Feb 1848 - 7th Oct 1918)

Sir Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, 1st Baronet was an English composer, teacher and historian of music.

Born in Bournemouth Parry was the youngest of the six children of Thomas Gambier Parry and his first wife Isabella of Highnam Court, Gloucestershire. His early education was provided by a preparatory school in Malvern from January 1856 to the middle of



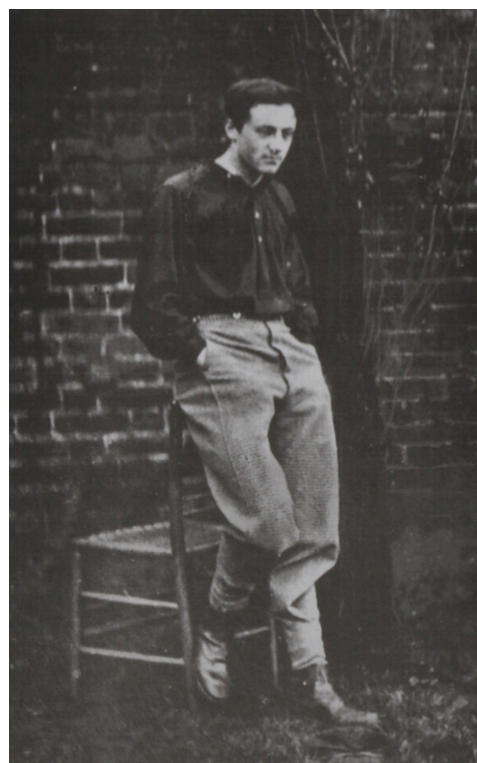
Hubert at Twyford Preparatory Sch

1858. Following his time in Malvern, he moved to Twyford Preparatory School in Hampshire. His interest in music became very apparent at Twyford and as well as receiving the full encouragement of the headmaster he also had the support of SS Wesley at Winchester Cathedral and Edward Brind who was the organist at Highnam church.

Parry was sent to Eton in 1861 where he would distinguish himself at sport as well as in music. This was in spite of the early signs of the heart problems that were to affect him for the rest of his life. Just as Parry had left for Eton, his home life was clouded by his brother Clinton's disgrace. After a promising start at Oxford, studying history and music, Clinton had been sent down for womanising, drinking and indulging in opium. In addition to this, during his first term at Eton,

further news came that his sister, Lucy, had died of consumption on 16th November. Despite a profound sense of loss, Hubert Parry threw himself into life at Eton with characteristic energy. Meanwhile Clinton, despite the intervention of his father to secure his return to Oxford, was sent down a further two times, the last irrevocably for not working. In 1863 Clinton left for Paris under a cloud.

Eton, during Parry's time, was not noted for its music, despite the interest of a number of its pupils. Parry turned to George Elvey, the organist at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and began studies with him in 1863. Despite Elvey being somewhat conservative, Parry benefitted from Elvey's tuition. During his time at Eton Parry successfully sat the Oxford Bachelor of Music examination and was the youngest person ever to achieve this.



Hubert at Eton

In 1867 Parry left Eton and went up to Exeter College, Oxford. He didn't study music, following the intentions of his father for a commercial career, and instead read Law and Modern history. His musical concerns took second place during his time at Oxford, though during one summer holiday, acting on the advise of Wesley, he went to Stuttgart

and studied with Henry Hugh Pierson. Parry was advised to completely revise his approach to composition which resulted in him being far more critical of Mendelssohn and Bach and moved towards Schumann and Beethoven.

After leaving Oxford, Parry was an underwriter at Lloyd's of London from 1870 to 1877. Parry proved as unsuccessful in insurance as he was successful in music. In 1872 he married Elizabeth Maude Herbert (1851 - 1933), second daughter of the politician Sidney Herbert and they had two daughters, Dorothea and Gwendolen, named after George Eliot characters. In 1875 Parry was appointed as assistant editor to George Grove of the Dictionary of Music and Musicians at the Royal College of Music. He contributed some 123 articles and among those who benefitted was a young Edward Elgar. When Grove retired as director of the Royal College of Music, Parry succeeded him from January 1895 and held the post until his death.

Parry's first major works appeared in 1880 including a piano concerto from Shelley's Prometheus Unbound. As a composer he is best known for the choral song "Jerusalem", the coronation anthem "I Was Glad", and the choral and orchestral ode Blest Pair of Sirens, and the hymn tune "Repton", which sets the words



Hubert Parry and Elizabeth Maude Herbert



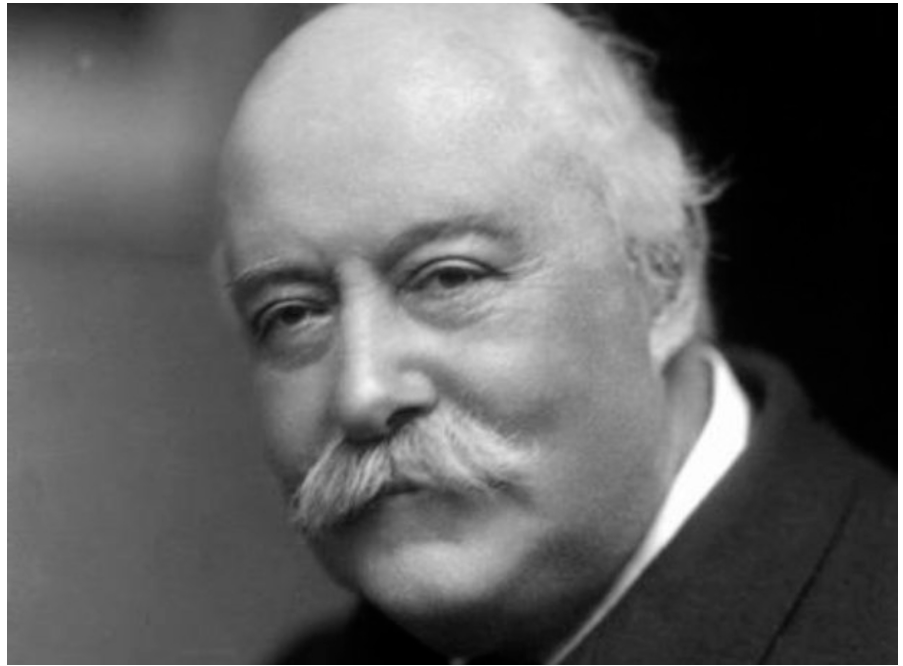
Hubert Parry 1893

"Dear Lord and Father of Mankind". His orchestral works include five symphonies and a set of Symphonic Variations. Now well established as a composer and scholar, Parry received many commissions.

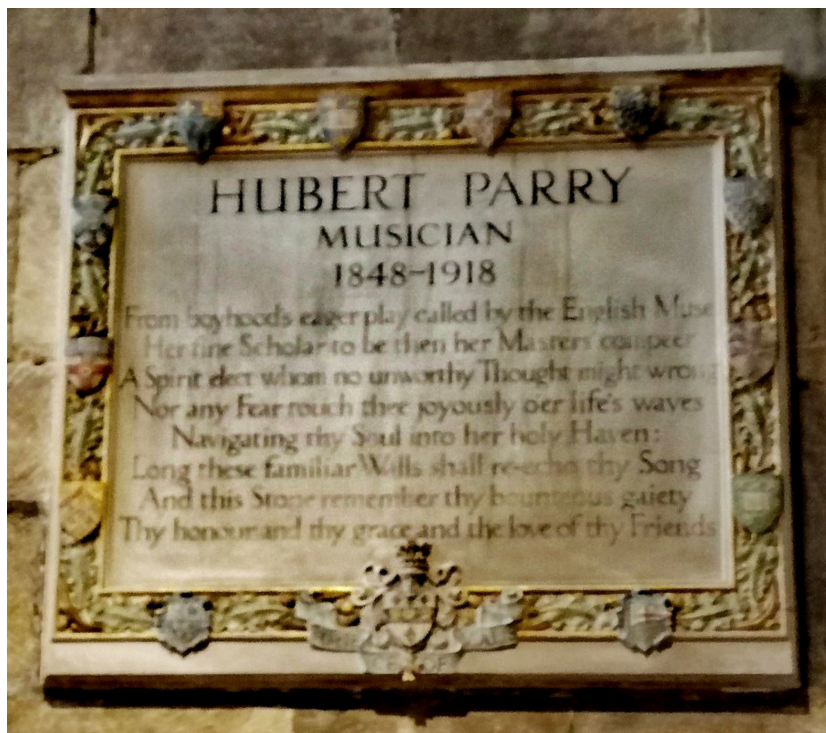
Following the death of his step mother, Ethelinda Lear Gambier-Parry, in 1896, Parry succeeded to the family estate at Highnam. He was created a Knight Bachelor in 1898 and a Baronet in 1902.

Parry resigned his Oxford appointment on medical advice in 1908 and, in the last decade of his life produced some of his best-known works. The piece by which he is best known, the setting of William Blake's poem "Jerusalem" was immediately taken up by the suffragette movement, with which both Parry and his

wife were strongly in sympathy. In the autumn of 1918 Parry contracted Spanish flu during the global pandemic and died at Knightscroft, Rustington, West Sussex, aged 70. At the urging of Stanford, he was buried at St Paul's Cathedral. His birthplace, in Richmond Hill, Bournemouth, next door to the Square, has been marked with a blue plaque. Following his death Parry's baronecy became extinct and Highnam Court passed to his half brother, Major Ernest Gambier-Parry.



Hubert during WW1



Hubert Parry Memorial in Gloucester Cathedral