

“The standard is absolutely higher than brass playing has ever been before”
– Alison Balsom, BBC Radio 2

Critically-acclaimed British brass ensemble

SEPTURA

**continues groundbreaking series of Naxos recordings with new
album of English music**



Music for Brass Septet 6: Elgar, Finzi, Parry, Walton
Released on Naxos: 12 October 2018

Following their busiest concert season to date, with debuts in the USA, Germany and Switzerland, **Septura** return with their sixth recording in a 10-disc deal for Naxos, ***Music for Brass Septet 6: Elgar, Finzi, Parry, Walton***, released on 12 October 2018.

For this disc Septura head howeward, with a recording of British music from the first half of the Twentieth Century – a golden age in England’s otherwise chequered compositional history, and a period in which brass instruments, in the form of the brass band, established their place at the very heart of British musical culture. From the many composers of the period whose music endures they have chosen four of the finest: iconic works by Elgar, Parry, Finzi and Walton, re-imagined for the unique sound of the brass septet.

Septura Artistic Director **Simon Cox** explains:

“As a British group we had always intended to record a disc of music by our own composers as part of our Naxos series, and the centenary of Parry’s death in 2018 seemed like the ideal opportunity. Our focus is two of England’s most celebrated musical traditions: string and choral music, and it’s wonderful to get the chance to play some of these masterpieces that we grew up listening to.

Ever since hearing Walton’s *Sonata for String Orchestra* performed at the composer’s residence *La Mortella* on the island of Ischia, I had wanted to arrange it for brass. Having finally had the chance to do so, the result is our largest and most challenging arrangement to date, with the exciting and turbulent music being brought to life in a way that only the brass septet can.”

Click here to see Septura performing Walton’s *Sonata*:
<https://youtu.be/rmrGls381To>

MUSIC FOR BRASS SEPTET 6
Elgar • Finzi • Parry • Walton
Naxos 8.573825



Gerald Finzi (1901 – 1956) – God is Gone Up

Edward Elgar (1857 – 1934) – Serenade

Gerald Finzi – Prelude

Hubert Parry (1848 – 1918) – Songs of Farewell

Gerald Finzi – Romance

William Walton (1902 – 1983) – Sonata

Performers:

Huw Morgan (Trumpet in E Flat)

Alan Thomas and Simon Cox (Trumpets in B flat)

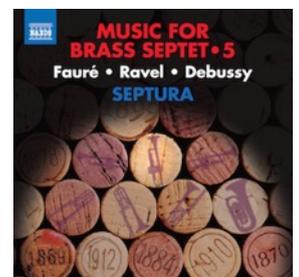
Peter Moore and Matthew Knight (Trombones)

Daniel West (Bass Trombone)

Peter Smith (Tuba)

The album was recorded at St. Paul’s Church, New Southgate, London on 13-15 July 2017.

Previous releases in the series:



Septura

Artistic Directors: Simon Cox & Matthew Knight

Septura brings together London's leading players to redefine brass chamber music through the uniquely expressive sound of the brass septet.

By creating a canon of transcriptions, arrangements and new commissions for this brand new classical configuration, Septura aims to re-cast the brass ensemble as a serious artistic medium. Currently ensemble in residence at the Royal Academy of Music, London, the group is recording a series of discs for Naxos Records, each focused on a particular period, genre and set of composers, creating a 'counter-factual history' of brass chamber music.

The first five discs have received critical acclaim, described variously as "brilliantly done" (Fiona Maddocks, *The Observer*), "dazzlingly polished" (Anna Picard, *BBC Music Magazine*) and "brass playing at its most exalted" (Robert Markow, *Fanfare*). The sixth will be released in October 2018. In addition, *Christmas with Septura* was released in November 2016.

Weaving this ever-increasing repertoire into captivating live events, Septura is gaining a reputation for engaging audiences with innovative and imaginative programming. Following a successful 17-18 season – featuring the group's debut concert series, *Kleptomania* at St John's Smith Square London, and tours to Switzerland, Germany and the USA – in 18/19 Septura will perform brand new programmes across the UK, and as far away as New Zealand and Japan.

Septura's members are the leading players of the new generation of British brass musicians, holding principal positions in the London Symphony, Philharmonia, Royal Philharmonic, BBC Symphony, Basel Symphony and Aurora orchestras.

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