



Ken Russell The Great Composers Elgar; The Debussy Film; Song of Summer

These astonishing documentaries, by groundbreaking director Ken Russell (*Valentino*, *The Devils*) were originally broadcast in the BBC TV arts documentary strands *Monitor* and *Omnibus* during the 1960s. On 28 March 2016 they will be released together on DVD and Blu-ray in a Dual Format Edition by the BFI. Each film has an audio commentary, and in a new filmed interview, film editor Michael Bradsell talks about working with Ken Russell. Also included is rarely-seen archival footage of Sir Edward Elgar.

Elgar (1962), Russell's tribute to the music he loved, is remarkable for its sensitive portrayal of the rise of a young musician from an underprivileged background to international fame. *The Debussy Film* (1965), co-written by Melvyn Bragg, is a truly experimental work that culminates in a sublimely ethereal finale. Perhaps the finest of Russell's 1960s biographical BBC productions, *Song of Summer* (1968) is an immensely moving story of sacrifice, idealism and musical genius which charts the final five years in the life of Frederick Delius.

Ken Russell The Great Composers is released alongside its companion, **Ken Russell The Great Passions**, which features *Always on Sunday* (1965), *Isadora* (1966) and *Dante's Inferno* (1967).

Special features

- Newly remastered and presented in both High Definition and Standard Definition
- *Land of Hope and Glory* (1931, 3 mins): footage of Sir Edward Elgar conducting the LSO at the opening of the new HMV (now Abbey Road) studios
- *Elgar and the Three Choirs Festival* (Harold Brooke, 1929-1932, 9 mins): amateur footage of Elgar at home and at the Three Choirs Festival
- *Michael Bradsell Interview* (2015, 10 mins): the film editor talks about working with Ken Russell
- Ken Russell and Michael Kennedy audio commentary for *Elgar* (2002)
- Newly commissioned commentary by Kevin M Flanagan for *The Debussy Film*
- Ken Russell audio commentary for *Song of Summer* (2002)
- 30-page illustrated booklet with new essays by Kevin M Flanagan, John Hill, John C Tibbetts, Paul Sutton and Michael Brooke, and full film credits

Product details

RRP: £29.99/ Cat. no. BFIB1244 / Cert 12 / 3-disc set

UK / 1962 + 1965 + 1968 / black and white / English, with optional hard-of-hearing subtitles / 56 mins + 82 mins + 73 mins / original aspect ratio 1.33:1

1 x BD50: 1080/50i, LPCM 2.0 audio (48kHz/16-bit) / 2 x DVD9: PAL, 25fps, Dolby Digital 2.0 audio (320kbps)

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Press contact:

Jill Reading, BFI Press Office

Tel: (020) 7957 4759

E-mail: jill.reading@bfi.org.uk

Images are available to download at www.image.net under BFI DVD & Blu-ray

BFI releases are available from all good home entertainment retailers or by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/shop

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