

For Immediate Release
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Orchestra Collective of Orange County presents England at Play/England at War

Featuring Elgar's Enigma Variations and the world premiere of Drew Schnurr's Churchill's War

Sunday, April 2, 2017
Anaheim United Methodist Church
1000 S State College Blvd
Anaheim, CA 92806
6:30 P.M. (pre-concert talk at 6:00 PM)
Free parking on site

\$20/general admission; \$15/seniors and students
Tickets available online (ocofoc.org), from the box office (714) 758-5247, or at the door

In the fourth concert of its inaugural season, **Orchestra Collective of Orange County (OCofOC)** will present two works exploring the rich culture and history of England.

The concert will feature the world premiere of Los Angeles composer **Drew Schnurr's** *Churchill's War*, one of a series of the composer's works exploring the intersection of music and speech. The piece highlights Churchill's stirring vocal performance during one of his most important World War II orations—June 4, 1940's *We Will Fight on the Beaches* speech to the House of Commons—using melodies inspired by Churchill's vocal inflections. Orchestral sonorities are combined with processed recordings of the speech, weaving together sonic textures and illuminations, viscerally re-contextualizing Churchill's oration while revealing connections between melody and text.

The *Enigma Variations* of **Edward Elgar**, written at the turn of the 20th century, capture a moment of relative peace and calm in England. The variations are based on a mysterious "Enigma" theme that is never itself played in the work, and the specifics of which the composer never revealed. As if one mystery were not enough, Elgar added a set of initials at the beginning of each movement, to represent one of his friends, family members, and colleagues. Best known for its stirring *Nimrod* variation, the work made Elgar's reputation both at home and abroad, and remains a staple of the symphonic repertory.

OCofOC is a collectively-run symphony orchestra based in Orange County, California. Founded in 2016 by veterans of the Southern California classical music scene, we believe that collaboration and self-governance can and will yield amazing results, both artistically and otherwise. Our performance venue, **Anaheim United Methodist Church**, features both excellent acoustics and an intimate layout that will allow audience members to get up close and personal with our amazing orchestra.

The concert will be conducted by OCofOC artistic director, **David Rentz**. Dr. Rentz is an accomplished choral, orchestral, and opera conductor who currently serves as associate professor of music at Chaffey College, resident conductor of the Chamber Opera Players of Los Angeles, and co-conductor of the Contemporary Choral Collective of Los Angeles.

For booking, interviews, and complimentary tickets for reviews, please contact:
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