

**IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with CHRIS GREEN**

“ok. Own up! Who knows about the whereabouts of the Ipswich Overture?”. I have recently had cause to pore over the published catalogue of all the works composed by the late Sir Malcolm Arnold. Apart from finding a reminder that I conducted the first public performance of one of his works in a concert at the Old Ipswich Civic College back in 1971, I also found a reference to a “lost” work by him. The story goes something like this. Malcolm was in the early years of his composing career whilst remaining Principal trumpeter of the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Amongst his teachers was a fellow Northampton musician, Philip Pfaff. Now with a surname like this, you could not really forget him and I recognised that he had been conductor of the Ipswich Orchestral Society as it was known in my childhood.

The Society gave a concert at the Ipswich Public Hall in March 1947. The Public Hall was to be burned down some time later but for decades it remained the principal performance venue for Ipswich. Included in the concert was a celebratory overture by Malcolm Arnold. premiered on that occasion by Pfaff and the Ipswich Orchestral Society. The score of the work subsequently “disappeared” and I always assume it had been “lost” after the concert in Ipswich. Actually, the work appears to have subsequently been performed in East London in 1952, and then disappeared from view. Since then, I know repeated attempts have been made to trace the missing work, for the orchestral parts do not even exist so the work cannot be reconstructed. Yet, I bet someone is in possession of the work, unbeknown to them. So, any leads you can give me, I should welcome them.



*Malcolm Arnold in Cornwall. Photo: Malcolm Arnold Society.*

One thing about which I am certain: Malcolm's *Padstow Lifeboat March* is firmly on my musical agenda when it opens the Trianon concert at Snape Maltings on Saturday 14 September. Written for brass band originally, we are performing the more recent orchestral version and the foghorn can still be heard throughout the opening of this brilliant piece. Malcom was known, by many as a composer of film music. He won an Oscar for *Bridge over the River Kwai*, but does not make the cut in a recent double album released by his "old" orchestra, the LPO on their own label (LPO 0086). Recorded at a performance in the Royal Festival Hall, celebrated John Mauceri conducts the orchestra in some of the Hollywood "greats" including Morricone's *Deborah's Theme* (which I shall conduct in January 2025), and Maurice Jarre's *Lawrence of Arabia* – a commission which Arnold turned down.



*Guitars resting by Alice Ridley.  
Credit: Alice Ridley.*

There will be many people who will be visiting Snape from the end of this week for the summer series of concerts, but spare of time to look around the estate. Opening next week is an exhibition by two artists Alice Ridley and Spadge Hopkins, The show features a collection of paintings and sculptures influenced by Snape and the surrounding areas in Suffolk. It opens on 1 August and continues for a week from 10am until 5pm in the Quay gallery, Snape Maltings.



*The Quay Gallery, Snape. Photo: Quay Gallery.*

Gradually the attendance at Ipswich Town Lectures and Concerts has been creeping up to pre-Covid levels with over 100 people attending the July lecture by Janet Dann when she talked about Ronnie Blythe in his own words. The next Ipswich Arts Association event is on Thursday 8 August when the Ipswich Hospital Band Wind Ensemble consisting of about 12 musicians gives a 50-minute concert at Museum Street Methodist Church, Blackhorse Lane, Ipswich starting at 1pm. Admission is free with a retiring collection.

If you have a story to share with other organisations, please email IAA chairperson, Professor Chris Green at: [cjc.green@talktalk.net](mailto:cjc.green@talktalk.net)

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