

## COMMUNITY NEWS - Tuesday 5th October 2021

### IPSWICH ARTS ASSOCIATION with CHRIS GREEN

Those of us who have been involved in voluntary organisations for a long time will know that one is always grateful for the small groups of volunteers who are prepared to step up and form a committee. Even better when some of them are prepared to roll up their sleeves and do something, I am sure that the Suffolk Organists Association (a member of Ipswich Arts Association) has much to be grateful for the contribution made by Martin Ellis.



*Martin Ellis. Credit: Suffolk Organist's Association.*

Martin died about a year ago having served as a local lay preacher, organist and “voice of wisdom” to a number of organisations. I was privileged to join with him when we were considering the refurbishment of the Ipswich Corn Exchange organ. He was a man of somewhat “definite” views which made discussion a lively challenge, and it is good that the Suffolk Organists Association is now going to give a memorial concert as a tribute to him. The concert is at Christ Church Tacket Street, Ipswich on Wednesday 13 October at 7pm and will be given by members of the [Suffolk Organists' Association](#) including Roger Green, Nicholas

Jardine, Christopher Moore, Juliette Adams and Stephen Hogger. It will include a hymn tune by Martin. Parking is available next door on Carr Street Carpark or on the NCP carpark to the left of the church. It is also appropriate that as a local and popular local Methodist preacher this concert should take place at Christ Church where he had taken services on several occasions.

This month also marks the centenary of the birth of Sir Malcolm Arnold, born in October 1921 in Northampton into a family of shoe-makers. I was privileged to know one of Britain's finest post-war composers when I was Chairman of the National Association of Youth Orchestras and Malcolm was its President. He also occupied the same position many years later when he became President of Trianon Music Group. The only British composer to be awarded an Oscar for *The Bridge over the River Kwai* score, Arnold was best known for the film scores such as *Whistle down the wind* and *The Belles of St Trinians*, but his other music probably represents the debt we owe him especially the nine symphonies. You can read more about him in the first of two articles which I have written and which appear in this month's [Suffolk and Norfolk Life](#).

Fresh off the press is the prospectus for music events at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook. Covering the period from last month through to July 2022, there are many innovative programmes to enjoy, including the RHS Big Band and friends with *Pete Long Salutes Benny Goodman* (5 November) and *Come and Sing Broadway* (13 November). For information visit the school's [website](#) or phone the Music School Administration - 01473 326222.



*Royal Hospital School. Credit: Wikipedia.*

The mention of Broadway reminds me that a colleague conducted a similar event last week in Essex only to hear afterwards that a child in the audience had tested positive for Covid-19, and so hours were spent phoning other members of the audience to alert them. It underlines the need for safety when organising such events and not just Broadways sing-alongs.

Now a reminder that Ipswich Arts Association's *Arts in Celebration 2021* has launched and can be viewed for two months via the [IAA website](#). The easy to navigate page enables visitors to choose a particular genre such as poetry, music or the visual arts and then select contents, and it is all free. So do support our local artists, musicians, actors and poets.

I have a grand piano that badly needs tuning, but a good pianist would be even better. Alain Planès fits that description and I have spent many enjoyable periods listening to him playing complete Nocturnes by Frédéric Chopin. It takes a little while for the ear to adjust to the sound of the 1836 Pleyel piano used in this recording. It is an intimate instrument in many ways and yet Alain Planès's short description of the way the instrument was constructed makes it clear that it was designed to rival the English piano makers in terms of volume. Spread over two CDs, the Nocturnes provide us with essays in nocturnal distraction in a well-engineered recording (Harmonia Mundi HMM 905332.33).



*Chopin Nocturnes / Alain Planès. Credit: Harmonia Mundi.*

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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