

**ERNEST BRADBURY** was invited to become chief music critic for the Yorkshire Post in November 1947, having already contributed to that newspaper. He held the post until his official retirement in March 1984, but continued writing for it until the early 1990's. In 1966 he received a Special Commendation in the annual Hannen Swaffer Awards to journalists "for his consistently high standard of music criticism".. an unique distinction.

Ernest Bradbury broadcast regularly on BBC music programmes, including Music Magazine and the Scottish Arts Review. He wrote for the Radio Times and contributed programme notes for the BBC, notably for the Proms, and for many other concerts, particularly in the north of England as well as for music festivals nationwide. His special interests lay in choral music and the compositions of Peter Warlock; he contributed to several books, including Pelican's anthology "Choral Music", Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians and The Outline of Music, edited by Sir Malcolm Sargent, as well as to numerous music periodicals.

From 1950 he was an extra-mural tutor for Leeds, and then Bradford Universities. He also lectured at Swarthmore Educational Centre in Leeds, at the Edinburgh, Three Choirs and Leeds Triennial Festivals and in Hong Kong and Perth, Western Australia when he accompanied the Halle Orchestra on their 1981 tour.

*He was also a member of the BBC's London Music Advisory Panel.*

Since childhood Ernest Bradbury absorbed, played and sang music and as a young man studied with Sir Edward Bairstow, composer, conductor and organist of York Minster. He taught music privately and at Clifford Convent School where his carol concerts were particularly memorable and for whom he composed a new, most elegiac accompaniment for Away in a Manger. He also wrote a number of songs, some of which were broadcast. He was born in Leeds in 1919, the fourth of five children, who included an elder brother, the late Stephen Manton, tenor and director of the Intimate Opera Company, whom he frequently accompanied on the piano at recitals; and a younger brother, Laurence Bradbury, lecturer on art, principally at the Tate Gallery in London and who often illustrated the pages of the Radio Times when his brother was writing for it.

Ernest Bradbury died in Bradford in November 1994. His widow, Susan, who is compiling this archive of his musical writings, apologises for omissions and errors. It ~~also~~ includes <sup>some</sup> other writers' work, including that of reviewers seconded when several events occurred simultaneously. These may be read in the Yorkshire Post, available in the Brotherton Library. Hopefully what will emerge from this archive will be a picture of musical life, principally, but far from exclusively, in Yorkshire, and what influenced it, from just after World War II until the tail end of the 20th century. Seen alongside the archive of Ernest Bradbury's predecessor, Dr. Herbert Thompson, this will offer a view of music, critical attitudes and scholarship once fostered by the Yorkshire Post and other publications, for close on a century.

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