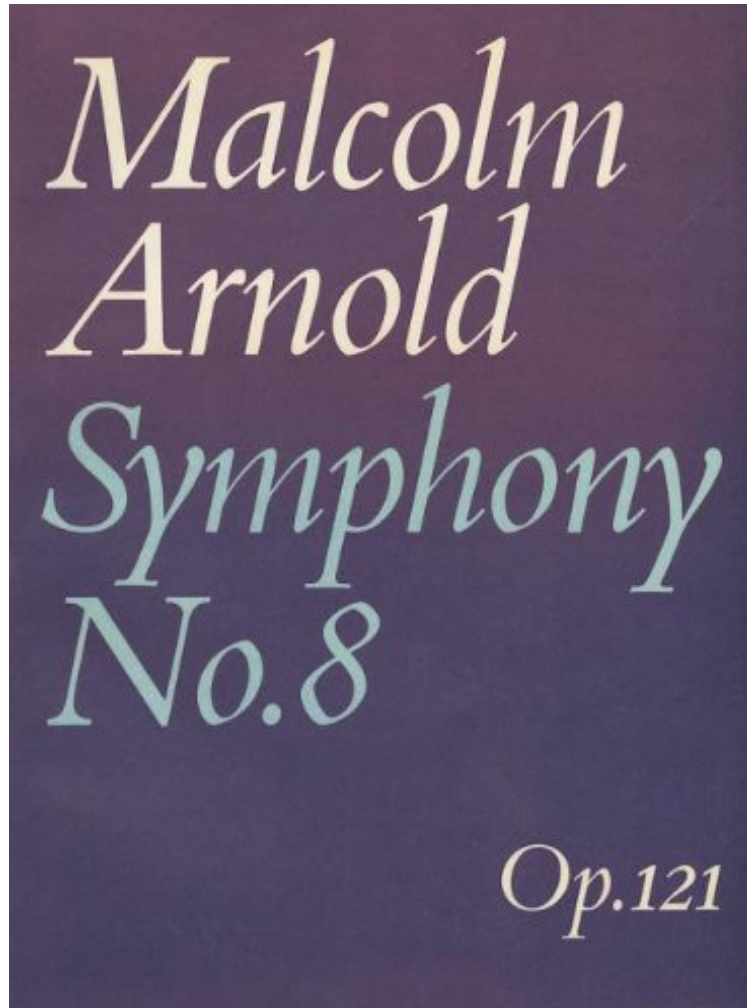


[PDF] Symphony No. 8: Full Score, Full Score (Faber Edition)

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**From Faber Music : Symphony No. 8: Full Score, Full Score (Faber Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Symphony No. 8: Full Score, Full Score (Faber Edition):

The Eighth Symphony was first performed by the Albany Symphony led by Julius Hegyi in 1978. A possible key to its character is the Irish marching tune of the opening movement, a rare instance of Arnold re-using earlier material, here from the 1969 feature 'The Reckoning'. The composer had lived in the Irish Republic since the '70s and the oddly distorted character of this music suggests a parallel between the troubled history of the Irish and his own collapse into

a 7-year period of virtual musical silence. The first movement begins with a discordant martial flourish. A simple march emerges on piccolo and harp, against a disquieting backdrop of dissonant strings. This develops over the course of the movement, which ends uncertainly with an almost inaudible tam-tam. The second movement, an elegiac *Andantino*, ends in a mood of hushed regret. The *Vivace* finale opens with a slightly crazed upbeat character, in the vein of Arnold's lighter orchestral pieces. The string fugato is reminiscent of Shostakovich (who had died since the composition of Arnold's previous symphony), but the mood is contrasted by the return of the opening theme in a cocktail-lounge percussive style. The symphony closes with confidence. Malcolm Arnold (1921-2006) studied trumpet with Ernest Hall and composition with Patrick Hadley and Gordon Jacob at the RCM. The wartime depletion of orchestras meant that Arnold regularly appeared in their ranks even before graduating. The award of the Mendelssohn Scholarship (1948) gave him the confidence to compose full time and for 20 years he wrote up to 6 film scores a year as well as a full and varied list of concert works and for the famous *Hoffnung* concerts. A crisis in the early '80s saw him in hospital for a long period and after a noticeable decline in his powers he eventually abandoned composition altogether, soon after finishing his last symphony. He was awarded numerous honors, culminating in a knighthood in 1993.