

# AN ARTIST'S CORNER

*featuring*

Ian Bousfield



Born in York, England in 1964, ***Ian Bousfield*** is one of the most influential and successful trombonists of our time. From a very early age he played in English style brass bands to the highest level, something that instilled an incredibly highly developed sense of ensemble playing which was to serve him well in his later career as an orchestral player. With the Yorkshire Imperial Band he won the British Open, National and Yorkshire championships. After having won the London Symphony Music Scholarship aged fifteen and serving a spell with the newly formed European Communities Youth Orchestra under Claudio Abbado, an orchestral career was inevitable. After five years in the Hallé Orchestra Ian became Principal trombone of the London Symphony Orchestra in 1988 aged 23. This was very much a golden

age for the LSO brass section, containing many now legendary names. The great sense of teamwork at the highest level is something that he now feels he can pass on to colleagues and younger players. This was also the age of the CD; often the orchestra would make one new CD every week, so his playing is heard on hundreds of recordings, including many film soundtracks – for example Star Wars Episode I and Braveheart.

It came as something of a surprise to many when, in 2000, Ian took and won the audition to become Solo Trombone with the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna State Opera, a job which he held until 2012. This was a time particularly close to Ian's heart, "it was wall-to-wall music, 24/7". As an orchestral player Ian played for the A-Z of the greatest conductors, and it was the admiration of their art that led him to begin conducting himself.

As a soloist Ian has played with many orchestras and brass bands, highlights of which were with the LSO and the Vienna Philharmonic under Riccardo Muti, Michael Tilson Thomas, Kent Nagano, Sir Neville Marriner, Ion Marin, and Tadaaki Otaka. He has appeared as soloist with all of the most famous brass bands as well as the US Marine Band and Kosei Winds in Japan. He has many solo recordings to his name from EMI, Chandos, Camerata and Doyen.

But eventually it was time to move on and concentrate on another great passion - pedagogy. Having been Professor at the Royal Academy of Music in London since 1992, Ian took the decision to concentrate more on building his class when he moved to the Hochschule der Künste in Bern, Switzerland. Despite many offers from all corners of the world, Switzerland was the right fit for his new life. His students are now amongst the most successful in the world, sitting in the greatest orchestras, and 2014 saw Michael Buchanan win the first prize in the renowned ARD competition in Munich.

Recent projects have included appearing as conductor and soloist with the brass sections Of the New World Symphony, Bern Symphony, Sonderborg Symphony and Norlands Symphony.

Ian plays on the Getzen "4147 Ian Bousfield" trombone. He also has his own highly successful range of mouthpieces on the market, as well as a substantial book on trombone playing, "Unlocking the Trombone Code". He was recipient of the International Trombone Association lifetime award in 2012.

Ian Bousfield's Website: [www.ianbousfield.com](http://www.ianbousfield.com)

Ian Bousfield Mouthpiece: <http://www.griegomouthpieces.com/products/bousfield.php>

Ian Bousfield Getzen Trombone:

<http://www.getzen.com/trombone/customreserve/4147ib.shtml>

***How old were you when you began playing your instrument? Did you start playing another instrument before your current one?***

I started playing the trombone when I was 7 years old and I hadn't played anything else before (or since!)

***What equipment do you primarily use?***

Getzen 4147 Ian Bousfield model, Ian Bousfield V3 mouthpiece

**What are some of the highlights of your career?**

Playing the Rota Concerto with the Vienna Philharmonic and Riccardo Muti, recording Star Wars: The Phantom Menace with John Williams. Other than that - too many to mention!

**If you were stranded on a desert island and could only have 10 albums, what would they be?**

Abbey Road (Beatles), Die Tote Stadt (Erich Korngold), Parsifal (Wagner with Vienna Phil and Thielemann), Death and Transfiguration (Strauss with Cleveland and Zell, 1954), Symphony No. 2 (Rachmaninov, Philadelphia and Eugene Ormandy), Walking on the Moon (Police), It Must Be Love (Madness). Can't think of any more - that would do me!

**What or who inspired you to play your instrument?**

Korngold Violin Concerto

**With whom did you study?**

My father, Dudley Bright, then everyone else in the world I've been able to talk to!

**How old were you when you decided that you were going to be a professional musician?**

I decided to be a professional musician when I was 10 or 11 years old and I heard the theme tune to Star Wars with the LSO, and decided that was what I wanted to do!

**How much do you practice on a typical day?**

1.5-2 hours

**Do you have a website? If so, what is the address?**

[www.ianbousfield.com](http://www.ianbousfield.com)

**What are some of your favorite etude books?**

Lafosse, Book 3, Unlocking the Trombone Code (Ian Bousfield! ;) )

**Is anyone else in your family a musician?**

Yes, all of them! Wife, kids, brother, in-laws, nieces, nephews - the whole lot. We are all brass players!

**What is your favorite piece that you have performed?**

Sibelius Symphony No. 6

**If you were on a desert island, what are your top 3 etude books for your instrument, solos for your instrument, as well as etudes/solos/albums not of your instrument?**

Lafosse, book 3, Arnold Jacobs - Song and Wind, my own book

**What advice would you give to someone interested in majoring in music in college?**

Love music, make your bed in the morning, be disciplined, be driven, have an open mind, and don't place responsibility for your future on the shoulders of your teacher - it is your responsibility.

**What are you listening to currently?**

Schumann Symphony No. 4, Vienna Phil with Karajan

**Do you have a favorite genre of music?**

Nope.

**What non-music courses in college helped you with being a musician?**

Didn't study, so didn't have any - my only non-music course was life!

**What are you working on right now?**

Still trying to get the trombone like, just as I've been trying for the past 45 years!

**Please list some of your favorite websites for musicians.**

Too old for that kind of thing! :)

**If you couldn't have a career in music, what would you do instead?**

I think I would have become a farmer, but would have loved to be a professional cricket player.

**Who are your favorite composers?**

Don't know - changes the whole time, and there are so many good ones. But it is pretty hard to get past Mozart.

**Do you like to teach? Why or why not?**

I love teaching, because every time I stand in front of a student I have the opportunity to make a difference in somebody's life. I never thought that I would like teaching more than playing in orchestras, but it is almost to that point.

**What are your favorite solos for your instrument?**

The one I am playing at the time! Tonight I am performing Kirkfeld by Grant Kirkhope.