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Hello, and welcome to Busy Kids Love Music, the podcast that helps you discover the music of composers, cultures, and traditions from all around the world. I'm Carly Seifert, the creator of Busy Kids Do Piano, and I'm so glad you're joining me today as we begin a brand-new 2-part series all about a fascinating composer named Imogen Holst. This episode includes another Audio Treasure Hunt—a free printable you can download from the show notes. Follow along during the episode to see if you can find the answers to all the questions in your treasure hunt!

You may have heard the name Holst before—does that sound familiar? That's because Imogen's father was the famous composer Gustav Holst, the man who wrote *The Planets*—a musical piece we explored in an earlier episode. But while Imogen grew up surrounded by music, she didn't just follow in her father's footsteps—she created her own path and made important contributions to the world of music as a composer, conductor, and teacher.

Imogen was born in London, England in 1907. From the very beginning, music was a big part of her life. Her father, Gustav Holst, would often play piano for her and make up stories with music. Her mother was also musical, and Imogen began taking piano lessons when she was just a little girl.

But Imogen wasn't just a piano student—she was incredibly gifted. By the time she was a teenager, she was studying music at the Royal College of Music, one of the most important music schools in England.

As Imogen grew up, she became a composer, writing music for orchestras, choirs, solo instruments, and even dancers. But she was also a brilliant teacher and conductor. In fact, during World War II, she worked for the Bloomsbury House Refugee Committee, supporting German and Austrian refugee musicians and also traveled around the countryside of England helping musicians create concerts and share music with their communities—even during very difficult times.

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She also worked closely with another famous composer, Benjamin Britten, helping him organize a music festival called the Aldeburgh Festival. Imogen helped plan the concerts, conduct rehearsals, and keep everything running smoothly. She had a great ear for music and a great head for organization!

What made Imogen Holst special wasn't just her talent—it was her creativity and courage. During a time when most composers were men, Imogen stood out with her own musical voice. She loved writing music that was expressive and thoughtful. Some of her pieces were inspired by folk music, and others reflected the moods of nature or the deep sounds of choral voices.

Imogen Holst passed away in 1984, at the age of 76. Though she is no longer living, her musical legacy continues—not only through the pieces she composed, but also through her work promoting the music of her father Gustav Holst and her collaboration with other important 20th-century musicians like Benjamin Britten.

In our next episode, we'll explore one of her most beautiful piano pieces—it's called *The Fall of the Leaf*, and it's perfect for autumn. Be sure to tune in for that one.

I hope you were following along with your treasure hunt questions to see how many answers you can discover! It's a great way to test your listening ears and learn even more about Imogen Holst's life. Remember that you can find links to download the printable Treasure Hunt along with a transcript from today's episode, and a curated playlist of songs by Imogen Holst at busykidsdopiano.com/podcast/160

I hope you've enjoyed getting to know Imogen Holst today, and I can't wait to share more about her music in the next two episodes.

Don't forget to check the show notes for listening links and resources. Thanks for tuning in to Busy Kids Love Music—and as always, keep listening and keep learning. Bye for now!