

"Mahler" and has participated in such musical greats as "Catch My Soul" and "Jesus Christ Superstar."

Rock returns to the Paradise Room tomorrow night in the guise of the folk-rooted Arbre. The band's potted history runs something like: formed in 1973 on Tyneside out of a songwriting trio, the brothers Phil, Peter and Paul Caffrey, and the remains of a band called "Little Plum," they signed with D.J.M. records last year and have recently released their first, very pleasant long-player.

The band list as their influences the Eagles, C.S.N.Y., Steely Dan and so on, which gives a fair indication of what they will be like. They put the accent in their music on melody and harmony.

What a fine body of citizens it was that trooped to the Town Hall Wednesday last to see Sassafras finally perform in Burton. Sadly, only 250 witnesses can testify that Sass. were as good as you'd expect them to be and that support outfit Skyye were pleasantly forgettable. And that wasn't enough to make it very likely that the organisers will be sustaining their efforts to develop the Burton entertainments scene.

Disappointed you all undoubtedly were, when you turned up clutching your £1.60 (and cheap at the price) tickets to see the Sex Pistols in Derby last Saturday only to find that the gig — about which I promised you all so much in last week's column — had been CANCELLED.

However, you will, through having most likely read the national papers who have taken it upon themselves, in their true sense of public duty and devotion, to scare us all to death with news of this horrid cult of "punk rockers," be aware that things are not all well with the Pistolios at this exact moment.

Shocked by what they've seen, heard and read about you aforementioned, many a promoter has had a late change of mind and, as they say in the trade, blown 'em out at the last moment. Including the one in Derby.

All over this fair land, people are rushing to decry (probably quite justifiably) this band of bands.

Said a Leeds Polytechnic student, after walking out of the band's recent gig there: "They are rubbish. It is the worst group I have ever heard. They did not shock me. Their music was just so bad."

Which is what many a rock fan said in Burton after the band played there.

Even so, people are turning out to see the band, when they actually get round to playing. Much of this interest, no doubt, has been aroused by the band's horrendously shocking behaviour on Commercial T.V. in London recently, when they and the interviewer became ensconced in a nasty argument which included the use of (pregnant pause) four letter words (eek)!

It would appear that such naughtiness has endangered the recording future of the band, who recently signed for E.M.I. and, as was reported at the time, a six-figure advance.

Now a disgusted E.M.I. chairman, Sir John Read, who incidentally is quoting the advance as £40,000, has announced that the company will be reviewing its "general guidelines" regarding the content of pop (pop?) records. He thinks that the band's behaviour on telly was "disgusting."

He told a shareholder: "Sex Pistols have acquired a reputation for aggressive behaviour which they have certainly demonstrated in public.

"There is no excuse for this. Our recording company's experience of working with the group, however, is satisfactory.

"Sex Pistols is the only punk rock group that E.M.I. records currently has under direct recording contract and whether E.M.I. does in fact release any more of their records will have to be carefully considered.

"I need hardly add that we shall do everything to restrain their public behaviour, although this is a matter over which we have no real control."

It's questionable whether music holds any great significance in the punk rock movement, the Sex Pistols having done so much to push it further into the background.

But the current bad image that has been created on punk's behalf by the Pistols and other loony bandwagon-jumpers who have gone as far as they can to be even more shocking may have serious consequences for music in general.

Punk rock is certainly a valuable part of today's music scene, and an inspirational one. From it could come real talent, fired by this inspiration. But if anything does come from punk, it's got a long way to struggle to the surface now.