

Benjamin Britten



Benjamin Britten photo © Angus McBean

OPERAS

Albert Herring op. 39

1947

2 hr 17 min

Comic opera in three acts

2S,2M,A,2T,2Bar,B; Children's roles:Tr,2S

1(=picc.af).1.1(=bcl).1-1.0.0.0-perc(1):timp/SD/TD/BD/tgl/cyms/cast/
tamb/gong/bells/glsp/whip/wdbl-harp-pft(=conductor)-
strings(1.1.1.1.1)

9790202519301 **Libretto (German)**

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

9790060013881 **Libretto**

9790060013867 **(Vocal Score)**

9790060013850 **Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 854**

World Premiere: 20 Jun 1947

Glyndebourne, United Kingdom

Frederick Ashton, director; English Opera Group

Conductor: Benjamin Britten

The Beggar's Opera op. 43

1948

1 hr 48 min

Ballad-Opera by John Gay (1728), realized from the original airs by Benjamin Britten

S,2M,T(or Bar),T(or speaker),Bar,B,speaker; chorus

1(=picc).1(=corA).1.1-1.0.0.0-perc(1):timp/susp.cym/SD/TD/BD/tamb/
tgl/qong/wdbl-harp-strings (1.1.1.1.1)

9790051933990 **Voice, Piano**

9790060030734 **(Vocal Score)**

9790060096877 **Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 1276**

World Premiere: 24 May 1948

Arts Theatre, Cambridge, United Kingdom

Tyrone Guthrie, director; English Opera Group

Conductor: Benjamin Britten

Billy Budd (original 4-Act version) op. 50

1951

2 hr 42 min

Opera in four acts

Major roles: T,Bar,B; minor roles: 4T,7Bar,BBar,2B;

children's roles: 4Tr,boy speaker,boy actors; men's chorus

4(II,III,IV=picc).2.corA.3(II=Ebcl,bcl;III=bcl).asax.2.dbn-
4.4(III in D).3.1-timp(3).perc(6):xyl/glsp/tgl/wdbl/tamb/SD/TD/BD/
whip/cyms/small qong/4drums(on-stage)-harp-strings

World Premiere: 01 Dec 1951

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, United Kingdom

Basil Coleman, director; Royal Opera Covent Garden

Conductor: Benjamin Britten

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Billy Budd (reduced orchestration of 2-act version)

Benjamin Britten, arranged by Steuart Bedford

1951, rev.1960, orch. 2016

2 hr 38 min

reduced orchestration of 2-act version

Major roles: T,Bar,B; minor roles: 4T,7Bar,BBar,2B;

children's roles: 4Tr,boy speaker,boy actors; men's chorus

2(I&II=picc).2.corA.2(II=ebcl,bcl).2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp(3).perc(6):xyl/glsp/tri/bl/tamb/SD/T
D/BD/whip/cym/small qong/4dr/

World premiere of version: 01 Jul 2017

Indianola, Iowa, USA

Des Moines Metro Opera

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

Billy Budd (revised 2-Act version) op. 50

1951, rev.1960

2 hr 38 min

Opera in two acts

Major roles: T,Bar,B; minor roles: 4T,7Bar,BBar,2B;

children's roles: 4Tr,boy speaker,boy actors; men's chorus

4(II,III,IV=picc).2.corA.3(II=Ebcl,bcl;III=bcl).asax.2.dbn-
4.4(III in D).3.1-timp(3).perc(6):xyl/glsp/tgl/wdbl/tamb/SD/TD/BD/
whip/cyms/2 gongs (small, medium)/4drums(on-stage)-harp-strings

9790060013973 **Libretto**

9790060013966 **(Vocal Score)**

9790060065545 **Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 962**

9790060136214 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score**

World Premiere: 01 Dec 1951

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, United Kingdom
Basil Coleman, director; Royal Opera Covent Garden
Conductor: Benjamin Britten

Dido and Aeneas

Henry Purcell, arranged by Benjamin Britten

1689

50 min

Opera in three acts, edited by Benjamin Britten and Imogen Holst (1951, rev.1958-59)

4S,S(orT),3M,T(orBar); chorus
strings and continuo

9790060021442 **(Vocal Score) (English, German)**

9790060021435 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 728**

World premiere of version: 01 May 1951

Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, London, United Kingdom
Joan Cross, director; English Opera Group
Conductor: Benjamin Britten

Gloriana op. 53

1953, rev.1966

2 hr 28 min

Opera in three acts

Major roles: 2S,M,T,3Bar,B;
minor roles: S,M,2T,Bar,2B,mimes; chorus; ballet
3(II,III=picc).2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.3.3.1-timp.perc(4):glsp/t.bells/
gong/SD/TD/BD/cyms/whip/wdbl/tamb/tgl-harp-cel-strings
stage band: historical instruments

9790060014420 **Libretto**

9790060014413 **(Vocal Score)**

9790060074578 **Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 1118**

World Premiere: 08 Jun 1953

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, United Kingdom
Basil Coleman, director / John Cranko, choreographer; Royal Opera, Covent Garden
Conductor: John Pritchard

Let's Make an Opera op. 45

1949

2 hr 10 min

An Entertainment for Young People

Adult roles:2S,A,T,B; children's roles:4Tr,2S; audience participation
perc(1):timp/BD/SD/gong/cyms/tgl/cast/lge & sm wdbl-pft(4hands)-solo string quintet
(also arranged for piano duet with or without percussion)

The first two acts are in the form of a play illustrating the preparation and rehearsal of 'The Little Sweep', the opera which is performed in the third act.

Alternative play text: 'The Climbing Boy' by Paul Johnson

World Premiere: 14 Jun 1949

Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom

Basil Coleman and Stuart Burge, director; English Opera Group

Conductor: Norman Del Mar

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

The Little Sweep op. 45

Benjamin Britten, arranged by Arthur Oldham

45 min

arrangement for piano duet and optional percussion by Arthur Oldham

Adult roles:2S,A,T,B; children's roles:4Tr,2S; audience participation
perc(1):timp/BD/SD/gong/cyms/tgl/cast/lg & sm wdbl-pft(4hands)

This work can be performed with the introductory play 'Let's Make An Opera' - see separate entry for details.

Availability: This work is available from Boosey & Hawkes for the world

The Little Sweep op. 45

1949

45 min

The opera from 'Let's make an Opera', an entertainment for young people

Adult roles:2S,A,T,B; children's roles:4Tr,2S; audience participation
perc(1):timp/BD/SD/gong/cyms/tgl/cast/lg & sm wdbl-pft(4hands)-solo string quartet
(also arranged for piano duet)

This work can be performed with the introductory play 'Let's Make An Opera' - see separate entry for details.

9790060014628 **Unison**

9790202519226 **Unison (German)**

9790060014604 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 776**

9790060014635 **Libretto (English)**

9790060014611 (Vocal Score)

World Premiere: 14 Jun 1949

Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom

Basil Coleman and Stuart Burge, director; English Opera Group

Conductor: Norman Del Mar

A Midsummer Night's Dream op. 64

1960

2 hr 24 min

Opera in three acts

colS,S,M,A,CT/A,3T,2Bar,BBar,3B,acrobat speaking role;

children's roles: 4Tr,chorus

2(=picc).1(=corA).2.1-2.0.Dtpt.1.0-perc(2):tgl/cyms/tamb/gong/2wdbl/

vib/glsp/xyl/tamburo/SD/TD/BD/timp/2bells-2harps-hpd(=cel)-

strings (min 4.2.2.2.2)-Stage band:sopranino recorders/cyms/2wdbl

9790202519318 **Libretto (German)**

9790060014680 **Libretto**

9790060014673 **(Vocal Score) (English, German)**

9790060014666 **Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 734**

World Premiere: 11 Jun 1960

Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom

John Cranko, director; Aldeburgh Festival

Conductor: Benjamin Britten

Noye's Fludde op. 59

1957

50 min

The Chester Miracle Play set to music by Britten, for adults' and children's voices, children's chorus, chamber ensemble and children's orchestra

A,BBar,speaker; children's roles: 3Tr,3S,chorus

professional orchestra:treble recorder-pft(4hands)-org-timp-string quintet;

amateur/children's orchestra: recorder

band-bugles-perc:hand-bells/BD/TD/SD/tamb/cyms/tgl/whip/gong/Chin.bl/wind

machine/sandpaper/slung mugs-strings

9790060116513 **Hymn Sheet (German)**

9790060014826 **Hymn Sheet (English)**

9790060836640 **Book**

9790060014789 **(Full score)**

9790060014802 **(Vocal Score) (English, German)**

9790060014796 **Study Score - Hawkes Pocket Score 761**

9790060014819 **(Choral Score)**

9790060837401 **(Choral Score) (English, German)**

World Premiere: 18 Jun 1958

Orford Church, Aldeburgh Festival, United Kingdom

Colin Graham, director; Aldeburgh Festival

Conductor: Charles Mackerras

Peter Grimes op. 33

1945

2 hr 27 min

Opera in three acts and a prologue

Major roles: S,A,T,Bar; minor roles: 2S,M,2T,Bar,2B,2mimes; chorus

2(=picc).2(=corA).2(=Ebcl).2.dbn-4.2.Dtpt.3.1-timp.perc(2):SD/TD/BD/tamb/tgl/cyms/gong/whip/xyl/rattle-cel-harp-strings

Off-stage:organ-bells-tuba*

Dance band on-stage*:2cl-perc:cym/SD/BD-pft(ad lib)-vln.db

(*taken from the orchestra)

9790060014864 **SATB**

9790060014949 **Libretto**

9790060014932 **(Vocal Score)**

9790060014925 **Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 749**

World Premiere: 07 Jun 1945

Sadler's Wells, London, United Kingdom

Eric Crozier, director; Sadler's Wells Opera

Conductor: Reginald Goodall

The Rape of Lucretia op. 37

1946, rev.1947

1 hr 47 min

Opera in two acts

2S,M,A,T,2Bar,B

1(=picc,af).1(=corA).1(=bcl).1-1.0.0.0-perc(1):timp/susp.cym/gong/

BD/TD/SD/tgl/whip/tamb-harp-pft(=conductor)-strings (1.1.1.1.1)

9790060015083 **Libretto**

9790060015076 **(Vocal Score) (English, German)**

9790060015069 **Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 656**

World Premiere: 12 Jul 1946

Glyndebourne, United Kingdom

Eric Crozier, director; Glyndebourne Festival Opera

Conductor: Ernest Ansermet

The Turn of the Screw op. 54

1954

1 hr 41 min

Opera in a prologue and two acts

Tr,3S,S(orM),2T

1(=picc,af).1(=corA).1(=bcl).1-1.0.0.0-perc(1):4timp/BD/SD/TD/tom-t/

gong/cyms/tgl/wdbl/glsp/t.bells-harp-pft(=cel)-strings(1.1.1.1.1)

9790060015519 **Libretto**

9790060015502 **(Vocal Score) (English, German)**

9790060015496 **Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 784**

World Premiere: 14 Sep 1954

Teatro La Fenice, Venice, Italy

Basil Coleman, director; English Opera Group

Conductor: Benjamin Britten

(Edward) Benjamin Britten. 22 November 1913 - 4 December 1976. Britten was born, by happy coincidence, on St. Cecilia's Day, at the family home in Lowestoft, Suffolk, England. His father was a dentist. He was the youngest of four children, with a brother, Robert (1907), and two sisters, Barbara (1902) and Beth (1909). Benjamin Britten was born on November 22, 1913 in Lowestoft, Suffolk, England as Edward Benjamin Britten. He died on December 4, 1976 in Aldeburgh, Suffolk. See full bio »». Born: November 22, 1913 in Lowestoft, Suffolk, England, UK. Died: December 4, 1976 (age 63) in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, England, UK. Edward Benjamin Britten, Baron Britten OM CH (22 November 1913 – 4 December 1976) was an English composer, conductor, and pianist. He was a central figure of 20th-century British classical music, with a range of works including opera, other vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces. His best-known works include the opera Peter Grimes (1945), the War Requiem (1962) and the orchestral showpiece The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra (1945).