

## Benjamin Britten



Benjamin Britten Photo © Angus McBean

### OPERAS

#### Albert Herring op. 39

1947

2 hr 17 min

Comic opera in three acts

Text: Libretto by Eric Crozier, freely adapted from a short story of Guy de Maupassant (E,Bg,F,Fl,Fn,G,H,I,P,Sw)

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)**

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

Text: Text by John Gay (E,F,G)

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/gong/wdbl-harp-strings (1.1.1.1.1)

9790051933990 **Voice, Piano**

9790060030734 **(Vocal Score)**

OPERAS 1

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

Text: Libretto by E M Forster and Eric Crozier, adapted from the story by Herman Melville (E,G,I)

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 gong/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

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

1951, rev.1960

2 hr 38 min

Opera in two acts

Text: Libretto by E M Forster and Eric Crozier, adapted from the story by Herman Melville (E,G,I)

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 gong/4drums(on-stage)-harp-strings

9790060013973 **Libretto**

9790060013966 **(Vocal Score)**

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

**World Premiere: 01 Dec 1951**

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

OPERAS 1

## 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)

Text: Libretto by Nahum Tate (E,G)

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

Text: Libretto by William Plomer after Lytton Strachey's 'Elizabeth and Essex' (E,G)

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-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

Text: Libretto by Eric Crozier (E,F,G,I)

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

## The Little Sweep op. 45

Benjamin Britten, arranged by Arthur Oldham

45 min

arrangement for piano duet and percussion

Text: Libretto by Eric Crozier (E,Bg,Cz,F,Fn,G,I,Tk). Additional audience song  
translations available (Dn,N,Sw)

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)

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

## The Little Sweep op. 45

1949

45 min

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

Text: Libretto by Eric Crozier (E,Bg,Cz,F,Fn,G,I,Tk). Additional audience song  
translations available (Dn,N,Sw)

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 quartet  
(also arranged for piano duet with or without percussion)

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 **(Full score)**

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

Text: Libretto adapted from Shakespeare by Benjamin Britten and Peter Pears  
(E,Cz,F,G,H,I,P,Sc,Sw)

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

Text: The text is from 'English Miracle Plays, Moralities and Interludes' (E,F,G,I,Pt,S)

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.band-bells-strings

9790060116513 **Hymn Sheet (German)**

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

**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

Text: Libretto by Montagu Slater, derived from a poem by George Crabbe  
(E,Bg,Cz,Dn,F,Fl,Fn,G,H,I,J,P,Sc)

Major roles: S,A,T,Bar; minor roles: 2S,M,2T,Bar,2B,2mimes; chorus  
2(=picc).2(II=corA).2(II=EbcI).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

Text: Libretto by Ronald Duncan, after the play by André Obey (E,Cz,Fl,G,I,S,Sc)

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

1(=picc.afI).1(=corA).1(=bcI).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

Text: Libretto by Myfanwy Piper, after a story by Henry James (E,F,Fn,G,I)

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