

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)

9790060013881 **Libretto**

9790202519301 **Libretto (German)**

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

9790060013867 **(Vocal Score)**

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)

9790060030734 **(Vocal Score)**

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

9790051933990 **Voice, Piano**

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

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**

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

9790060014413 **(Vocal Score)**

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

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.

9790202519226 **Unison (German)**

9790060014611 **(Vocal Score)**

9790060014628 **Unison**

9790060014604 **(Full score)**

9790060014635 **Libretto (English)**

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

9790060014680 **Libretto**

9790202519318 **Libretto (German)**

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

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

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

9790060014826 **Hymn Sheet (English)**

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

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

9790060116513 **Hymn Sheet (German)**

9790060014789 **(Full score)**

9790060014819 **(Choral Score)**

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

9790060836640 **Book**

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=Ebc).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)

9790060014949 **Libretto**

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

9790060014932 **(Vocal Score)**

9790060014864 **SATB**

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,FI,G,I,S,Sc)

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)

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

9790060015083 **Libretto**

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

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)

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

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

9790060015519 **Libretto**

World Premiere: 14 Sep 1954

Teatro La Fenice, Venice, Italy

Basil Coleman, director; English Opera Group

Conductor: Benjamin Britten