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),1.1(=bcl),1-1.1.0.0-perc(1):tmp/susp/cym/SD/TD/BDbtl/tamb/whip/drb/strings(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):tmp/susp/cym/SD/TD/BDbtl/tamb/whip/drb/strings(1.1.1.1)
9790051933990 Libretto
9790060030734 (Vocal Score)

World Premiere: 20 Jun 1947
Glyndebourne, United Kingdom
Frederick Ashton, 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(Ill,III,IV=picc).2.corA,3(Ill=Ebcl,bcl;III=cl),asax.2.dbn-
4.(Ill in D).3.1-temp(3).perc(6):xy/ig/whp/tamb/lamb/SD/TD/BDbtldr/whip/cym/2drums(on-stage)-harp/strings
9790060096877 Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 1276

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(Ill=Ebcl,bcl;II=cl),2.dbn-4.3.1-temp(3).perc(6):xy/ig/whp/tri/btlamb/SD/TDbtldr/whip/cym/2drums(on-stage)
9790060013973 Libretto
9790060013966 (Vocal Score)
9790060065545 Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 962

World Premiere of version: 01 Jul 2017
Indianola, Iowa, United States
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(Ill,III,IV=picc).2.corA,3(Ill=Ebcl,bcl;III=cl),asax.2.dbn-
4.(Ill in D).3.1-temp(3).perc(6):xy/ig/whp/tamb/lamb/SD/TD/BDbtldr/whip/cym/2drums(on-stage)-harp/strings
9790060013973 Libretto
9790060013966 (Vocal Score)
9790060065545 Study Score (hardback) - Hawkes Pocket Score 962
**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):tmp/BD/SD/gong/cyms/whip/td/tgl-cast/lg & sm wdbl-pf(4hands)-solo string quintet

(Also arranged for two piano duets 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

Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, London, 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

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**The Little Sweep op. 45**

Benjamin Britten, arranged by Arthur Oldham

45 min

arrangement for two piano duets and optional percussion by Arthur Oldham

Adult roles: 2S,A,T,B; children's roles: 4Tr,2S; audience participation

perc(1):tmp/BD/SD/gong/cymes/whip/wdbl-pf(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

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**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):tmp/BD/SD/gong/cymes/whip/cast/lg & sm wdbl-pf(4hands)-solo string quartet

(Also arranged for two piano duets)

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

979006014628 *Unison*

9790202519226 *Unison (German)*

979006014635 *Libretto (English)*

979006014611 *Vocal Score*
**A Midsummer Night’s Dream op. 64**

1960  
2 hr 24 min

Opera in three acts

coh,S,M,A,CT/A,3T,2Bar,BBar,3B,acrobat speaking role;  
children's roles: 4Tr,chorus  
2(=picc).1(=corA).2.1-2.0.0(Dpt.1.0-2perc(2).2(tgl/cym/gong/2wdbl/  
vib/glsp/xylyamburo/SD/BD/timp/2bells-harp-cacepts-hp(=cel)-  
strings (min 4.2.2.2.2)-Stage band:sopranino recorder/cym/gong/whip/xylyrattle-cel-harp-strings  
Off-stage:organ-bells-tubalp  
Dance band on-stage:2(cl-perc/cym/SD/BD-pf(ad lib)-vln/db

(!"taken from the orchestra)

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(II=corA).2(II=Ebc)/2.dbn-4.2.Dpt.3.1-4perc(2)/SD/BD/  
TB/tamb/gyl/cym/gong/whip/xylyrattle-cel-harp-strings

World Premiere: 14 Jun 1949  
Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom  
Basil Coleman and Stuart Burge, director; English Opera Group  
Conductor: Norman Del Mar

**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,Bar,baritone speaker, children's roles: 3Tr,3S,chorus  
professional orchestra,treble recorder-pf(4hands)-org-timp-string quintet;  
amateur children's orchestra: recorder  
band-harps-perc:hand-bells/BD/SD/tamb/cym/gong/Chin.bl/wind  
machine/sandpaper/slug mugs-strings

**The Rape of Lucretia op. 37**

1946, rev.1947  
1 hr 47 min

Opera in two acts  
2S,M,A,2T,Bar,B  
2(=picc,afl).1(=corA).1(=bcl).1-2.0-0.0(Dpt.1.0-2perc(1).1(timp/2perc(cym/gong/  
BD/SD/DB/tamb/chord-harp-pf(= conductor)-strings (1.1.1.1.1)  
Libretto

**The Turn of the Screw op. 54**

1954  
1 hr 41 min

Opera in a prologue and two acts

2S,M,S(orfM),2T  
2(=picc,afl).1(=corA).1(=bcl).1-0.0.0.0perc(1).4(Dpt/BD/SD/DB/tamb-harp-pf(=cel)-strings (1.1.1.1.1)  
Libretto

World Premiere: 11 Jun 1960  
Jubilee Hall, Aldeburgh, United Kingdom  
John Cranko, director; Snape Maltings  
Conductor: Benjamin Britten

World Premiere: 07 Jun 1945  
Sadler's Wells, London, United Kingdom  
Eric Crozier, director; Sadler's Wells Opera  
Conductor: Reginald Goodall

World Premiere: 12 Jul 1946  
Glyndebourne, United Kingdom  
Eric Crozier, director; Glyndebourne Festival Opera  
Conductor: Ernest Ansermet

World Premiere: 18 Jun 1958  
Orford Church, Aldeburgh Festival, United Kingdom  
Colin Graham, director; Snape Maltings  
Conductor: Charles Mackerras
World Premiere: 14 Sep 1954
Teatro La Fenice, Venice, Italy
Basil Coleman, director; English Opera Group
Conductor: Benjamin Britten