JACKSONVILLE SYMPHONY

COURTNEY LEWIS, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Jacksonville Symphony's Young People's Concerts

March 7-10, 2017

Materials developed in partnership with DCPS music teachers.

BENJAMIN BRITTEN 1913-1976

Composing is like driving down a foggy road toward a house. Slowly you see more details of the house-the color of the slates and bricks, the shape of the windows. The notes are the bricks and the mortar of the house.

(Benjamin Britten)

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Benjamin Britten's Interesting Life

Benjamin Britten, Early Life

- Britten was born in Lowestott, England November 22, 1913.
- Benjamin Britten's father was a dental surgeon and an amateur singer.
- He began learning to compose at the age of 5.
- He Studied the piano and viola as a child.
- He won a composition scholarship to the Royal College of Music.

Benjamin Britten, Childhood

- Britten enjoyed playing tennis and Cricket as a child.
- Britten’s father did not allow a radio or Gramaphone (Record player in the house). He would play instruments with his family to make live music.

More on Britten

- Britten went on to pursue a career as a composer. He wrote music for documentary films and plays.
- From 1939-1942, Britten lived in America.
- Britten returned to England and was excused from serving in the military.
- He agreed to perform as a pianist at the wartime concerts promoted by the Council for the Encouragement and the Arts.

Britten, continued

- In the 1950s, Britten devoted his time to composing and conducting.
- In 1957, Britten toured Japan and became interested in music from Asia.

Britten, Influenced by Asian Cultures

- Britten was influenced by Japanese “Noh Theater”.
- He was also influenced by Indonesian Gamelan.

Britten’s Death, 1976

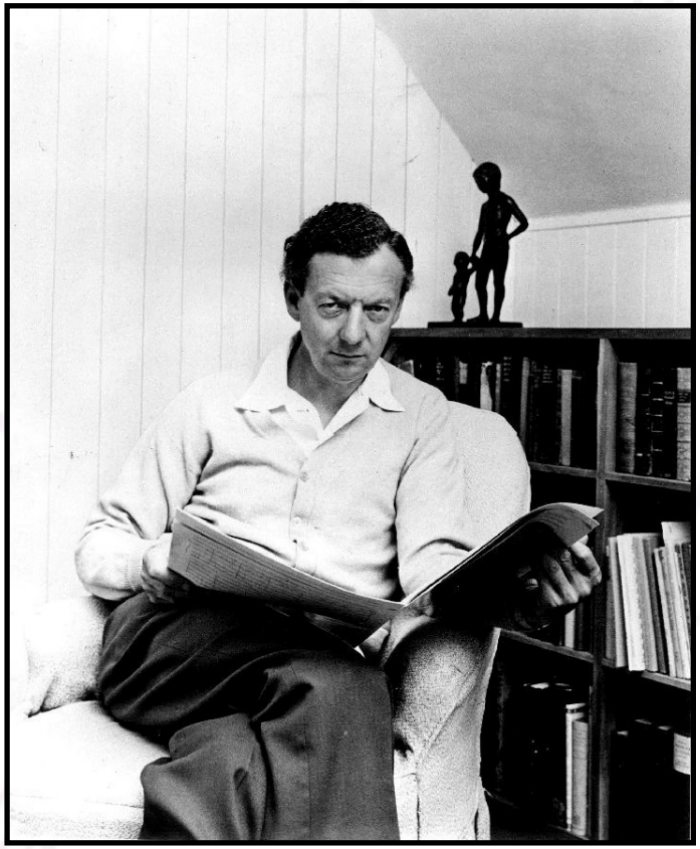
- Benjamin Britten died of congestive heart failure in December 4, 1976. He was 63 when he died.
- He is forever remembered from his most famous pieces of music.

Britten’s Famous Works

- Suite on English Folk Tunes for Orchestra
- The Young People’s Guide to the Orchestra for Orchestra
- Peter Grimes, An Opera
- Billy Budd, An Opera
- War Requiem, Chorus and Orchestra

Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

- "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" was written to introduce children to the different families and instruments of the orchestra.
- The piece is written as a Theme and Variation.
- The main theme is taken from the composer Henry Purcell.



Young Person’s Guide to the Orchestra

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TjOiZReM7m4

Peter Grimes

- Peter Grimes is one of the most important British Operas of the 20th century.
- The story takes place in a fishing community in England in the 1820's.

Peter Grimes

- Peter is a fisherman that wants to be popular. He wants to catch as many fish as he can so that he can be wealthy. He is obsessed.
- The opera premiered in 1945.

Peter Grimes

- Peter has an apprentice fisherman. He becomes very cruel in his pursuit of catching more fish and was very mean to his apprentices that help him.
- At the end of the opera, Grimes drowns himself.

Four Sea Interludes

- Interludes are musical pieces within an opera that are solely instrumental.
- The musicians usually play while the actors change the sets around in the opera.
- The Four Sea Interludes help set the tone for scenes in the Opera Peter Grimes.

Four Sea Interludes

- Dawn
- Sunday Morning
- Moonlight
- Storm

Four Sea Interludes

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ht9mQE6X0C0

The End

Music does not exist until it is performed.

(Benjamin Britten)

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