

# Benjamin Britten - a guide to research

## Garland Pub. - Benjamin Britten: A Biography by Humphrey Carpenter

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Following these operas came two chamber operas, The Rape of Lucretia 1946 and Albert Herring 1947 ; a new version of The Beggar's Opera 1948 ; Let's Make an Opera 1949 , a work for children; Billy Budd 1951 ; Gloriana 1953 , written for the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II; The Turn of the Screw 1954 ; A Midsummer Night's Dream 1960 ; and three dramatized parables for church performance. Britten's strengths are his masterful handling of choral sonorities, alone or in conjunction with instruments, his imaginative treatment of the word-music relationship, his sharp sense for the immediate theatrical effect, and his unusual interest and skill in writing music for children.

### Britten's music

His next opera was Owen Wingrave , written for but soon produced in Covent Garden. His love of reading, a skill he developed at an early age, invoke in him a spirit of curiosity and a hunger for knowledge.

### The Music of Benjamin Britten

Cecilia for unaccompanied choir; poem by W. Beginning rather poorly with Paul Bunyan 1941 , he made a spectacular turnabout with Peter Grimes. In 1937 his Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge, for string orchestra, won him international acclaim

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He later studied under and Arthur Benjamin at the Royal College of Music in London and, while there, composed the set of choral variations A Boy Was Born 1933; revised, 1958. Aldeburgh Festival Benjamin Britten started what was to become the famous Aldeburgh Festival in the Jubilee Hall on Crabbe Street, a few doors down from his first home, in 1948. Britten received many honours both in Britain and in other countries.

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