



Benjamin Britten

November 22, 1913 - December 4, 1976

Benjamin Britten was a famous English composer who lived in the 1900s. He was born on November 22, 1913, in Lowestoft, a seaside town in England. At just three months, Benjamin caught pneumonia and came very close to dying. Doctors told his family he would never fully recover, but despite all odds he persisted and grew into a healthy boy. From a young age, Britten showed a great love for music, a love he shared with his mother, who taught him piano and encouraged his musical talent to grow. He started composing music when he was just a child and wrote many pieces even before he was a teenager.

Britten went on to study music at the Royal College of Music in London after winning a scholarship for his composition. He became well known for his beautiful and emotional music.

He wrote music for orchestras, choirs, solo singers, movies, radio shows, and even for children, such as his piece *The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra*. One of his most famous works is an opera called *Peter Grimes*, which tells the story of a fisherman in a small village. This opera made Britten very popular and is still performed today.

Britten cared deeply about peace and often shared this message through his music. One example is his *War Requiem*, a powerful piece written to honor those who died in both World War I and World War II. It was played to celebrate the reopening of a cathedral that had been destroyed by air raids during World War II, and is considered one of the greatest compositional pieces of the 20th century. With this piece, Britten's reputation reached great heights and he was seen as a masterful composer.

In 1976, Britten became the first English composer to be given the distinguished honor of a life peerage, which made him a member of high-ranking British nobility and gave him the title 'Baron Britten.' He died later that same year, on December 4, 1976, and his memorial service was presided over by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the mother of Queen Elizabeth II, showing the impact his legacy had on England. Even though he is no longer alive, Benjamin Britten's music continues to be celebrated both in England and throughout the world.

Classical Pieces

Week 1 - The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra

Week 2 - Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes

Week 3 - War Requiem

Week 4 - Simple Symphony

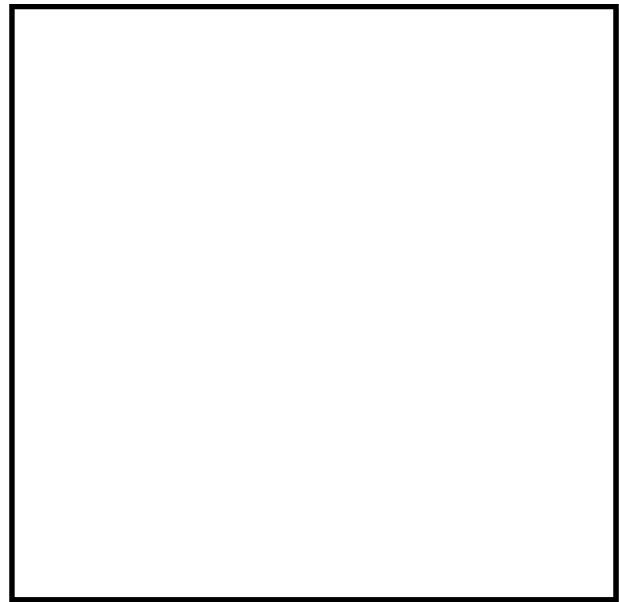
Composer Study

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Place of Birth: _____

Composer Fun Facts:



Instruments Used: _____

Famous Compositions: _____

Further Study:
