



# AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

## LITTLE BRITTEN



1959 • On Aldeburgh Beach - photo by Hans Wild.jpg  
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NEW ZEALAND YOUTH CHOIR  
VOICES NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER CHOIR  
AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

FREE PROGRAMME

# LITTLE BRITTEN

NEW ZEALAND YOUTH CHOIR  
VOICES NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER CHOIR  
HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL, PARNELL  
Wednesday 20 March, 7pm

Benjamin Britten was born in Lowestoft in 1913. His mother, a keen amateur singer, was thrilled that her youngest was born on 22 November: the feast day of St Cecilia, the patron saint of music. She hoped he would – after Bach, Beethoven and Brahms – become the ‘Fourth B’.

He did indeed become a global musical figure. In just 63 busy years Britten wrote some of the most appealing classical music of the twentieth century, was hailed as one of the all-time great opera composers, and – with his partner, the singer Peter Pears – performed around the world.

Britten was a progressive cultural figure too, ahead of his time on issues including pacifism, homosexuality and the role of artists in their communities.

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We are delighted to be able to support the New Zealand Youth Choir. Infratil is owned by 31,000 New Zealanders and its success is based on being a welcome member of its communities.

Singing in a choir is New Zealand’s most popular form of participatory music, thousands of people sing with school, church and social choirs and other groups. As with so many endeavours, participation works best when there is also excellence, both as a goal and to ensure there are skilled teachers and leaders.

By providing sponsorship of the Choirs Aotearoa NZ Trust we hope we can assist with the development of excellence for the good of both those singing now and in years to come.—MARKO BOGOVESKI, HEAD OF INFRATIL



*NZYC PRINCIPAL SPONSOR*

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# PROGRAMME

Hymn to the Virgin (NZYC & Voices NZ)

Rejoice in the Lamb (NZ Youth Choir & Organ)

Organ solos:

Voluntary on Tallis' Lamentations & Prelude

Fugue on a theme of Vittoria

Sacred and Profane (Voices NZ)

Flower Songs (Voices NZ)

Festival Te Deum (NZYC & Voices NZ & organ)



1960– Rehearsing MSND in Jubilee Hall  
Image courtesy of [www.britten100.org](http://www.britten100.org)

## MAJOR GRANTS





Circa 1965. At the Red House  
Image courtesy of [www.britten100.org](http://www.britten100.org)

*Little Britten* featuring the New Zealand Youth Choir, Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir and organist James Tibbles celebrates Benjamin Britten's centenary. Britten, one of the most widely performed of 20th century British composers was renowned particularly for his operas, vocal and choral music. The New Zealand Youth Choir will perform 'Rejoice in the Lamb', one of Britten's most popular and performed works, written for the 50th anniversary of St. Matthew's church, Northampton in 1943. Britten called his work a "Festival Cantata" and it is structured with choral and solo movements accompanied by organ.

The 'Five Flower Songs' were written in 1950 for Britten's friends Dorothy and Leonard Elmhirst who were keen botanists hence the movement titles:  
1. To Daffodils; 2. The Succession of the Four Sweet Months; 3. Marsh Flowers;  
4. The Evening Primrose; 5. Ballad of Green Broom.

'Sacred and Profane' Op. 91 is a setting of 'Eight Medieval Lyrics' written in 1974-5. The movements are 1. St Godric's Hymn; 2. I mon waxe wod; 3. Lenten is come; 4. The long night; 5. Yif ic of luve can; 6. Carol, 7. Ye that pasen by; 8. A Death.

Written in 1940 while Britten was in America during the war, the organ solo 'Voluntary on Tallis' Lamentation' was left behind when he returned to England. It only came to light when Elizabeth Mayer, Britten's host during his stay, willed it amongst other papers to the Britten Estate. This will be the NZ premiere of this Voluntary. 'Fugue on a theme of Vittoria', probably Britten's best known organ work is founded on a theme used by Vittoria in his four-voice motet *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus* from 1585.

NZ Youth Choir and Voices New Zealand join forces to sing 'Hymn to the Virgin', one of Britten's earliest works written in 1930. His earliest surviving piece of church music was written while he was still at school studying music with Frank Bridge. The concluding 'Festival Te Deum', a glorious work with virtuoso organ accompaniment was composed in 1944 for the choir of St Mark's Church, Swindon.



## **ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, VOICES NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER CHOIR—KAREN GRYLLS**

Karen Grylls founded Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir in 1998 and the choir has achieved acclaim both nationally and internationally. She is Associate Professor in Conducting and Head of Choral Studies at the University of Auckland and in addition to being Music Director of Voices, retains her role as Artistic Director of the Choirs Aotearoa NZ Trust, the managing body for the NZ Youth Choir and Voices.

Karen Grylls is much in demand as a choral clinician and invitations to adjudicate have taken her all around the world. She also has many CD recordings to her credit. In 1996 the university honoured her with a

Distinguished Teaching Award in Music and in 1999 she received an ONZM for her services to choral music.

**Voices New Zealand Chamber Choir** was formed in 1998 with Dr Karen Grylls as its Music Director. As a nationally selected choir of the highest calibre, Voices, which includes some former members of the New Zealand Youth Choir, provides a chamber choir, flexible in size, and capable of performing a wide repertoire.

## **MUSICAL DIRECTOR, NEW ZEALAND YOUTH CHOIR—DAVID SQUIRE**

Music Director of the New Zealand Youth Choir, David is one of country's most prominent choral clinicians. A founding member of the newly-formed New Zealand Association of Choral Directors, he is also a national conducting mentor for this organisation.

He completed his Bachelor of Music degree at the University of Auckland, with an emphasis on conducting and composition. He studied singing with Isabel Cunningham, Glenese Blake and Beatrice Webster, and conducting with Karen Grylls and Juan Matteucci.

In March 2011 David Squire was awarded a New Zealander of the Year Local Heroes Medal for services to music education.



**The New Zealand Youth Choir** has achieved considerable success since its formation in 1979. Performances around New Zealand and eight international tours have firmly established the choir's reputation for consistency energy and excellence.

# CHOIRS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

## LITTLE BRITTEN SINGERS

NEW ZEALAND YOUTH CHOIR



### **Sopranos**

Alicia Cadwgan, Juliette Irwin, Lydia Muschamp, Madison Nonoa-Horsefield  
Luana Prictor, Mevagh Sanson, Olivia Sheat, Fiona Tibbles, Zailie Gillard,  
Michelle Kendall, Euphemia Li, Grace Neale, Ella Smith, Phoebe Sparrow,  
Joanna Wells.

### **Altos**

Latafale Auva'a, Bianca Davidson, Sophia Good, Penny Hooson,  
Beth Kriechbaum, Chelsea Numanga, Julia Robinson, Savannah Post, Josh  
Clark, Rhianna Clarke, Hazel Fenemor, Dilys Fong, Natalie Foy, Rebecca Sutton,  
Janet Van

### **Tenors**

Phillip Akau, Sam Bennett, Cameron Casey, Lachlan Craig, Benjamin Madden,  
Samuel Madden, Alexander Smith, Benson Wilson, Jeffrey Chang, Jared  
Corbett, Jonathan Eyers, Cameron Gray, Joel Miller, Griffin Nichol, David Webb

### **Basses**

Nick Dow, Clinton Fung, Jae Hyun Jeong, Warren Kilham, Joshua McGirr,  
Kalauni Pouvalu, Isaac Stone, Benjamin Tan, Simon Anderson, Timothy  
Carpenter, Michael Forde, Laurence Hughes, Michael Miller, Tyler Neumann,  
Alexander Sinclair

# CHOIRS AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

## LITTLE BRITTEN SINGERS

VOICES NEW ZEALAND CHAMBER CHOIR



### Sopranos

Rachel Alexander, Amanda Barclay, Pepe Becker, Victoria Chammanee

### Altos

Helen Acheson, Morag Atchison, Christine Argyle, Andrea Cochrane

### Tenors

Phillip Collins, Philip Roderick, Jeffrey Chang, Lachlan Craig

### Basses

Benjamin Caukwell, Nicholas Forbes, Rowan Johnston, Nicholas Sutcliffe

### STAFF

<b>Karen Grylls</b>	Artistic Director	<b>Robert Wiremu</b>	Vocal Consultant
<b>David Squire</b>	Music Director	<b>Dean Sky-Lucas</b>	Accompanist
<b>James Tibbles</b>	Assistant Music Director/Organist	<b>Roger Lloyd</b>	CEO
<b>Morag Atchison</b>	Vocal Consultant	<b>Jenny Jamieson</b>	Operations Manager

### AUCKLAND ARTS FESTIVAL

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## JAMES TIBBLES—ORGAN

James Tibbles is one of New Zealand's leading players of historic keyboards, and has an active performing career as a soloist, accompanist, recording artist and conductor. James is Associate Head, Performance and Senior Lecturer in Early Music in the School of Music, The University of Auckland. He is also Artistic Director of the Age of Discovery and member of the baroque chamber ensemble *Extempore*.

## BRITTEN 100

The centenary of Benjamin Britten will be the most widely celebrated anniversary of a British composer ever seen. His 100th birthday is on 22 November 2013, but the official celebrations started in September 2012 and will go on until August 2014, to include the concert seasons either side of the centenary year.

Britten 100 - covering many hundreds of events and activities around the world - is being coordinated from The Red House in Aldeburgh by the Britten-Pears Foundation.

BPF is working with partners worldwide to:

provide – through the website [www.britten100.org](http://www.britten100.org) - a single source of information about thousands of Britten performances and other activities around the globe, many of which BPF is directly supporting through its centenary grant programme

advocate the work of living composers and help to inspire a love of music in today's young people, both of which Britten cared about passionately

realise imaginative projects throughout the world that will bring the name and music of Britten to new audiences

welcome visitors to Britten's Suffolk: opening up The Red House as never before and involving the communities of Lowestoft and Aldeburgh in telling his story

