

# NOYE'S FLUDDE

BENJAMIN BRITTEN

ST. ... ..

Queen's Park Junior Singers & Da Capo Music Foundation  
present

# *Noye's Fludde*

An opera by Benjamin Britten

*Noye's Fludde*, Britten's most complex work for children, was completed in 1957 and first performed during the 1958 Aldeburgh Festival. It is based on the Chester Miracle Play of *Noyes Fludde*, the account of Noah and the Ark from Genesis: chs. 6 and 7.

Miracle plays, mediaeval dramatisations of Bible stories, were performed by town Guilds of local people with music sung by choristers from the church or Cathedral. Each Guild performed one play from the cycle on an open cart called a Pageant, which moved around the town from place to place performing a different play each time until the cycle was complete. The scenic devices, though carefully worked out, were extremely simple. Several cities had their own versions of the stories, though many have not survived at all or are incomplete.

*Noyes Fludde* was written in such a way as to combine professional and amateur performers, the music often tailored to take account of the abilities of less accomplished players but with no sense of compromise or writing down. Apart from Noah himself, Mrs. Noah and the (spoken) Voice of God, the main vocal parts are written for children, and the orchestral forces comprise strings, recorders, bugles, handbells and an assortment of percussion, including improvised instruments made from sandpaper blocks and a line of mugs. The congregation is included as well: they are invited to join in the singing of three hymn arrangements, (and to encourage their participation these hymns are printed in this programme - please see page 8).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend special thanks to:

The Rev. Aidan Platten of St.Mark's, Hamilton Terrace for welcoming us to his wonderful church.

Simon and Amanda Trevor-Roberts, who hosted a fund-raising recital in their school by Mary Phillips and Tony Gray,

The Mount of Olives, Salusbury Road; Paramount Properties; Morecon Ltd. and Queen's Park Books for their generous financial support,

All the children who are performing, and their parents, who have helped with our production.



## *Synopsis*

All, including audience, sing the hymn, *Lord Jesus, Think on Me*.  
(See p. 8 for words and music.)

God has decided to destroy the world with a great flood, but has asked Noah and his family to build a boat - the Ark - to ensure their survival. As Noah and his children set to work, his wife and her gossips (friends) look on laughingly, and she refuses to join him on the Ark. God then tells Noah to save all the animals by taking two of each kind on board with him, and they all come in. Mrs. Noah still refuses to leave her gossips; her sons eventually force her into the Ark just as a huge wave sweeps away all the gossips.

All sing *Eternal Father, Strong to Save*: audience join in verses 2 and 3.

The storm subsides after forty days and nights. Noah sends out a raven, followed by a dove. The dove returns with an olive branch, a sign of dry land and a harbinger of peace. Once God has told Noah that it is safe to leave the Ark, all rejoice; God sends a rainbow as a promise of hope and peace.

All sing *The Spacious Firmament on High*: audience join in verses 5 and 6.

Please remain standing until the end of the performance.

This production is a community venture made possible by the dedication of the participants and the generous help of our sponsors. Any surplus funds will be donated to **Friends of Tumaini**, a UK-registered charity which supports a children's home in Nairobi, Kenya for boys previously living on the streets. The boys are provided with a safe home, nourishing food, health-care and they all attend school. Eighteen boys aged between 12 and 18 currently live at Nyumba Ya Tumaini. For more information please visit [friendsoftumaini.org](http://friendsoftumaini.org).

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*Queen's Park Singers*  
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## *Cast*

*The Voice of God* Bruce Graham  
*Noah* Roger Bloomfield  
*Mrs Noah* Malmfrid Sand  
*Sem* Maxim Uys  
*Ham* Elliot London  
*Jaffet* Ned Costello  
*Mrs Sem* Ellie Beale  
*Mrs Ham* Yanna Richards  
*Raven* Natalie Lawson  
*Dove* Aoife Doherty  
*Gossips* Ruby Cutler, Connie Mottram,  
Phoebe Richards, Sophie Timms  
*Conductor* Mary Phillips

### **Solo strings**

*Violins* Pablo Castro  
Elizabeth Menezes  
*Viola* Jane Gillie  
*Cello* Arturo Serna  
*Double bass* Melissa Favell Wright

### **Ripieno strings**

**Violin**  
Ella Gwynne-Evans  
Agnes Jones  
Nula Kenzie  
Tess McConnell  
Ella Jones Meyer  
Freya Mistry  
Christian Playford  
Sofia Thomas  
Eloise Tudman

**Viola**  
Talia Ramos\*

**Cello**  
Chloe Berko Boateng  
Patxi Del Amo\*  
Eleanor Doyle  
Isla Groves  
Philip Koroshilov  
Anna Soroko  
Lucas Tabema

**Double bass**  
Toby Briggs  
Ruby Groves  
Harvey Jones  
Toby Rouffaert

### **Percussion**

Tom Marsden\*  
Tom Rainbow  
Hannah Barnet  
Travis Morgan Clarke  
Anice Lam  
Rosie Mennis  
Astrid Winstanley

### **Piano**

Tony Gray  
Paul Webster

### **Organ**

George Inscoe

### **Handbells**

Alison Apley  
Roger Carter  
Elizabeth Gordon  
Mary Lamphear  
Chris Kitching  
Ruth Kitching  
David Till  
Claire Wake

### **Recorder**

Alison Erridge (solo)  
Sasha Fear  
Anna Herzog  
Anne Nisbet  
Rebecca Nisbet  
Emma Poulard

### **Bugle**

Sam Thorpe (solo)  
Louise Vickers (solo)  
Karim Mohamed  
Maisie Young

## **Animals**

### **Da Capo Music Foundation**

Selena Attias  
Sophie Attias  
Rafael Verona Blakstad  
Jemima Canton  
Christos Gkinis  
Dimitris Gkinis  
Olivia Gordon  
Cornelius Harrison  
Lawrence Jones  
Alex Koroshilov  
Peter Laleye Thomas  
Daniela Lorenz  
Jonty Nordon  
Milo Nordon  
Anna O'Driscoll  
Ana Philippa  
Koen Philippa  
Katty Procope  
Jake Remus Elliot  
Tai Remus Elliot  
Norah Rouffaert  
Vincent Tickell  
Xavier Tickell  
Sula Tickell  
Omre Urmani  
Anna Webb  
Alexander Williams  
Harvey Winter

### **Queen's Park Junior Singers**

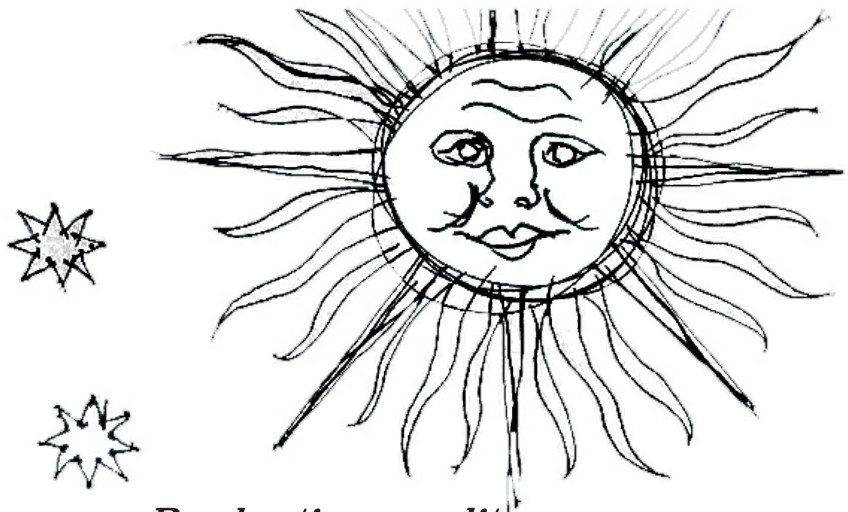
Jake Arthur  
Teejee Bains  
Millie Chalusian  
Anya Clarke  
Aoife Doherty  
Cara Doherty  
Imogen Fox  
Janina Haggard  
Athena Ham  
Liam Hoy  
Eloise Kirkby  
Ivo Lawson  
Natalie Lawson  
Sophia Meyer  
Mia Monni  
Anaia Mulinda  
Arianne Mulinda  
Sophie O'Connell  
Toby Page  
Emily Pasco  
Alice Platten  
Charlotte Platten  
Raffi Melkonian Payne  
Mario Petrone  
Hannah Poole  
Alice Rogerson  
Arjan Seth  
Samara Seth

Hannah Sheridan  
Joshua Sheridan  
Jasmin Singh  
Zoe Symonds  
Lottie Wells  
Emma Wong

### **Christchurch Primary School**

Naomi Roper\*  
Obah Abdullahi  
Nadeem Abshir  
Naomi Embalo  
Ellina Jennings  
Tunrayo Kehinde  
Qixu Lee  
Miyuko Nakao  
Raisa Rahman  
Amira Roble

\*teachers



### *Production credits*

Music Director	Mary Phillips		
Director	Stephen Moore		
Producer	Jenny Hine		
Set design	Roger Bloomfield		
Lighting & electrics	Colm Doherty Mark Hine Adam Ritchie		
Animal masks	Mary Phillips (masks painted by the children)		
Children's administration	Katherine Lawson Katie Payne		
Publicity	Gill Hallifax Glyn Jones		
Production assistant	Liam Hurley		
Administration for Queen's Park Singers	Monica Healy		
Poster design	Roger Bloomfield		
Web design	Nigel Thomas		

Programme co-ordination and content by Gill Hallifax, drawings by Roger Bloomfield, design and layout Glyn Jones, printed by iCreateprint, Kilburn  
[www.icreateprint.co.uk](http://www.icreateprint.co.uk)

## *Biographies*

**Bruce Graham (the Voice of God)** graduated from Edinburgh university. In 1978 he joined the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, playing many Gilbert and Sullivan character roles. Since then, Bruce has appeared with the national opera companies, Opera della Luna, the Buxton G&S Festival and University College Opera, and in concerts, repertory seasons and tours in the UK and abroad. He has appeared in eight West End musicals, including *Me and My Girl*, *Follies*, *Phantom of the Opera*, *Sunset Boulevard* and *Cats*; he has also had the honour of appearing in a **Royal Variety Command Performance**. Bruce's work includes film, TV, Old Time Music Hall and pantomime, and he has appeared all over the world as a principal with the Carl Rosa Company. On a previous occasion Bruce sang the role of Noah in *Noyes Fludde*, and he is delighted that he has at last merited promotion to the Voice of God!

**Roger Bloomfield (Noah)** sang as a choirboy, with the London Symphony Chorus and other groups, whilst becoming an architect; then studied at the GSMD with Rudolf Piernay. His first experience of opera came when, as a student with Malmfrid Sand, he was cast in *I Pagliacci*. The rest is history. Roger has sung for many years at St. Augustine's Church in Kilburn and currently with the Queen's Park Singers. He and Malmfrid now sing at St. Mark's Church, the venue for tonight's performance.

**Malmfrid Sand (Mrs.Noah)** came to London from Norway on a Government Singing Scholarship and later attended the National Opera Studio as a lyric-dramatic soprano. She has for many years worked principally in Europe and the USA, performing in a wide range of concert and opera. Through a combination of coincidences she became both teacher and conductor, first at the Festivale de Jeune Théâtre de Pontlevoy in 2005, then with various groups and choirs in London, and found the work exciting, inspiring and rewarding. She is now permanently attached to St. Augustine's C of E High School as vocal coach and leader of the choir. As a lover of Britten's music, she is delighted to add the role of Mrs. Noah to those of Ellen Orford in *Peter Grimes*, Lady Billows in *Albert Herring* and, her first venture, as Miss Wordsworth in a student production of *Albert Herring* with a certain Roger Bloomfield as Superintendent Budd.

**Mary Phillips (Conductor)** played the clarinet in the National Youth Orchestra before reading music at the University of York. After acting with various theatre companies such as Soapbox Theatre and Lumière and Son, she continued further singing study with Corinne Shirman-Sarti. Mary has written music for BBC and Thames Television companies, film (Derek Jarman's *Caravaggio*) and theatre. She has sung for many years with the BBC Singers and many other vocal groups such as the Electric Voice Theatre, Britten Sinfonia and Opera Rara as well as solo in oratorio and in recitals at home and abroad. She has sung on many film score recordings including Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Moulin Rouge*. She is currently teaching at Trevor-Roberts School, South Hampstead Junior and High Schools and directs the Queen's Park Junior Singers.

## Noye's Fludde: Hymns

### Lord Jesus, think on me



1. Lord Jesus, think on me  
And purge away my sin,  
From earthborn passions set me free  
And make me pure within

3. Lord Jesus, think on me,  
When flows the tempest high;  
When on doth rush the enemy  
O, Saviour, be Thou nigh.

2. Lord Jesus, think on me,  
Nor let me go astray;  
Through darkness and perplexity  
Point Thou the heavenly way.

4. Lord Jesus, think on me,  
That when the flood is past,  
I may eternal brightness see  
And share Thy joy at last.

### Eternal Father, strong to save (verse 1 cast only)



2. O Saviour, whose Almighty word,  
The winds and waves submissive heard,  
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,  
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;  
O, hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

3. O Sacred Spirit, who didst brood  
Upon the chaos dark and rude,  
Who bad'st its angry tumult cease,  
And gavest light and life and peace;  
O, hear us when we cry to Thee  
For those in peril on the sea.

### The spacious firmament on high (verses 1 to 4, cast only)



5. What though in solemn silence all  
Move round the dark terrestrial ball,  
What though no real voice nor sound  
Amid their radiant orbs be found.

6. In reason's ear they all rejoice,  
And utter forth a glorious voice,  
Forever singing as they shine:  
"The hand that made us is divine." Amen.

*Please remain standing until the end of the opera.*





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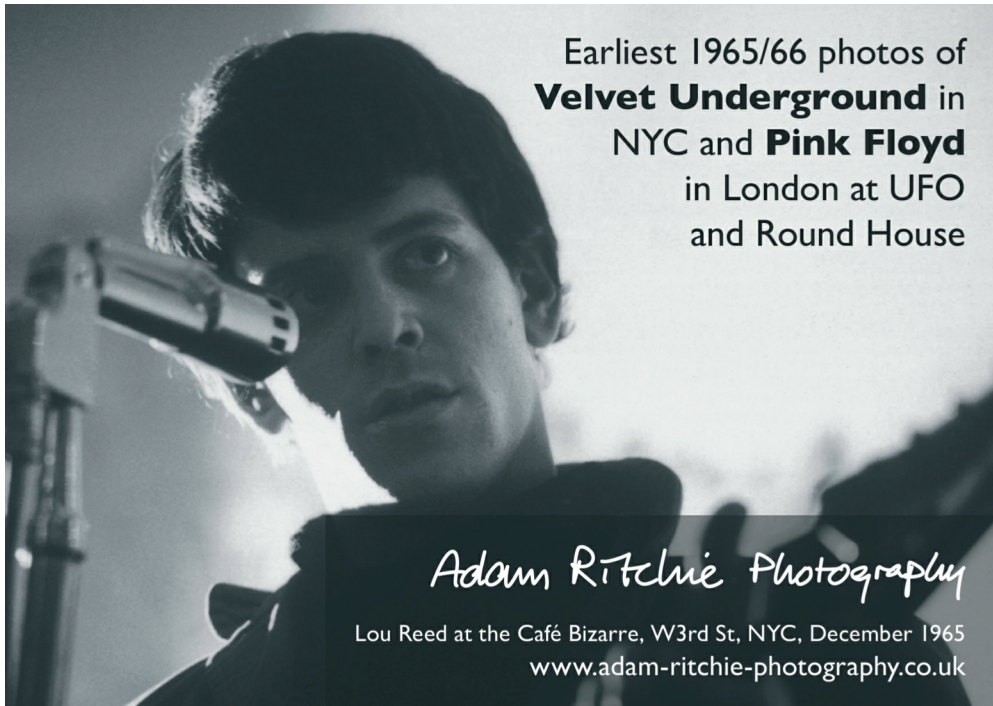
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**Queen's Park Junior Singers** is a group of around 20 children aged between six and fourteen from local schools. As well as participating in many concerts of the adult choir (Queen's Park Singers) they also perform regularly at Queen's Park Open Gardens and in Carols Round the Park. The young singers have tackled a broad repertoire, including Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* music, Handel's *Messiah* and Czech folk songs. QPJS are directed by Mary Phillips, whose wide-ranging professional music and teaching background inspires and encourages the young singers to develop their singing and music-making potential.



Earliest 1965/66 photos of  
**Velvet Underground** in  
NYC and **Pink Floyd**  
in London at UFO  
and Round House

*Adam Ritchie Photography*

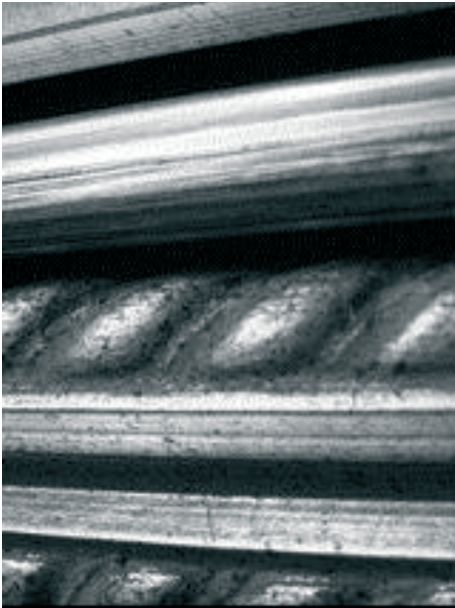
Lou Reed at the Café Bizarre, W3rd St, NYC, December 1965  
[www.adam-ritchie-photography.co.uk](http://www.adam-ritchie-photography.co.uk)

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