

BIRMINGHAM CHORAL EDUCATION
PROJECT PARTNERSHIP...

NOYE'S FLUDDE BENJAMIN BRITTEN

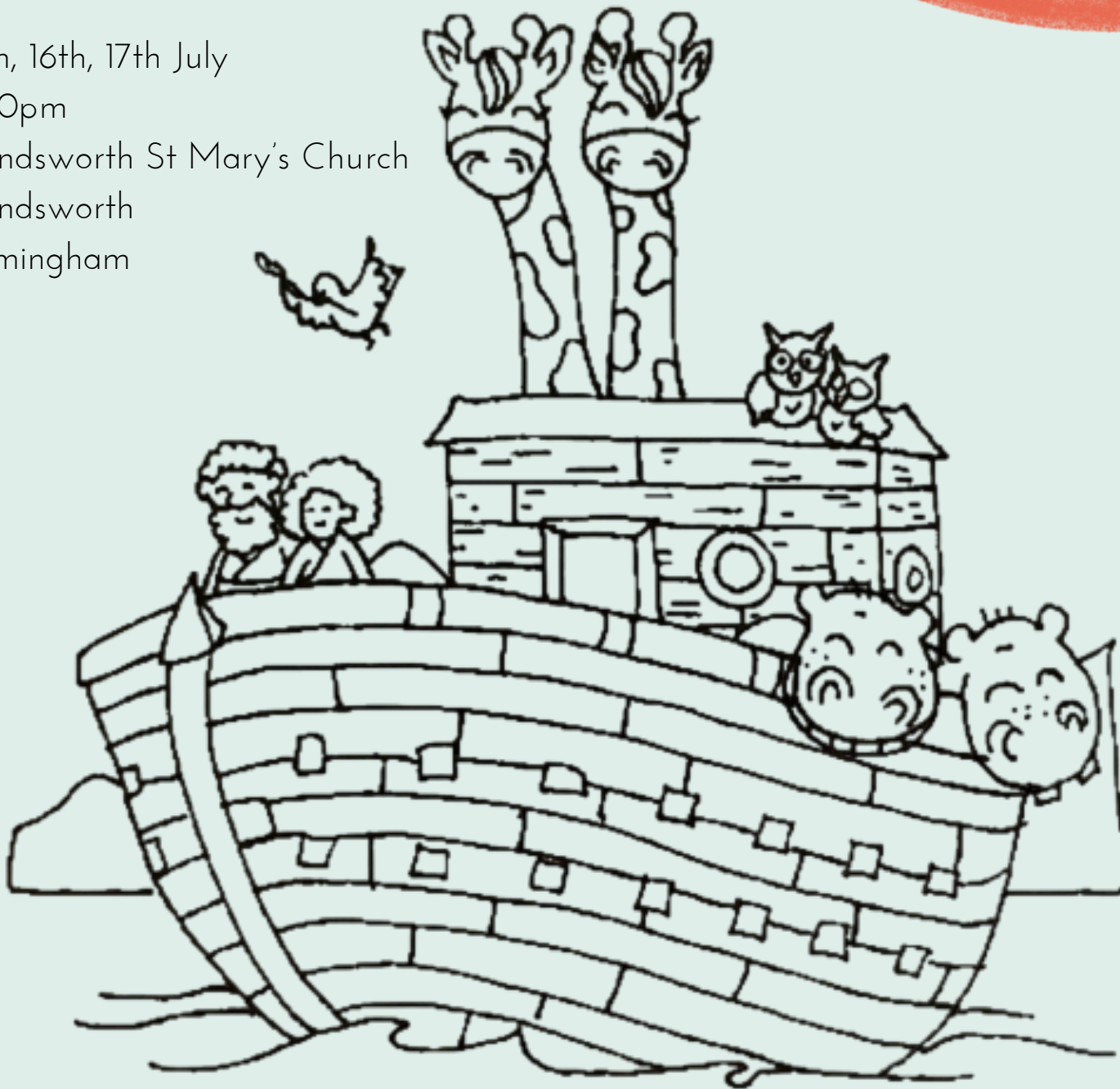
15th, 16th, 17th July

6:30pm

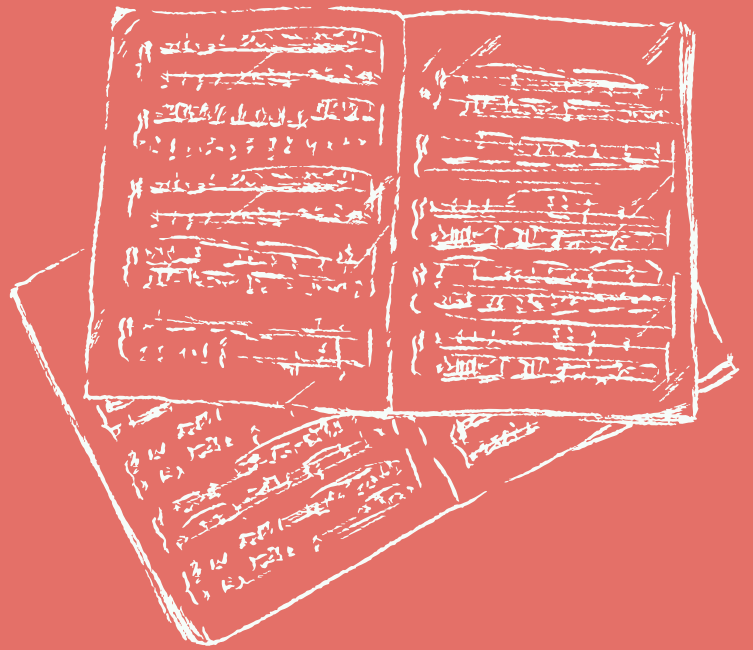
Handsworth St Mary's Church

Handsworth

Birmingham



Noye's Fludde **written by** **composer** **Benjamin** **Britten**



When was it written?

27 October 1957 - March 1958. The first performance was on 18 June 1958 in Orford Church during the Aldeburgh Festival.

What's it about?

This community opera is based on the well-known story of Noah and the Ark. Noye hears the voice of God warning him of the incoming flood, and creates an ark to save his family and a vast array of animals (played by children in the opera).

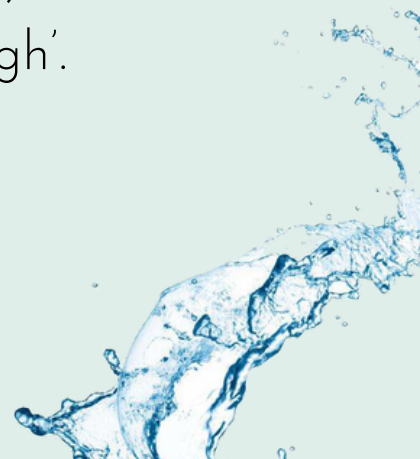
What does it sound like?

Britten composed the opera for a mix of amateur and professional performers, and the audience is invited to participate in the hymns. (Lyrics in this programme.) The instrumental ensemble includes a wide array of percussion - including an invented 'slung mug' device to mimic the sound of rainfall - as well as cello's, violins and other well known orchestral instruments.

THE PLOT...



After the children and others have sung the hymn 'Lord Jesus, think on me', the Voice of God is heard warning Noye that he has decided to destroy sinful man and all living things, save Noye and his family. They must therefore construct a boat according to God's specifications. Noye and his family start building - all except his wife, who sits drinking with her 'gossips', as she calls her friends. Meanwhile Noye is instructed to collect two of all the animals. The animals duly enter, and since Mrs Noye continues to refuse to enter the ark, her sons carry her aboard just before the water sweeps away her gossips. At the height of the flood all join in the hymn 'Eternal Father, strong so save'. After forty days, Noye sends a raven to seek for dry land but it does not return. Next he sends a dove, which returns with an olive branch in its beak - a sign of peace between God and man. When Noye and his passengers disembark, God sets a rainbow in the sky as a pledge that he will never flood the earth again. All join in the hymn 'The spacious firmament on high'.



Cast and Orchestra

Noye - Joby Dixon

Mrs. Noye - Samantha Oxborough

Noye's children and wives

Ham - Georgi Davies

Sem - Sarah Colgan

Jaffett - Daniel Marles

Mrs Ham - Sara De Visser

Mrs Sem - Sophie Henderson

Mrs Jaffett - Ruby Thorne

Mrs. Noyes Gossips

Gossip 1 - Felicity Rodhgers

Gossip 2 - Aviyah S (Handsworth St. Mary Church Chorister)

Gossip 3 - Grace H (Handsworth St. Mary Church Chorister)

Gossip 4 - Lesley A (Handsworth St. Mary Church Chorister)

Orchestra -

Conductor - Isaac Boulter

Recorder - Riko Suzuki

Organ - Ashely Wagner

Violin 1 - Sian Cobb

Violin 2 - Rosie Thomas

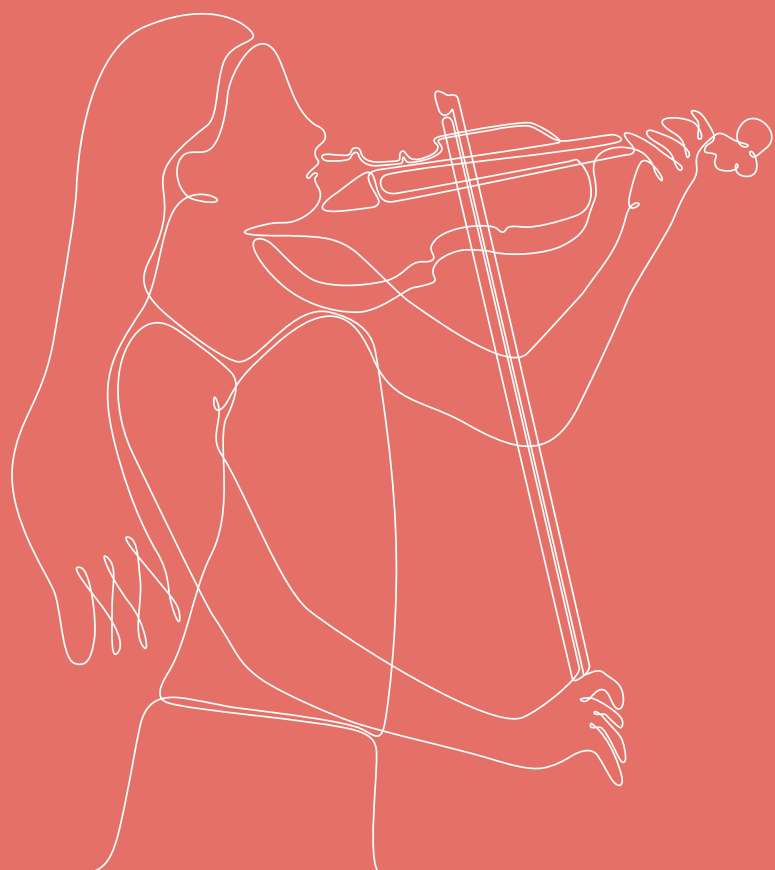
Viola - Lucie Carey

Cello 1 - Molly Welling

Cello 2 - Matthew Le Maistre

Timpani - Alexander Henshaw

Other percussion - Stepehn Plummer



Congregational Hymns

Lord Jesus Think on Me

1 Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from earth-born passions set me free,
and make me pure within.

2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point Thou the heav'nly way.

3 Lord Jesus, think on me,
When flows the tempest high:
When on doth rush the enemy
O Saviour, be thou nigh

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

1 Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,
Who bids't the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

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

3 O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
Upon the choas dark and rude,
Who bidst their 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

1 The spacious firmament on high,
with all the blue ethereal sky,
and spangled heavens, a shining frame,
their great Original proclaim.

The unwearied sun from day to day
does his Creator's power display,
and publishes to every land
the work of an almighty hand.

2 Soon as the evening shades prevail
the moon takes up the wondrous tale,
and nightly to the listening earth
repeats the story of her birth;
whilst all the stars that round her burn,
and all the planets in their turn,
confirm the tidings, as they roll,
and spread the truth from pole to pole.

3 What though in solemn silence all
move round the dark terrestrial ball;
what though nor real voice nor sound
amid their radiant orbs be found;
in reason's ear they all rejoice,
and utter forth a glorious voice,
for ever singing as they shine,
'The hand that made us is divine.'
AMEN!

THANKYOU

TO...



St. Thomas CE Academy

Benson Community School

St. Margaret's Church of England Primary School

St. James C of E Primary School

Grestone Academy

and all their wonderful teachers and amazing support staff for their continued support and help leading up to the project.

Royal Birmingham Conservatoire

Handsworth St Mary's stewards and support team

Handsworth St Mary's Choristers

Handsworth St Mary's wardens and PCC

The Handsworth St Mary's catering team