

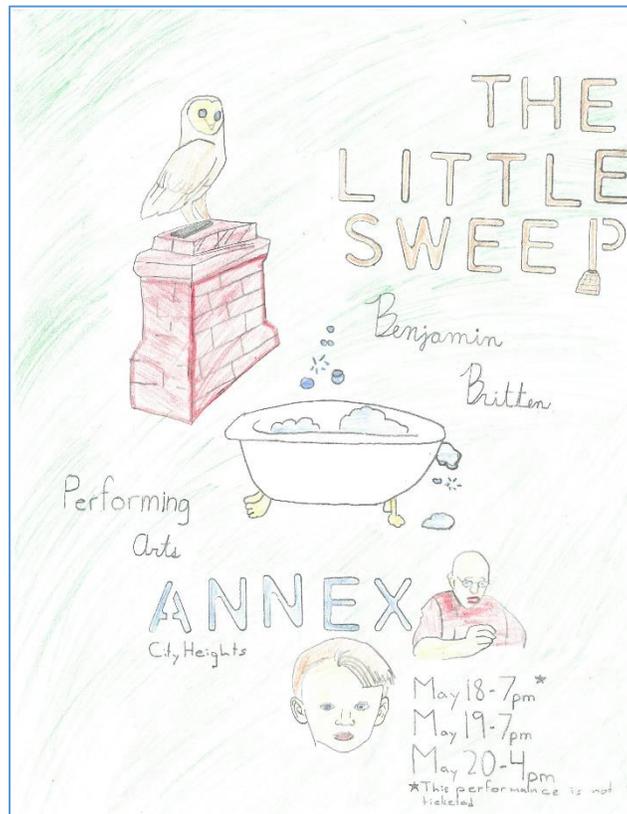


# BODHI TREE CONCERTS

Performing random acts of kindness

**THE LITTLE SWEEP** Music by Benjamin Britten, Libretto by Eric Crozier

## STUDY GUIDE



Drawing by Cast Member, Michael Kozma

**Bodhi Tree Concerts** with the La Jolla Country Day Orchestra led by Joan Diener and singers from Warren Walker and Language Academy Schools conducted by Michael Morgan

**\*Performances:**

Friday, May 18, 7pm FREE performance for the City Heights Community

Saturday, May 19, 7pm

Sunday, May 20, 4pm

**\*FREE: Arts activities for the family 1 hour before each performance!**

**VENUE: City Heights Performance Annex: 3795 Fairmount Blvd., SD**  
**[www.bodhitreeconcerts.org](http://www.bodhitreeconcerts.org)**

# Table of Contents

## About the Composer: Benjamin Britten

### About *The Little Sweep*

Cast of Characters

Synopsis

## About Bodhi Tree Concerts

### Biographies

Michael Morgan (Conductor & Choral Director)

Joan Diener (Orchestral Director)

Shirley Johnston (Stage Director)

## About the Orchestra

### Before, During & After the Performance

Read & Research

Audience Etiquette

Remember & Retell

## Questions to think about

### Glossary of Terms

Highlighted terms throughout this packet plus many more are defined.

## Meet the Composer: BENJAMIN BRITTEN



Benjamin Britten was an English composer, conductor and pianist, considered to be one of the greatest composers of the 20th century. He was a child prodigy—learning to play the piano at the age of two and composing his first piece at five—and grew up to be the central figure of the British classical music of his time. Although he attended the Royal College of Music, it was his private study with composer Frank Bridge that influenced him more. He first came to the public attention at the age of twenty with the a cappella choral work, titled, ‘A Boy was Born’ and leapt to international fame within a short period with ‘Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge.’ He was a prolific composer and his large body of works included opera, other vocal music, orchestral and chamber pieces. Over the years, he received a number of awards and honors. He was also the first musician to receive life peerage and become Baron Britten. Today he is best remembered for works like ‘Peter Grimes’, and ‘The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra’, and ‘The War Requiem.’ Benjamin Britten was dedicated to arts education throughout his career and we present THE LITTLE SWEEP to honor him and remember how important the arts are to us all!

Britten loved audience participation, because for him the function of his music was to bring communities together – *The Little Sweep* was the best possible vehicle to do that.

*The Little Sweep* addresses the terrible history of child labor in England, but in this story, he puts the theme of lost innocence into reverse and the children win the day!

This story of children from very different worlds and **social classes** learning empathy, understanding and showing kindness, has a great deal to teach our world today and is the basis from which the mission of Bodhi Tre Concerts was created.

# Cast of Characters & Synopsis

## CHARACTERS

- **Black Bob:** A brutal sweep-master. Played by: Michael Sokol
- **Clem:** his son and assistant. Played by: Derek Legg
- **Sam:** their new sweep boy. Played by: Michael Kozma
- **Miss Baggott:** the housekeeper at Iken Hall. Played by: Martha Howe
- **Juliet Brook:** lives at Iken Hall, age 14. Played by Kelsey Kammeraad
- **Gay Brook:** lives at Iken Hall, age 13. Played by Sebastian Valenzuela
- **Sophie Brook,** lives at Iken Hall, age 10. Played by Cady Johnson
- **Rowan:** nursery-maid to the Woodbridge Cousins. Played by Eden Tremayne
- **Jonny Crome:** cousin to Iken children, age 15. Played by Benjamin Rodriguez
- **Hughie Crome:** cousin to Iken children, age 8. Played by Dylan DuMelle
- **Tina Crome:** cousin to Iken children, age 8. Played by Kieran Collins
- **Tom,** the coachman. Played by Michael Sokol
- **Alfred,** the gardener. Played by Derek Legg
- **Chorus:** Aidan Betschart, Sofie Williamson, Ruby Gray, Kaya Osgard-Moore, Aoife Goodman, Saoirse Goodman, Isabella Valenzuela, Gwen Spring & Gia Sawaya,
- **Audience:** That's You and you have a part to sing!

## SYNOPSIS

The housekeeper Miss Baggott shows the sweep-master Black Bob, his assistant Clem and the new sweep-boy Sam where they must start. Black Bob and Clem send the tearful Sam up the chimney and leave him to it. But he gets stuck, and his cries are heard by the children of the house, Juliet, Gay and Sophie Brook, and their visiting cousins, John, Hughie and Tina Crome. Having rescued the filthy little boy from the chimney, they decide to rescue him from the sweeping altogether. First, they make it look as if Sam has run off, then they hide him from Miss Baggott and the returning sweeps. Afterwards, when the coast is clear, they let the Crome's kind-hearted nursery-maid Rowan into their secret, and together they wash, feed and clothe Sam and plot how to get him back home. The next morning Rowan and the children hide Sam in a trunk they are taking with them and smuggle him out of the house.

## TO THINK ABOUT...

You will notice that in the **libretto**, Eric Crozier uses terms “black” and “white” in ways that might seem surprising to our modern ears. Mr. Crozier is not speaking of race, per se, but rather of **social class** and making the distinction between the privileged children who do not have to work (white/clean) and the under-privileged and sold into labor children (black/dirty with chimney soot).

Did you know that Benjamin Britten lived in America just before writing The Little Sweep? Do you think his time in America influenced his writing?

## What is happening in America during Benjamin Britten's residence, 1939-1942

**THOUGHT:** Sam, the child sweeper in THE LITTLE SWEEP was basically a slave – sold into labor by his parents. Benjamin Britten spent some time in America in between the years 1939 – 1942. Perhaps this time in America and witnessing how terribly Blacks were treated in many places inspired this story and the language used?

Although African Americans were starting to make strides towards full civil rights, **The Civil Rights Movement** did not begin for a full decade later! **Jim Crow Law** was still enforced. In U.S. history, Jim Crow Laws enforced **racial segregation** in the South between the end of **Reconstruction** in 1877 and the beginning of the **Civil Rights Movement** in the 1950s.

The United States enters **World War II** following the attack on **Pearl Harbor**. The desperate need for factory labor needed to win World War II leads to an unprecedented migration of African Americans from the South to the North and West. This migration transforms American politics as Blacks increasingly vote in their new homes and put pressure on Congress to protect civil rights throughout the nation. Their **activism** lays much of the foundation for the national Civil Rights Movement a decade later.



An example of racism and segregation while Jim Crow Laws were enforced



Peaceful marching for basic civil rights

## Story Background



These boys probably all worked for the master chimney sweep in the upper left corner.

Sam the Sweep Boy is sold as an apprentice. **Apprenticeships** could be honorable agreements, but too many apprentice chimney sweeps were treated as slaves. Apprenticeships, which allowed children to be trained in a trade, and allowed businesses to have cheap labor, were informally practiced throughout history.

In Britain and other countries in Europe, legal apprenticeship agreements were being signed by the 15th century, and legal agreements for apprenticeship are still being used today in some places.

On the whole, apprenticeships have been very useful when both parties are working together. However, certain trades and certain periods in history have lent themselves to severe abuse of apprenticed children.

For apprentice chimney sweeps, the worst abuses occurred in England immediately before and during the **Industrial Revolution**, and during the **Victorian Era**, when thousands of people came to the cities seeking work. Many of them found either no work or work with wages guaranteed to keep them in poverty for the rest of their lives.

In England in the late 16th century, the problems caused by great numbers of unemployed and under-paid workers in the cities became severe. Justices were given authority over the children of poor families and began to assign them to apprenticeships to provide them with work, food and shelter.

Abuses became much more common as the children of the poor became available through courts placing them in apprenticeships. For master chimney sweeps, these small, underfed children of powerless or absent parents were perfect for sending up chimneys. Thus, they were the apprentices chosen most often in this trade.

While other apprenticeships lasted a standard seven years, master chimney sweeps could sometimes obligate the children to an apprenticeship for several years more. As these apprenticeships were generally unsupervised once the papers were signed, the children were completely dependent on the good heart and generosity of their masters. This meant that many were basically sold into seven years or more of cruel slavery.

## About Bodhi Tree Concerts' *THE LITTLE SWEEP*

Bodhi Tree Concerts, a San Diego pioneer of arts organizations partnering with and donating to charities, now in its seventh year of philanthropy through the arts, will present the San Diego Premiere of composer, performer and arts educator, Benjamin Britten's *The Little Sweep*. The production will feature the youth orchestra from La Jolla Country Day School prepared by Joan Diener and young singers from the Warren Walker and Language Academy Schools, conducted by Michael Morgan.

### BIOGRAPHIES



#### **Michael Morgan – Conductor & Music Director**

Mr. Morgan is a well-known and respected performer, arranger, conductor, and educator. He holds a Degree in Music Education from Hampton (Institute) University in Virginia. Among his numerous credits are performances with the San Diego Symphony, San Diego Opera Company, The Honolulu Symphony, The La Jolla Symphony, The Grossmont Symphony Orchestra and many other local and national organizations. Mr. Morgan has been featured on some of the world's most prestigious stages. He has performed with Houston Grand Opera Company (*Porgy and Bess*, world tour) and the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers of Los Angeles, CA. A native of Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Morgan has called San Diego home since 1987 after serving as a Navy Supply Corps Officer. He is the Founder and Executive Director of the African American Music Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the Negro Spiritual.

He has served on the Board of Directors of the San Diego Master Chorale and The Spreckels Organ Society. He has been an adjudicator locally and nationally and has been a featured panelist/lecturer/presenter at the National Association of Negro Musicians Convention (NANM) and the National American Guild of Organists (AGO) Conventions. As an educator, he has been the instrumental music teacher at Francis Parker School in San Diego and is currently the instrumental and choral music teacher at Warren-Walker Middle School where all students are required to learn to play an instrument. He has served as the director of the San Diego Children's Choir Intermediate and Concert levels. He is the choir director at Christ Episcopal Church in Coronado, CA.



## **Joan Diener – Orchestral Preparation / Violin**

Joan Diener received her Bachelor of Music and Bachelor of Music Education Degrees from the Philadelphia College of the Performing Arts. She studied violin with Robert de Pasquale and chamber music with William de Pasquale, both principal violinists in the Philadelphia Orchestra. She taught violin at the Academy of Children's Music in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania from 1982-1987. She managed the Music Department office of the Pennsylvania Governor's School for the Arts during the summers of 1983-1988 at Bucknell University. In 1987, she moved to San Diego, to pursue a Master of the Arts Degree in violin pedagogy at SDSU under the tutelage of Dr. Theodore Brunson.

Ms. Diener started the string program at La Jolla Country Day School in 1990 and she is proud of an instrumental program that has demonstrated 26 years of success. She played with the San Diego Lyric Opera Orchestra for 15 years, and regularly performs music for special occasions. She was a board member of the Young Artists Symphony for 3 years. She coaches student chamber music ensembles, and has adjudicated Solo and Ensemble Festivals. Joan's second passion is dancing. Her favorite styles include Ballroom, Latin, West Coast Swing and Salsa. She has competed throughout the United States and won World Championship titles in couples dancing in 2005 and 2007.



## **Shirley Johnston – Stage Director**

Shirley Johnston (Director/Choreographer) is happy to be back in San Diego and working with her dear friends once again. She recently moved back from New York City where she worked as a Director, Choreographer and Production Stage Manager for Dicapo Opera Theatre and she recently made her San Diego Directorial debut with Point Loma Nazarine University's highly acclaimed production of "The Most Happy Fella." Currently she is the resident choreographer for the California Youth Conservatory. As a performer, some of Shirley's favorite roles include: the Fortune Teller in "Sideshow" (Vista's Broadway Theatre), Brenda in "Smokey Joe's Cafe," Dominique in "Lucky Stiff," Charlaine in "Ain't Misbehavin'" Moonlight Stage Productions, Bonnie in "Anything Goes," Charlotte in "A Little Night Music" Lyric Opera San Diego. She has choreographed such shows as: "Mame," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Cinderella," "The Music Man," "The Pirates of Penzance," "Amahl and the Night Visitors," all for Lyric Opera San Diego, "Sideshow," "13 the Musical," and "Annie," "Shrek," "The Secret Garden," "Little Shop of Horrors" for the California Youth Conservatory. Shirley would like to thank Bodhi Tree Concerts, the talented cast and crew for their hard work and dedication to this project, and her family for their love and support.

## About The Little Sweep Orchestra



**Violin** - a musical instrument that has four strings and that you usually hold against your shoulder under your chin and play with a bow and a member of the string family



**Viola** - a stringed musical instrument that is like a violin but slightly larger and lower in pitch and a member of the string family



**Cello** - a large musical instrument like a violin that is held between the player's knees while the player sits and a member of the string family



**Bass** - a very large musical instrument that is shaped like a violin also called a contrabass and a member of the string family.



**Piano** - a large musical instrument with a keyboard that you play by pressing black and white keys and that produces sound when small hammers inside the piano hit steel wires and a member of the percussion family



**Timpani:** a set of two or more kettledrums played by one performer in an orchestra or band



**Bass Drum:** a large drum having two heads and giving a booming sound of low indefinite pitch



**Gong:** a disk-shaped percussion instrument that produces a resounding tone when struck with a usually padded hammer



**Cymbals:** a disk-shaped percussion instrument that produces a resounding tone when struck with a usually padded hammer



**Triangle:** a percussion instrument consisting of a rod of steel bent into the form of a triangle open at one angle and sounded by striking with a small metal rod



**Castanets:** a percussion instrument used especially by dancers that consists of two small shells of hard wood, ivory, or plastic usually fastened to the thumb and clicked together by the other fingers —usually used in plural



**Woodblocks:** A wood block (also spelled as a single word, **woodblock**) is a small slit **drum** made from a single piece of wood and used as a **percussion** instrument. ... The orchestral wood-block instrument of the West is generally made from teak or another hardwood.

## Before, During & After THE LITTLE SWEEP Performance

### Before attending the Opera:

- What do you know about the story of *THE LITTLE SWEEP*?
- What do you think is the **moral** of the story?
- What do you think the show will be like?

### Audience Etiquette:

- Is it all right to laugh and cry? (YES!)
- Is it all right to applaud? (YES!) When?
- Is it all right to talk during the performance? (NO)
- Please be on time and be respectful of the beautiful venue Performance Annex at the City Heights Public Library.

### During the Opera – Look, Listen and Think!

- How does music help set the mood?
- How does lighting help set the mood?
- Can you understand the words the artists are singing?
- How are instruments used to represent different characters?

### After the Concert:

- Did you enjoy the opera? Why or why not?
- What did you like the best? Least?
- What is the moral of the story of *The Little Sweep*?
- What characters did you like the best/least and why?
- Go and see another opera or musical!
- Write down your thoughts or right a review and send them to Bodhi Tree Concerts: PO Box 1617, San Diego, CA 90038

# Glossary of Terms

**Activism:** An **activist** is a person who campaigns for some kind of social change. When you participate in a march protesting the closing of a neighborhood library, you're an **activist**. Someone who's actively involved in a protest or a political or social cause can be called an **activist**.

**Apprenticeship:** a person who is learning a trade or art by experience under a skilled worker. 2.

**Civil Rights Movement:** **Civil rights** protect you from being discriminated against by the government. **Civil rights** also work to provide equality for all people. This **means** that all citizens have equal opportunities for things like work, education and marriage no matter what. The **civil rights movement** was a mass popular **movement** to secure for African Americans equal access to and opportunities for the basic privileges and **rights** of U.S. citizenship. Although the roots of the **movement** go back to the 19th century, it peaked in the 1950s and 1960s.

**Empathy:** the feeling that you understand and share another person's experiences and emotions: the ability to share someone else's feelings.

**Industrial Revolution:** Period in American (and world) history in which society moved to a focus on machines, factories, and industry.

**Jim Crow Laws:** Before the Civil War, the Southern states had no reason to pass **laws** that would segregate, or separate, blacks and whites because slavery was still legal. ... By creating the **Jim Crow laws**, states were able to legalize **segregation** between blacks and whites

**Moral:** A message conveyed or a lesson to be learned from a **story** or event. The **moral** may be left to the hearer, reader or viewer to determine for themselves, or may be explicitly stated.

**Pearl Harbor:** The Attack on **Pearl Harbor** happened on December 7th, 1941. Japanese airplanes made a surprise attack on the US Navy in **Pearl Harbor**. They destroyed many ships and killed many soldiers. It was this attack that forced the United States to enter World War II.

**Racial Segregation:** Racial segregation in America involved the physical separation and provision of separate facilities and included other forms of racial discrimination, such as unfair treatment in relation to obtaining jobs and education, on the basis of prejudice. This article contain facts about black segregation history in the United States of America.

**Reconstruction:** the period after the Civil War in the United States when the southern states were reorganized and reintegrated into the Union;

**Social Class:** The term *social class* refers to a group of people within a society who possess roughly the same socioeconomic *status*. ... Sociologists generally view *social classes* as existing hierarchically, with those at the top enjoying certain advantages over the rest.

**Victorian Era:** The **Victorian era** was the **period** of Queen **Victoria**'s reign, from 20 June 1837 until her death on 22 January 1901. It was a long **period** of peace, prosperity, "refined sensibilities" and national self-confidence for the United Kingdom.

**World War II:** **World War II** was fought between the Axis Powers (Germany, Italy, Japan) and the Allied Powers (Britain, United States, Soviet Union, France). Most of the countries in the **world** were involved in some way. It was the deadliest **war** in all of human history with around 70 million people killed.

## Glossary of Opera Terms

**Aria:** an accompanied, elaborate melody sung (as in an opera) by a single voice

**Alto/Mezzo:** *meaning "half soprano"* is a type of classical female singing voice whose vocal range lies between the *soprano* and the *contralto* voice types.

**Baritone:** a male singing voice of medium compass between bass and **tenor**

**Bass:** the lowest adult male singing voice

**Chorus:** an organized company of singers who sing in concert **OR** a composition to be sung by a number of voices in concert

**Composer:** a person who writes music

**Conductor:** the leader of a musical ensemble – an orchestra conductor.

**Libretto:** the text (words) of a work (such as an opera) for the musical theater

**Opera:** A kind of performance in which actors sing all or most of the words of a play with music performed by an orchestra.

**Orchestra:** a group of musicians who play usually classical music together and who are led by a conductor

**Prop:** A **prop**, formally known as (**theatrical**) property, is an object used on **stage** or on screen by actors during a performance or screen production. In practical terms, a **prop** is considered to be anything movable or portable on a **stage** or a set, distinct from the actors, scenery, **costumes**, and electrical equipment.

**Soprano:** the highest singing voice of women or boys

**Recitative:** a rhythmically free vocal style that imitates the natural inflections of speech and that is used for dialogue and narrative in operas and oratorios; also, a passage to be delivered in this style

**Répétiteur:** A tutor or coach of ballet dancers or musicians, especially opera singers.

**Score:** A document showing all the notes of a piece of music

**Synopsis:** a condensed statement or outline of a story

**Tenor:** the highest natural adult male singing voice

## **For More Information:**

[www.bodhitreeconcerts.org](http://www.bodhitreeconcerts.org)

<https://owlcation.com/humanities/The-History-of-Children-at-Work-The-Poor-Life-of-An-Apprentice-Chimney-Sweep>

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Benjamin->

<https://goodmorningbritten.wordpress.com/2013/10/31/listening-to-britten-the-little-sweep-op-45/>

<http://www.sdopera.org/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vvhU22uAM>