

COLLOQUIA ARTIUM – Issue Nr.1 / 2025

Article: **BENJAMIN BRITTEN'S MUSIC FOR CHILDREN – FRIDAY AFTERNOONS – ARTISTIC RAFINEMENT AND PEDAGOGICAL ACCESSIBILITY / CREAȚIA PENTRU COPII A LUI BENJAMIN BRITTEN – FRIDAY AFTERNOONS – RAFINAMENT ARTISTIC ȘI ACESIBILITATE PEDAGOGICĂ**

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Language: English / Romanian

Subject(s): Music

Abstract: Benjamin Britten's Friday Afternoons (composed between 1933 and 1935) marks a pivotal moment in choral music pedagogy, standing out through its brilliant balance between artistic refinement and educational accessibility. Written for the pupils of Clive House School in Prestatyn, the composition consists of twelve choral songs with piano accompaniment, most of them originally in unison and later adapted for two voices. The texts—selected from Come Hither, an anthology compiled by Walter John de la Mare—are drawn from English literary poetry and folklore. Britten, one of the most significant composers of the 20th century, consistently advocated for the democratization of musical art, promoting classical music to broad audiences, especially children, without compromising aesthetic quality. His projects, such as the English Opera Group and the Aldeburgh Festival, played a key role in cultivating new audiences and reshaping the British musical landscape in the post-Purcellian era. Friday Afternoons is distinguished by its simplicity, stylistic clarity, and intentional use of compositional techniques that help beginners develop essential musical skills: intonation, rhythm, diction, and vocal expression. The song Cuckoo! perfectly exemplifies the fusion of musical playfulness with compositional discipline, offering children a rich and engaging artistic experience. The work reflects Britten's ideal that art must also educate, becoming an essential formative tool in shaping musical taste from an early age.

Keywords: Benjamin Britten, Friday Afternoons, Accessibility, Music Education, Choir