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FAMOUS BRITISH MUSICIANS

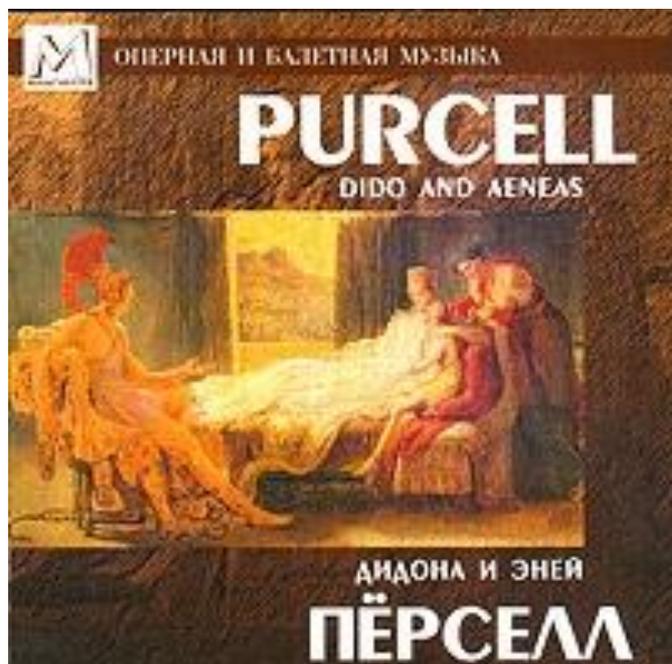
Henry Purcell

1659-1695



- **An English composer**
- **Opera “Dido and Aeneas” (1689)**
- **Music for theatrical performances**
- **Hymns**
- **Songs**
- **Musical compositions**

Dido and Aeneas



Edward Benjamin Britten

1913-1976



- an English composer, pianist, conductor;
- born, in Lowestoft, Suffolk, England;
- father - a dentist;
- the youngest of four children (a brother and two sisters)
- was educated locally;
- studied first piano and then viola from private teachers;
- began to compose in 1919;
- entered the Royal College of Music in London in 1930;
- won several prizes for his compositions;

Some facts about his life and career



- met tenor Peter Pears (1937);
- sailed for North America in 1939;
- operas:
 - “Peter Grimes” (1945)
 - “Albert Herring” (1947)
 - “A Midsummer Night’s dream” (1960)
 - “Billy Budd” (1951)
 - “The Turn of the Screw”(1954)
 - “Death in Venice” (1973);
- the War Requiem (1961);

- **founded the English Opera Group in 1947;**
- **founded the Aldeburgh Festival in 1948;**
- **developed close friendship with D.Shostakovich and M. Rostropovich in the 1960s;**
- **awarded the Order of Merit in 1965;**
- **created a Life Peer in 1976;**
- **buried in the churchyard of the Aldeburgh Parish Church.**

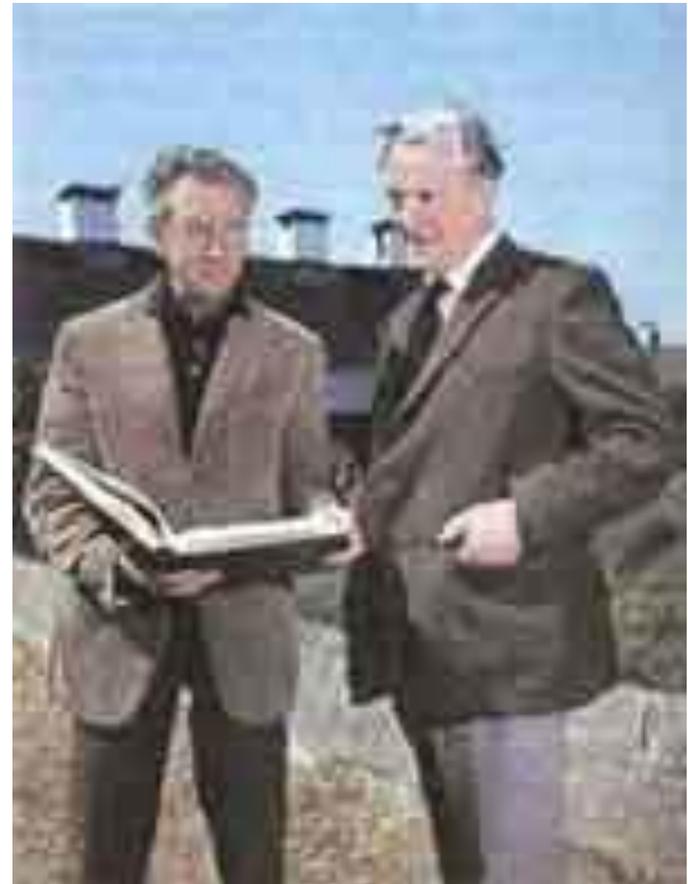
Peter Pears

1910 - 1968



- an English singer;
- began to develop his singing and acting talents during his school days at Lancing College;
- began his professional career with the BBC Singers in 1934;
- met the composer Benjamin Britten in 1937;
- shared three years in America (1939 – 1942) with B. Britten;
- developed his career as a soloist, making his operatic debut in *The Tales of Hoffman*;
- created the title role in Britten's *Peter Grimes* in 1945.

B. Britten and P. Pears





Scenes from his operas



The Aldeburgh Festival



- It was founded in 1948 by B. Britten, P. Pears and E. Crozier.
- The original intention was to provide a home for their opera company, the English Opera Group.
- Soon literature, drama, lectures and art exhibitions were included.