



Noye's Fludde

a community church opera
by Benjamin Britten

First Baptist Church, Greenwood, SC
March 13 and 14, 2025 at 6:00pm

*This production is presented with the most generous financial support
of the First Baptist Church Foundation, Greenwood, SC.*

*This production is presented in cooperation with the
Britten-Pears Foundation in Aldeburgh, England.
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*This production is presented with the gracious cooperation of
FBN Productions, Inc., based in Columbia, SC.*

*The use of photography or recording equipment
of any kind is strictly prohibited.*

*To the many parents and volunteers, area churches, schools, organizations
that have made this special community event possible,
Thank you!*

*An offering will be collected in the narthex following each performance.
Please consider contributing to this offering, which will help defray
some of the costs of the production.
Thank you!*

Noye's Fludde

a community church opera

by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

based on a 15th-century Chester "miracle" play,

recounting the Biblical story of Noah and the Ark in the Book of Genesis

Cast

Voice of God	Stacey Robinson
Noye	Kyle Pfortmiller
Noye's Wife	Kirstin Chávez
Sem	Sam Smith
Ham	Benjamin Bagwell
Jaffett	Austin Means
Mrs. Sem	Lily Martin
Mrs. Ham	Julia Werner
Mrs. Jaffett	Mary Ashlynn Lawson
Noye's Wife's "Gossips"	Kayla Claire Claire Hudson Andrea Sheppard Katie Whatley
Raven	Cady Weaver
Dove	Keelyn Hewitt
Stage Hands	Summers Hall Reed, Duke Reed, Sophie Fancher, Shawn Janes

Chorus of Animals and Birds

Group 1: Erin Burdette, Rudy MacKenzie Dunlap, Cady Weaver, Cali Weaver,
James White

Group 2: Rudy Barnett, Elijah Hudson, Oliver Hudson, Anna Bess Turner

Group 3: Kinlee Beard, Amelia English, Molly Hammett, Keelyn Hewitt,
Linda Logan

Group 4: Elsie Baggett, Evelyn English, Lily Flinn, Philip Logan

Group 5: Melanie Cobb, Curtis Ball, Emma Stevenson, Kate Stevenson,
Cole Weaver

Group 6: Kat Martin, Thayer Reed, Cooper Ann White

Director	Ellen Douglas Schlaefer
Conductor	Keith Jameson
Assistant Director	Madison Supino
Stage Manager	Riley James
Rehearsal Pianists	Beverly Psomas, Keith Jameson
Set Designer and Properties	Corey Langley (Trustus Theater), Keith Jameson, Ellen D. Schlaefer, Ryan Hewitt (Greenwood Community Theatre)
Animal Headdresses	Carole and Gene Russell Timothy and Lynn Galusha
Costumes Support	Carole Russell, Nan Smith, Betsy MacDougal, Jeanne Hughston
Painting and Set Pieces	Ann Drummond, Beverly Psomas, Rilee James, Tita James, Summers Hall Reed, Keith Jameson
Additional Set Pieces	FBN Productions, Inc., Ellen D. Schlaefer, director
Sound and Microphones	Mac Kirkpatrick, FBC Sound Team
Archive Recording	Russell Martin, Bekah Easler
Orchestral Support	Amy Blackwood, Reed Gallo, Lander University Music Department
Photography	Bekah Easler, Tita James
Advertising Assistance	St. Claire Donaghy, <i>The Index Journal</i>
Children's Support	Lauren Baggett, Jennifer Hudson, Lane Riley, Kayla Beard, Haley English, Catherine White, Beverly Psomas
Reception	Congregational Life Committee, Ann Scott Snead, Dennis Moore, Worship Committee, Tara Stoddard, Robby Stevenson, and many volunteers
Additional Support	John Uldrick, Anna Burch, David Jennings, Mary Frances Thompson, Linda Miller, Claudia Burch, Tom Gordon, FBC Foundation

Orchestra

Solo String Quintet

Catherine Hazan	Violin 1	Matthew Miller	Organ
Krystal Rosenbusch	Violin 2	Rodney Cleveland	Piano
Rebekah Logan	Viola	Will Thomas Cleveland	Piano
Richard Thomas	Cello		
Rich Ritter	Double-Bass	Cody Beard	Trumpet

Reed Gallo
Trumpet

Ripieno Strings

Allison McGrath
Trumpet

Noa Miller
Trumpet

Timpani

Percussion

“Slung Mugs”

Percussion

Double Bass

Beth Hardage
Handbells

Leah Wilson
Recorder Solo
Steve Skinner
Handbells

Leah Burdette
Recorder
Linda Koone
Handbells

Anne Rolls
Recorder
Stephanie Turner
Handbells

Richard Rolls
Baroque flute
Leisa Hotchkiss
Handbells

“Lord, Jesus Think on Me”

Copyright 1958, Britten-Pears Foundation

$\text{♩} = 66$

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/2. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 66. The score consists of three systems of music. The first system has four measures of music, each with a lyric line underneath. The second system starts at measure 4 and contains three measures of music with lyrics underneath. The third system starts at measure 7 and contains four measures of music with lyrics underneath. The music is simple, using quarter and half notes. There are some changes in time signature, including a 3/2 measure in the second system and a 2/2 measure in the third system.

Lord Je - sus, think on me, And purge a - way my
Lord Je - sus, think on me, Nor let me go a -
Lord Je - sus, think on me, When flows the tem - pest
Lord Je - sus, think on me, That, when the flood is

4
sin; From earth-born pas - sions set me free, And
stray; Through dark - ness and per - ple - xi - ty Point
high; When on doth rush the e - ne - my O
past, I may e - ter - nal bright-ness see, And

7
make me pure with - in.
thou the heaven - ly way.
Sa - viour, be thou nigh.
share thy joy at last.

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”

Copyright 1958, Britten-Pears Foundation

♩ = 80



E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm doth bind the
Congregation joins O Sa - viour, whose al - migh - ty word The winds and waves sub -
Congregation joins O Ho - ly Spi - rit, who did brood Up - on the wa - ters

4



rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the migh - ty o - cean deep Its own ap - point - ed
miss - ive heard, Who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, And calm a - mid the
dark and rude, And bid their an - gry tu - mult cease, And give for wild con -

8



li - mits keep: O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in pe - ril on the sea.
rage did sleep: O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in pe - ril on the sea.
fu - sion peace, O hear us when we cry to Thee For those in pe - ril on the sea.

“The Spacious Firmament on High” (“Tallis’ Canon”)

♩ = 80

Thomas Tallis, arr. Benjamin Britten



1. The spa - cious firm - a - ment on high With all the blue e -
2. Th'un - wea - ried sun from day to day Doth his Cre - a - tor's
3. Soon as the eve - ning shades pre - vail The Moon takes up the
4. Whilst all the stars that round her burn, And all the plan - ets
- Congregation joins* 5. What though in sol - emn si - lence all Move round the dark ter -
- Congregation joins* 6. In rea - son's ear they all re - joice, And ut - ter forth a



ther - eal sky And spang - led heavens, a shin - ing frame, Their
 power dis - play, And pub - lish - es to eve - ry land The
 won - drous tale, And night - ly to the listen - ing earth Re -
 in their turn Con - firm the tid - ings as they roll, And
 rest - rial ball, What though nor re - al voice nor sound A -
 glo - rious voice, For - ev - er sing - ing as they shine, 'The



great o - ri - gi - nal pro - claim.
 works of an al - migh - ty hand.
 peats the sto - ry of her birth.
 spread the truth from pole to pole.
 mid their rad - iant orbs be found.
 hand that made us is Di - vine! A - men!

Conductor's Note

I have a deep affinity for the works of the English composer Benjamin Britten. At The Santa Fe Opera in 2006, I had the privilege of singing Bob Boles in Britten's *Peter Grimes*, one of his early operas. Since that first experience with singing in a Britten opera, I have been extremely fortunate to sing the Novice in four productions of *Billy Budd*, with one of my favorite productions being at the Metropolitan Opera; in addition to singing roles in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Chicago, Spain and Palermo, Italy), *The Turn of the Screw* (Belgium), *Albert Herring* (Santa Fe), and the title role in the oratorio *Saint Nicholas* with the Greenville Chorale, in Greenville, SC.

When I founded the Greenwood Music Festival (2007-2012), I had hoped to mount a production of *Noye's Fludde*, Britten's community church opera, at First Baptist Church Greenwood during our proposed sixth season in 2013. However, the funds to produce it were simply beyond what we could afford at the time. I believed in the work, the spirit of community within the piece, and the beautiful message of God's promise and love to all of us. I knew I wanted to someday bring this work to Greenwood, but that time would have to wait.

With the most generous financial support of the First Baptist Church Foundation, *Noye's Fludde* is finally being presented in Greenwood. With a wonderful cast including Metropolitan Opera singers Kyle Pfortmiller and Kirstin Chávez, and Greenwood native and Broadway star Stacey Robinson, plus local children and youth singing the roles of animals, local youth, Lander University and University of South Carolina students singing the roles of Noye's family, and a large orchestra of local and area musicians, this amazing work will come to life. Sets and costumes were all pulled together and created by many volunteers, with additional set pieces from Corey Langley at Trustus Theater in Columbia, and FBN Productions, Inc. also based in Columbia and directed by Ellen D. Schlaefer. My enormous thanks to so many people behind the scenes.

I am immensely grateful to the FBC Foundation for their financial support. I am thankful for Ellen Douglas Schlaefer, whom I have known since my first summer in Santa Fe in 1998, for being here to direct; and I'm so grateful for Kyle, Kirstin, and Stacey who agreed to be a part of this special event. My heartfelt thanks to the Greenwood community of children, youth, the Lander University students and faculty, and the local and area musicians who have all agreed to participate. This is, in Britten's own words, a "community" opera - performed by and for the larger community. The collaboration of so many Greenwood and area musicians and volunteers is a testament to the strong sense of community in our corner of the world, and to the thriving arts in our wonderful community of Greenwood.

Within the work, Britten incorporates three hymn tunes, to be sung by the audience or congregation, a further nod to everyone in the community participating in the performance. Britten insisted that *Noye's Fludde* be performed in a church, rather than a concert hall. I am delighted we can present it in this beautiful sanctuary of First Baptist Church. I am thrilled you are here to participate, sing, watch, laugh, and take part in the beauty and message of *Noye's Fludde*. I hope you enjoy and are moved by these performances.

Within the opera comes this transcendent moment, one of Noye's most beautiful phrases:

*Ah, Lord, blessed be Thou aye, That me hast comfort thus today;
My sweete dove to me brought has A branch of olive from some place.
It is a sign of peace. Ah Lord, honoured must Thou be, All earth dryës now, I see.*

Thank you for coming to experience this special event in our community,

Keith Jameson

Meet Our Guest Artists

Kyle Pfortmiller, baritone (Noye)

Kyle Pfortmiller has been heard at the Metropolitan Opera as Marquis d'Obigny in Verdi's *La traviata* as well in *Andre Chenier*, *Faust*, *La fanciulla del West.*, *The Magic Flute*, and as Brian's father in the New York Premiere of Nico Muhly's *Two Boys*. One of Kyle's most recent and notable roles is a reprise of the role of Mr. XE in the Pulitzer Prize-winning opera, *Angel's Bone*, by composer Du Yun and librettist Royce Vavrek with the Beijing Festival and the Hong Kong New Arts Festival. He has employed his unique talents in opera, operetta, and musical theatre, from the contemporary to the classic. His repertoire includes the title roles in *Don Giovanni Il barbiere di Siviglia*, and *Rigoletto* as well as *Valentin (Faust)*, *Count Almaviva (Le nozze di Figaro)*, *Count di Luna (Il Trovatore)*, *Count Carl Billy Bigelow (Carousel)*, *Haj, the Poet (Kismet)* and *Henry Higgins (My Fair Lady)*. Kyle made his television debut in 2021 in an episode of "Food That Built America" and can be seen in a starring role this year in an episode about Pop Tarts. He was born in Elgin, Illinois, and currently resides in New York City with his wife. Kyle has the distinction of being the one actor in NYC who has not appeared in *Law and Order*.

Kirstin Chávez, mezzo soprano (Noye's Wife)

Kirstin Chávez has enjoyed a successful career as an opera singer performing around the world with opera companies, symphony orchestras, and in recital and concert over the last 25 years. In 2016, she joined the School of Music at the University of Utah as Artist in Residence, and now helps aspiring students of singing of all levels learn the intricacies of a performance career. Kirstin's signature role of Carmen from the opera by Georges Bizet inspired her to create *Carmen Inside Out*, a one-woman stage adaptation of the opera told through singing, dance, and monologues entirely from Carmen's point of view, and shedding new light on the inner workings of this iconic character. Kirstin continues to perform internationally, and has recently started a non-profit arts organization, CIO Partners, which creates artistic opportunities for performers in every field, and advances the power and presence of arts in the Community. (www.kchavez.com)

Stacey Robinson, bass-baritone (Voice of God)

Baritone, Stacey Robinson a South Carolina native, is from a musical family where he grew up singing in the Baptist Church. His Grandmother, Isabel Robinson encouraged him to keep singing. After high school he was awarded a vocal scholarship to the University of South Carolina where at age 17 his singing of "Old Man River" won him a spot on the college's tour of Korea. He later transferred to Morehouse College where he was a soloist with the famed Morehouse Glee Club. He was then awarded a full scholarship to The Juilliard School. After graduating, his professional career began in London, England where he starred as "Husky Miller" at the historic Old Vic Theater in Carmen Jones. He made his Broadway debut in Phantom of the Opera unaware that he had broken a color barrier being the first "visibly black" member of the ensemble. His credits include leading roles in Showboat, Jesus Christ Superstar, Big River, La Cage Aux Folles, Children of Eden and most recently Elton John/Tim Rice' Aida. In opera, and oratorio his work includes the Requiem's of Mozart, Verdi, and Faure. Roles in Rigoletto, Carmen, Cosi Fan Tutte, Le Nozze Di Figaro, La Boheme, Amahl and the Night Visitors, and Porgy and Bess where he received critical acclaim as "Crown" winning the Los Angeles NAACP Theater Award. He was later hired by Ossie Davis to play the role of Paul Robeson/All American. NY Times Critic wrote "Stacey Robinson's strong presence, and rich baritone voice evokes the spirit of Paul Robeson" He continues to sing, act, and do voice over work. His versatility has kept him in "the business." He is represented by Nani/ Saperstein Artist Management. He has been a member of Riverside Church since 2004. He volunteers with Membership Care and Parish Life, and is the Convener of Marantha. In his activism and spiritual life his mantra is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me"



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