

Notion abordée : Mythes et héros

Interviews with John Dawkins and Dr. Nicholas Clark by Shelly De Vito

British and US Voices

Benjamin Britten, a British Hero

Shelly: Benjamin Britten, one of England's greatest composers. To talk about this great man from England, John Dawkins, the artistic director of several music ensembles here in Paris.

John Dawkins: Britten was very influenced by the certain amount of the folk tradition. He's a composer that wrote a lot of music with children in mind. He liked working with children ensembles, and liked the sound of children's voices when they're singing, so he uses them quite a lot and there's a lot of music written for children, and also for amateur musicians. He didn't just write thinking of professional choirs and professional orchestras; he wrote a lot of music for amateur choirs or amateur orchestras that he knew.

Shelly: Dr. Nicholas Clark, librarian at the Britten-Pears Foundation, where we feature and learn about the work of Benjamin Britten, can you explain why Benjamin Britten is one of England's 20th century heroes?

Dr. Clark: He was interested in composing music for everyone. He wrote for amateurs as well, and he wrote a tremendous amount of music especially for young people. In fact in 1958 he composed an opera really specifically for the community. Really, what Britten wanted to do was to actually make sure that anyone who was interested in performing or taking part, in one way or another, could have the opportunity to do so.