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Operatic celebrations for Britten Centenary in South Creake



South Creake is attracting a range of magical talent from across the globe in preparation for next week's Benjamin Britten Centenary celebrations.

The event has been organised by The Yorke Trust and will see East Anglia's most famous musician's well-known opera, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, performed in St Mary's Church.

Benjamin Britten was born in Lowestoft in 1913, he grew up in Norfolk and went to Gresham's School before moving on to study at the Royal College of Music in London.

The Britten Centenary Seminar is the culmination of The Yorke Trust's Summer Opera Course, which has been attended by singers and musicians from all over the world.

Children from Gresham's School, where Britten himself went to school, and the Trust's Piped Piper! project will also be taking part.

The performances will be conducted by Darren Hargan and Adam Johnson, while the opera will be directed by Norfolk resident, Jennifer Hamilton.

During the week, The Trust will be running a Britten Seminar with concerts, classes and talks, including John Copley and Nona Liddell in conversation with Rodney Slatford on Friday.

On Sunday, there will be a showing of some archive GPO films for which Britten wrote the music in the late 1930s in the Lloyd Memorial Hall, North Creake.

In The Granary, at Wells, between July 25-28, SeaStar Opera will present Britten's *A Turn of the Screw*, an opera based on Henry James' late 19th century ghost story, which will make a gripping evening.

There will be up to 20 sessions taking place across South Creake and Wells from Wednesday, July 24, to Sunday, July 28. These include pre-performance picnics which must be booked beforehand.

For full details of the Centenary Celebrations and to book tickets, go to www.yorketrust.org or call 01328 823501.



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