

# Peter Grimes

Music by **Benjamin Britten**

Words by **Montagu Slater**

**Performance Saturday, July 6 at 8:15 p.m.**

Chautauqua Opera dedicates this great British opera to the memory of Flora Mackenzie (1930–2013), wife of Reverend Ross Mackenzie, former Director of Religion at Chautauqua. Her generosity of spirit and her humor graced the Hall of Missions for more than ten years.

## Opera in Two Parts and a Prologue

Derived from the poem "The Borough" of George Crabbe

**Premiere Performance** Sadler's Wells, London, June 7, 1945

**U.S. Premier Performance** Berkshire Festival, Tanglewood, June 30, 1946

**Chautauqua Opera Premiere** July 6, 2013 at 8:15 p.m.

## CAST

**Peter Grimes**, a fisherman

Kevin Ray\*\*

**Ellen Orford**, a widow, schoolmistress of The Borough

Elizabeth Baldwin\*

**Captain Balstrode**, a retired merchant skipper

David Kravitz\*\*

**Mr. Swallow**, lawyer, coroner and mayor of The Borough

Philip Cokorinos

**Mrs. (Nabob) Sedley**, a rentier widow

of an East India Company's factor

Cindy Sadler\*\*

**John**, Grimes's new apprentice

Beck Benson\*\*

**Auntie**, landlady of "The Boar"

Rachelle Pike+

**Auntie's "Nieces,"** main attractions of the "The Boar"

Cree Carrico+, Kristin Schwecke+

**Bob Boles**, fisherman and converted Methodist

Jon Jurgens+

**Reverend Horace Adams**, the rector

Brett Sprague+

**Ned Keene**, apothecary and quack

Ted Federle+

**Jim Hobson**, a carter and town constable

Jonathan Harris+

### Town Burgesses

Todd Barnhill+, Adam Barta+, Ivan Conrad+,

Michael Hewitt+, John Riesen+

### Townspeople and Fisherfolk

Chautauqua Opera Young Artists and

Amanda Bottoms, Amanda Conte, Casey Gray,

Arthur Lewis++

### Village Children

Lars Benson\*\*, Jeremy Bohn\*\*, Hannah Doughty\*\*,

Shannon Mckee\*\*, Alexandra Mckee\*\*

### and Dr. Crabbe

Michael Berg\*\*

\* Former Chautauqua Opera Young Artist

\*\* Chautauqua Opera Debut

+ Chautauqua Opera Young Artist

++ Voice Majors — SUNY Fredonia School of Music

## CREATIVE AND PRODUCTION

### Conductor

Steven Osgood

### Conceived/Directed by

Jay Lesenger

### Chorus Master

Carol Rausch

### Set Designer

Ron Kadri

### Lighting/Video Designer

Michael Baumgarten

### Costume Designer

B. G. Fitzgerald

### Wig/Makeup Designer

Georgianna Eberhard

### Coach/Accompanists

Jameson Livsey  
Miriam Charney

### Diction Coach/ Supertitles

Allison Voth

### Technical Director

Erin Waters Ryan

### Properties Master/ Scenic Artist

Tricia L. Thelen

### Production Stage Manager

Teri Jo Fuson

### Assistant Stage Director

Alison Moritz

### Assistant Stage Managers

Kerry Concannon  
Susan Stephenson

### Concertmaster

Vahn Armstrong

### Special Thanks

**Jared Jacobsen**, Organist, Department of Religion  
**Keith Schmitt** and the **Amphitheater Crew**

## CREDITS

Peter Grimes is performed by arrangement with Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., Publisher and Copyright Owner

Scenery Constructed By Local #266 I.A.T.S.E.

Costumes Provided By Malabar Ltd., Toronto  
and the Chautauqua Opera Costume Shop

Wigs provided by Philip Plowman

Lighting provided by Advanced Production Group

Wig/Makeup Assistant Designer Philip Plowman

Wig/Makeup Assistant Sydney Robinson



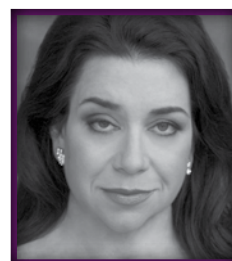
Kevin Ray



Elizabeth Baldwin



David Kravitz



Cindy Sadler



Philip Cokorinos

# SYNOPSIS

**Place:** The Borough, a small fishing village in Suffolk on the East Coast of England  
**Time:** Towards 1830

*The fisherman Peter Grimes keeps himself apart. The Borough is suspicious of his reclusiveness and his daring success as a fisherman. His only friends are the widowed schoolteacher, Ellen Orford, and the retired Captain Balstrode.*

*A few weeks before, while out fishing, Grimes and his young apprentice were stranded for three days at sea by a storm. The young boy perished from exposure. The Borough is leery of Grime's story and an inquest is convened.*

---

## Part I

Prologue - A Room in the Moot Hall, early Spring

The inquest is presided over by the Lawyer Swallow, Mayor and Coroner of the Borough. Since there is no evidence of foul play, Grimes is acquitted, but the cynical community remains suspicious. Grimes is advised not to use a young apprentice in the future, though he protests he cannot manage his boat by himself. As the room empties, Peter fears that his name has not been cleared and that the case will go on in people's minds. Ellen tries to comfort him.

## Interlude I – Dawn

### Scene 1

The Borough Beach and Street, a few days later

The Borough wakes up to a new day. Auntie and her "nieces" open her establishment, "The Boar," for the day. Boles, a converted Methodist, rails against the ways of sin. Captain Balstrode spots an approaching storm. The Rector of the parish church greets his flock.

When Peter approaches the beach, most of the villagers refuse to help him haul his boat ashore. Only Balstrode and Keene offer assistance. Keene has found another workhouse boy to be Grimes' new apprentice, but Hobson, the carter, refuses to pick him up. Only when Ellen offers to look after the boy on the trip back does he agree to deliver the boy to Grimes.

Mrs. Sedley, wealthiest woman in town, amateur sleuth and inveterate gossip, accosts the apothecary (and quack doctor) Ned Keene for a resupply of her laudanum, ostensibly for her heart condition. She reluctantly agrees to meet him at "The Boar" that night to get her pills. As the Spring storm approaches, threatening the village, Captain Balstrode councils Grimes to move away from the Borough and the mistrust of his neighbors. As the storm rages, Grimes vows to succeed, marry Ellen, and quell the villagers' suspicions.

## Interlude II – Storm

### SCENE 2

Inside "The Boar", the same night

At the height of the storm, Mrs. Sedley enters "The Boar," much to the dismay of Auntie and her clientele. In his cups, Boles chases after her "nieces." Ned Keene arrives with the news that the cliff near Grimes's hut has washed away. Grimes bursts in, distracted by the power of nature. Boles vilifies Grimes and an uproar ensues. Hobson returns with Ellen and John, the new apprentice. Grimes takes the boy and rushes out into the storm.

## Interlude III – Sunday Morning

### Scene 3

The Borough Beach and Street, some few weeks later

As the community gathers for Sunday services, Ellen embroiders a new jersey for John. She discovers a bruise on his back and tries to comfort him, despite Grime's rough ways. Peter has spotted a large shoal of fish and comes to fetch the boy to his boat. While the choir sings in church, Ellen admonishes Peter for not giving the young boy a day of rest. They argue. Peter strikes her and takes the boy away. This is observed by Auntie, Keene and Boles. As the congregation comes from church, the three let the neighbors know that "Grimes is at his exercise." As tempers rise, Ellen tries to calm the angry crowd. They march off to investigate, leaving Ellen behind with Auntie and her girls who now all have the scorn of the town in common.

---

## INTERMISSION

---

## Part II

### Interlude IV – Passacaglia

#### Scene 4

Peter Grimes' Hut – shortly after Scene 3

Peter's mood continues. His vision of a better life with Ellen is disturbed by memories of those three days at sea when his former apprentice died. He gathers his fishing tackle and rushes John towards the back door where the cliff has washed away. Distracted by the approach of the men of the village, Grimes leaves the young boy alone for a moment at the cliff door with disastrous results. When the men of the village arrive, the hut is empty.

### Interlude V – Moonlight

#### Scene 5

The Borough Beach and Street, a few nights later

A subscription dance is taking place at the Moot Hall with much traffic, mostly male, between the dance and "The Boar." Mrs. Sedley confronts Keene with her suspicions about Grimes. No one has seen him or his apprentice in several days. Though she is sure there has been foul play again, Keene dismisses her. She hides as Ellen finds Captain Balstrode. Grimes's boat is on the beach, but with no sign of him or the boy. Ellen has found the jersey with the anchor that she embroidered for John washed up on shore and is terrified at what that suggests. They leave to search for Peter.

Mrs. Sedley calls Swallow from "The Boar" and shows him Peter's boat. The Mayor calls on Hobson to gather a posse to find Grimes. By now the villagers have been alerted. Enraged, they call out for Grimes, vowing to find him and punish him.

### Interlude VI – Fog

#### Scene 6

The Borough Beach and Street, some hours later, before dawn

Peter returns to the deserted shore, haunted by his pursuers and driven mad by tragedy. Balstrode proposes a final way out for the desperate fisherman.

The Borough wakes up to a new day.

## CHAUTAUQUA OPERA ORCHESTRA

#### Violins I

Vahn Armstrong  
Concertmaster

David Hult  
Assistant Concertmaster  
Erica Robinson  
Matus Zelmanovich  
Cheryl Bintz  
Lenelle Morse  
Marian Tanau  
Ming Gao  
Amanda Armstrong  
Lin-ti Wang

#### Violins II

Diane Bruce, Principal  
Cynthia Berginc, Assistant  
Barbara Berg  
Margaret Cooper  
Lara Sipols  
Karen Lord-Powell  
Heidi Brown  
Karen Glavin

#### Violas

Thomas Dumm, Principal  
Eva Stern, Assistant  
Connie Lorber  
Caryn Wiegand Neidhold  
Cynthia Frank  
Jessie Goebel

#### Cellos

Jolyon Pegis, Principal  
Batia Lieberman, Assistant  
Jeffrey Szabo  
Wendy Brennan  
Gena Taylor

#### Basses

Patricia Dougherty  
Bernard Lieberman  
David Rosi  
Caitlyn Kamminga

#### Flutes/Piccolos

Richard Sherman  
Kathryn Levy

#### Oboes

Thomas Moore  
Jason Weintraub  
(English Horn)

#### Clarinets

Eli Eban  
Georg Klaas

#### Bassoons

Jeffrey Robinson  
Stephen Smith  
William Scribner  
(Contrabassoon)

#### Horns

Bernhard Scully  
Donna Dolson  
William Bernatis  
Mark Robbins

#### Trupets

Charles Berginc  
Peter Lindblom  
Leslie Linn

#### Trombones

John Marcellus  
Vern Kagarice  
Eric Lindblom

#### Tuba

Frederick Boyd

#### Timpani

Brian Kushmaul

#### Percussion

Thomas Blanchard  
Ronald Barnett

#### Celesta

Claudia Hoca

#### Harp

Beth Robinson

#### Organ

Jared Jacobsen

#### Stage Band

##### Clarinet 1

Eli Eban

##### Clarinet 2

Georg Klaas

##### Violin

Amanda Armstrong

##### Double Bass

Caitlyn Kamminga

##### Percussion

Thomas Blanchard





Cromarty fishing village, Great Britain

Photograph courtesy of High Life Highland: all rights reserved

Dear Chautauqua Opera Friends,  
We **love** you, **like** us too!



Remember to **'like'**  
Chautauqua Opera on Facebook



/chautopera



@ChautOpera



[opera.ciweb.org](http://opera.ciweb.org)

Chautauqua Institution is a non-profit organization, dependent upon your gifts to fulfill its mission.  
Gate tickets and other revenue cover only a portion of the cost of your Chautauqua experience.

**Chautauqua Institution**  
PO Box 28  
Chautauqua, NY 14722  
[ciweb.org](http://ciweb.org)

