

## Using Britten's Piano in the Library

Benjamin Britten purchased this piano in 1969 and used it in the library to accompany rehearsals. Today, it is used for recitals throughout the year, and we are pleased to offer it to composers and performers for occasional practice purposes.

As the piano is a historic item, and is in a historic room, there are certain conservation conditions attached to playing the Steinway and using the library. Please read the following before use:

### The Library

- Everything in the Library is from Britten and Pears' original collection. Please do not remove books or any other items from the shelves or that are on display. If you wish to see a particular item on the shelves, you can ask a member of staff (please note, it may not be immediately possible to meet your request).
- Under no circumstances should anything be handled or moved, or items put on historic artefacts. This includes the textiles on the piano and bookshelves.
- When you arrive a member of staff will open the library and put on the lights. The heating in the room is carefully monitored to control the temperature and humidity levels and should only be adjusted by a member of staff. If you need extra lighting or heating, please ask a member of staff.
- To avoid accidental damage, please leave large bags, coats and umbrellas in the secure lockers at reception or staff kitchen.
- No food or drink is allowed in the library except small plastic/metal bottles of water.
- If you would like to take notes in the library, please use pencil only and make sure that you do not mark the piano or furniture – support the page on which you are writing with an exercise book or a writing pad.
- You are welcome to take photographs (without flash) for personal, non-commercial use. If you would like to film in the library, please ask a member of staff for permission, and please observe any photography restrictions where indicated.

### The Piano

- Please do not put any items on the piano other than your music scores. Pencils, keys, bottled water, metronomes etc must be put on the floor, or you can ask to use a small table.
- Please ensure your hands are clean by washing your hands thoroughly before. Hand sanitiser is not recommended.
- If you would like the lid of the piano raised, please contact a member of staff. Please do not remove the covers or raise the lid yourself. Please do not touch the strings inside the piano.
- There is a black piano stool available. If you would prefer a chair, please ask a member of staff.
- You may use pencils, and you may bring in bottled water, but please do not drink water near the Steinway or other historic items in the library.

Thank you – we hope you enjoy playing Britten's Steinway.