Mr Benjamin Britten and Mr Peter Pears gave a concert in the Auckland Town Hall on 7 April 1970. For this concert, offered by reason of longstanding personal friendship with Mr Philip Todd, Senior Lecturer in Singing in the School of Music, these world famous artists gave their services without fee. The Scholarship fund was created out of the proceeds of the concert.

Selection process

- Application is made to the Scholarships Office
- The Scholarship is awarded by the University of Auckland Council as a result of an examination in Performance

Regulations

1. The Scholarship shall be known as the Pears-Britten Scholarship in Singing.
2. One Scholarship will be awarded annually and will be of the value of $1,200.
3. Any student may apply for the Scholarship who has been selected for the first year of a full-time Classical Performance programme in the School of Music, University of Auckland, for which the subject of performance is singing.
4. The Scholarship shall be awarded by the University of Auckland Council on the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Head of the School of Music (or nominee), the Head of Classical Performance Studies (or nominee), and the Head of Vocal Studies (or nominee) from the School of Music.
5. Each candidate shall be examined in Singing, and the programme shall consist of a recitative and aria from opera or oratorio, a German Lied and an English art-song. Note: Time allowed for each examination will not normally exceed twenty minutes.
6. If the University of Auckland Council after receiving the recommendation of the examining committee considers that no sufficiently qualified candidate has applied in any year, it shall not be bound to make an award for that year.
7. Payment of the Scholarship shall be in two equal instalments after a satisfactory report has been received on the Scholar’s progress from the Head of the School of Music.
8. The Scholarship shall be held at the University of Auckland.
10. The Scholarship is tenable concurrently with any other Scholarship, bursary, or award where the regulations of such other Scholarship, bursary, or award do not preclude co-tenure.

11. The University of Auckland Council shall have power to amend these regulations but so that there is no departure from the main purpose of the fund.

12. Applications close with the Scholarships Office on 5 November in the year preceding the award.