presents

Singin’ of the Rain!
Songs about Weather and Climate

Songs by Andrea Gaudette, David Haines, Ruth Hertzman-Miller, Leo Hurley, Daniel Kallman, Bruce Lazarus, Tim Maurice, Lauren Mayer, Molly Ruggles, and Stanley Sagov

Directed by Laura Backley

Cambridge Science Festival 2017
Cambridge, Massachusetts
Congratulations
to all our friends and neighbors
participating in North Cambridge Family Opera!

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presents

**Singin’ of the Rain!**

*Songs about Weather and Climate*

Music and Lyrics by David Bass, Andrea Gaudette, David Haines, Ruth Hertzman-Miller, Leo Hurley, Christine Kallman, Daniel Kallman, Bruce Lazarus, Tim Maurice, Lauren Mayer, Meg Muckenhoupt, Molly Ruggles, Stanley Sagov, and Rachael Shearmur

Directed by Laura Backley

Artistic Director ..................................................David Bass
Producers ...................Claudette Beit-Aharon and Sue Hall
Accompanist .................................................. David Haines
Slideshow .................................................Carla Procaskey
Logo Design ......................................................Jen Fuchel

Peabody School: Saturday, April 15, 2017, 3:00pm
Broad Institute: Saturday, April 22, 2017, 5:00pm
Museum of Science: Sunday, April 23, 2017, 4:00pm

*Special thanks to Beanfields Bean and Rice Chips and to the Robbins / de Beaumont Foundation for their support of this production*
Singin’ of the Rain: Singers and Artists
North Cambridge Family Opera Festival Chorus
Directed by Laura Backley

Laura Backley  Jeff Moore
Madison Bartee  Margaret Ormes
Melody Bartee  Mary Penniston
David Bass  Ashmita Prajapati
Jaelyn Bean  Donna Richardson
Constance Chung  Megan Ringrose
Abbe Cohen Dvornik  Robert Ringrose
Emily Dexter  Susan Ringrose
Albert Dvornik  Ruth Rogers
Katarina Dvornik  Vlaams Romulus
Luka Dvornik  Kathryn Rosenberg
Chris Edel  Nico Rosenberg
Emma Ehring  Ellen Ryan
Fiona Ehring  Alina Sawady
Esther Fu  Eyal Sawady
Sanjukta Ghosh  Rebecca Sawady
Verity Gould  Tara Shankar
David Haines  Uma Shankar
Sue Hall  Rachael Shearmur
Heather Hoffman  Abigail Sheldon
Jacey Jewett  Arlene Sheldon
Matthew Jewett  Elizabeth Sheldon
Merilee Jewett  Chris Siren
Hope Kelley  Lindsey Smilack
John Kernochan  Lilli Smith
Julie Keysor  Violet Smith
Stella Leras  Yifei Sun
Kathy Lindsay  Richard Walford
Tara McCaffrey  Sally Wolfe
Glenn McElhoe*  Andromeda Yelton*
Julie McKinney

*Soloists in “Drip Drip”

Thanks to those providing artwork for the slideshow!
• students of Lolly Lincoln at the Fletcher Maynard Academy
  • students of Lilli Martinez at the Maria L. Baldwin School
  • members of the NCFO Festival Chorus
Singin’ of the Rain: Order of Program

The Gospel of Climate Change* .................................................. Stanley Sagov
Lyrics by David Bass

Water Cycle .............................................................................. Lauren Mayer

Clouds .................. Room 210 at The Baldwin School with David Haines

How Beautiful Is the Rain* ..................................................... Bruce Lazarus
From a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Falling Rain* ........................................................................... Timothy Maurice

There’s a Certain Flash of Light* ................................. Andrea Gaudette

Flying into the Hurricane* .................................................... Ruth Hertzman-Miller
Lyrics by Meg Muckenhoupt

There’s a Tornado* ................................................................. Molly Ruggles

Weird Weather* ....................................................................... Lauren Mayer

Songs from the Cambridge Public Schools*, by David Haines, with…

– Weather Wonder ................ Baldwin School, Gr 1, Room 210
– My House Fell Down .... Graham & Parks, Gr 4, Rooms 215, 216, 217
– Cloud, Mist, Fog and Smog........ Peabody School, Gr 1, Room 116
– My “Lucky Day”............................. M.L. King School, Gr 4, Room 3117
– Story of a Molecule...... Kennedy-Longfellow School, Gr 5, Room 207

Climate Zones* ................................................................. Lauren Mayer

Currents of the Ocean ................................................................. Leo Hurley

Big Ice ................................................................................. Daniel Kallman
Lyrics by Christine Kallman

The Pilgrims’ Problem* ....................................................... David Haines
Lyrics by Rachael Shearmur

The Tale of Joe, Svanti, and Charlie*.................................Molly Ruggles

Drip, Drip .............................................................................. David Haines
Soloists: Glenn McElhoe and Andromeda Yelton

Vibrio Bacteria* ...................................................................... David Haines
Lyrics by Rachael Shearmur

The Global Shuffle* ............................................................. Bruce Lazarus

Water March ........................................................................... Andrea Gaudette

The Ozone Song ..................................................................... David Haines

*World premiere

PLEASE NOTE: not all songs will be performed at all venues. We will announce which songs we will be singing at the start of each concert.
Singin’ of the Rain: Program Notes

The Gospel of Climate Change (world premiere) – It is important to understand the difference between weather and climate and the accuracy with which we can predict each. Climate is what you expect, weather is what you get.

Water Cycle – Water falls as rain and other forms of precipitation, then returns to the sky through evaporation and transpiration. Vocal arrangement by Lauren and David Bass.

Clouds – Cirrus, cumulus, and stratus clouds look very different.

How Beautiful is the Rain (world premiere) – A lovely setting of a lovely poem by local versifier Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

Falling Rain (world premiere) – The average speed of rainfall is 20 mph. You learn something new every day.

There’s a Certain Flash of Light (world premiere) – An homage to Emily Dickinson and her poem “There’s a Certain Slant of Light”. A thunderstorm slowly arises and then rolls away. Spark, zap, flash, rumble, boom, crash!

Flying into the Hurricane (world premiere) – Meteorologists have excellent models to predict the strength and movement of hurricanes, but the data necessary to run the models can only be obtained by aircraft flying into the hurricane itself.

There’s a Tornado (world premiere) – We don’t fully understand how tornadoes form, but they are among the most destructive forces in nature, and 1200 of them touch down in the US every year. Better lie low when there’s a tornado.

Weird Weather (world premiere) – Raining frogs? It has happened when water spouts aspirate aquatic life, which then falls over land.

Cambridge Public School Medley (world premiere) – Every year David Haines works with about 50 classrooms in the Cambridge schools, guiding the students as they write a song about some aspect of their science curriculum. These are some songs that touch on climate and weather:

Weather Wonder – All types of weather are caused by energy from the sun.

My House Fell Down – Ocean level rise causes beach erosion, which is sometimes quite destructive.
Cloud, Mist, Fog and Smog – What’s the difference between cloud, mist, fog and smog? “I guess that clouds near the ground are always called fog, and a chimney was billowing smoke, making smog...”

My Lucky Day – It’s amazing how many calamities 4th graders can imagine befalling them in a single day.

Story of a Molecule – Most of the water molecules on Earth have been water for billions of years.

Climate Zones (world premiere) – There are many ways to classify the Earth’s many climates. They generally fall into three main categories: tropical (near the equator), polar (near the poles) and temperate (between these two).

Currents of the Ocean – Wind, rotation of the Earth, gravitational pull of the moon and sun, and thermal, density and salinity gradients drive the complex movement of water in the oceans, with dramatic effects on coastal climates.

Big Ice – Most of the world’s fresh water is locked in the Antarctic ice sheet. Greenland’s ice sheet is so massive (2.7 quintillion kg) that its gravity raises sea level at nearby Iceland by more than 7 meters. Melting of polar ice is accelerating due to global warming.

The Pilgrims’ Problem (world premiere) – The Mayflower sailed more than 580 miles south on its journey from Plymouth, England to Plymouth, Massachusetts. So it was quite a surprise when the Pilgrims discovered the winters in their new home were much colder because the climates are different.

The Tale of Joe, Svanti and Charlie (world premiere) – Joseph Fourier, Svante Arrhenius and Charles Keeling made the key discoveries that led to our understanding of anthropogenic global warming.

Drip, Drip – A slightly sarcastic look at how rising oceans, melting ice-caps and changing climates affect many habitats, including human coastal communities.

Vibrio Bacteria (world premiere) – Global warming increases the temperature of the ocean surface, which in turn causes blooms of Vibrio vulnificus, skin infections of which are 50% fatal. Eating raw shellfish contaminated with Vibrio vulnificus can also be fatal.
Global Shuffle (world premiere) – As habitats shift toward the poles and to higher elevations in response to global warming, the animals that inhabit them must migrate, adapt or perish. Humans are no exception.

Water March – Water is necessary for life, but global warming is raising sea level and causing more intense storms, with catastrophic consequences for island people.

The Ozone Song (Delightful, Fighting-Fit, Floating Phytoplankton) – A rare optimistic song about society’s ability to control its deleterious effects on Earth’s atmosphere. Since the late 1980s, the Montreal Protocol has limited emissions of chemicals that destroy stratospheric ozone, and the man-made ozone hole is healing, to the delight of the microorganisms who were negatively affected by it.

Singin’ of the Rain: Biographies

Laura Backley has been directing the children and adults of the NCFO Festival Chorus since her 2010 debut with the chorus’s astronomy production, Looking Up. Laura has a Masters of Music from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. In addition to working with NCFO, she is on the faculty of the Cambridge School of Weston, teaching music and theater. She also teaches voice at the All Newton Music School.

David Bass, the Founder and Artistic Director of NCFO, is a composer and lyricist who feels he needs no introduction. Many who have been introduced to him feel the same way.

Andrea Gaudette has been playing music professionally since age 14, when her first job carried the title “substitute organist” for her parish church. She has been teaching piano, theory, composition, voice, choir, instrumental ensembles and creative arts to children in a variety of settings since 1988. She currently teaches music in the Cambridge Public Schools, including the Haggerty School and the Cambridgeport School. Andrea lives in Cambridge with her husband and 19-year-old daughter. They have been active in NCFO since 2006.
David Haines

Trained at Bristol University, London’s Guildhall School, and Banff School of Fine Arts, David Haines has written fifteen music theater works, including *The Puzzle Jigs*, which was performed by NCFO in 2003 and 2008. He has worked with many thousands of schoolchildren and has a special interest in using song to enhance the science curriculum. The NCFO Science Festival Chorus performed David’s science oratorios *Lifetime: Songs of Life and Evolution* in 2007 and 2012 and *Powers of Ten* in 2008 and 2014. The latter was the official opening event of the first USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington DC. David has been the Cambridge Science Festival’s Songwriter-in-Residence from 2011 to 2017. He lives and teaches in Teignmouth, Devon in southwestern England, a stunningly beautiful town that is well worth visiting. If you do, David invites you to stay at his lovely Airbnb.

Ruth Hertzman-Miller

is a Boston-area physician and musician who has studied composition with John Stewart at Harvard, John Morrison at Longy, and Stephen Savage at New England Conservatory. She performs regularly with NCFO and was last seen as the King’s chamberlain Zethar in the 2017 production of *Springtime for Haman*.

Leo Hurley

has written for Maya Angelou’s 80th Birthday Celebration, Grammy Award winner Pharoah Sanders, Abingdon Theatre Company, The York Theatre, Beyond Words Dance Company and Sonnet Repertory Theater Company with performances Off-Broadway, as well as Alonzo King’s LINES Ballet at the La Biennale Festival in Venice, Italy. In 2012, *ZomRomCom: The Musical*, a film musical created at UNCSA, won Best Original Score at the College Television Awards, and in 2015, Mr. Hurley’s opera *VEAL* was selected to be a part of Rough for Opera in London. Mr. Hurley’s most recent work, *The Body Politic*, follows a trans refugee from Afghanistan as he navigates his new life in the American south.

Christine Kallman

is a playwright, lyricist, poet, and musician. She has taught music and theater to young people in the classroom, theater camp, and private studio. Among her works are full-length plays, one-acts, and musicals. In addition to writing song lyrics, Kallman has received several commissions to write hymn texts.

Daniel Kallman’s compositions for orchestra, winds, and choir are widely published and performed across North America, Europe and East Asia. His steady stream of commissions includes music for worship, theater, dance,
Daniel Kallman (cont’d.) and the young musician. Kallman has composed for the National Symphony Orchestra, the Air Force Academy Band, the Hong Kong Children’s Choir, the Minnesota Orchestra, *A Prairie Home Companion*, and a wide variety of vocal and instrumental ensembles. Kallman’s works are catalogued on his website at www.kallmancreates.com.

Bruce Lazarus’s music includes pieces for piano, solo voice, chorus, chamber ensembles, as well as several songs commissioned by NCFO. His works range from the 45-minute “celestial” piano cycle, *Musical Explorations of the Messier Catalogue of Star Clusters and Nebulae*, to his entertaining *Carrolling: The Lewis Carroll Project*. He studied composition at Juilliard where he earned his B.M. and M.M. in music composition and theory, and later earned his PhD in music theory at Rutgers University. Dr. Lazarus is Music Director for the Joffrey Ballet School.

Tim Maurice is a classically-trained musician working as an arranger, music director, and pianist. He has written and recorded music for several independent film projects. His latest, “Searchdog,” screened at the 2016 Palm Springs International Film Festival and was an audience-voted “Best in the Fest” selection. Born in Maine, Tim studied piano at Bates College, and earned a B.M. in Film Scoring from Berklee College of Music. Tim has done orchestration and arranging work for NCFO in the past, and this is his third original composition for the group.

Lauren Mayer is a California-based writer and entertainer. She is a graduate of Yale, the founder of *Curriculum Rocks* (producing award-winning children’s educational music), the writer of several published musicals, and a five-time recipient of the San Francisco Cabaret Gold Award. She has recorded five albums of comedy songs and writes weekly topical comedy songs for her YouTube channel with almost 1,600 subscribers (thus disproving her teenage son’s claim that she’d never get a channel going because ‘over 100 views is viral for old people’).

Meg Muckenhoupt works for OpenBiome in Cambridge. She is widely published, but she feels her finest work was “Horton Sees a Pluto,” which appeared in the *Annals of Improbable Research*. Remember, a planet’s a planet no matter how small. She is delighted to hear her lyrics in this year’s Cambridge Science Festival.
Molly Ruggles  A native of Massachusetts, Molly Ruggles has played piano her whole life, composed since she was 4, and is a vocalist and recording artist. Molly performs regularly throughout the Boston area. She has taught songwriting classes at MIT, and her music is featured regularly at the UU church of Medford. When not singing, playing, listening, teaching, composing, or writing plays, she writes about educational technology at MIT and spends time with her beloved daughter.

Stanley Sagov  Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Stanley Sagov is a dazzling jazz pianist and composer who is also skilled with surgical instruments, as he simultaneously has a full-time career as a medical doctor, amazing his colleagues with his ability to lead such an intense dual life both as a physician and as a musician. Dr. Sagov produces enough music to fill the contents of a full CD almost every month in his home studio. He is also a top-notch photographer who shoots nature, people and places with the eyes of an unusually sensitive personality. Despite devoting his life to healing, ironically, Dr. Sagov is so talented it just makes you sick.

Rachael Shearmur  was a member of the choir which premiered David Haines’s *Lifetime* in the UK in 2004. She studied Law at the other Cambridge and never really expected one day to be writing song lyrics. She and David share a passion for sea swimming, and it was the bioluminescence which they saw in the nighttime waters around David’s home town of Teignmouth which inspired her to write a poem touching on the science behind the phenomenon. David asked if he could set it to music, and they have since then collaborated on a number of songs.

Sign up on the NCFO Mailing List to be notified about next year’s auditions and both opera and festival chorus performances!

http://familyopera.org/mailinglist.html

www.familyopera.org
THANK YOU

NCFO gratefully acknowledges the following people and organizations for their generous support of the NCFO Science Festival Chorus

This is the tenth anniversary year for the Cambridge Science Festival, which featured our first Festival Chorus in 2007! We are, as always, grateful to John Durant for dreaming up this now 10-days-long extravaganza. We would also like to thank MaryCat Chaikin for all her help in getting our concerts set up this year. Thanks also to the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, and to the Museum of Science, for continuing to provide venues for our concerts these many years.

We are grateful to all of the musicians and artists who have been the creative force behind our concerts. In particular, this year we had ten composers and four lyricists! Thanks to them all, and thanks also to those who contributed artwork to our slideshow, including students from the Fletcher Maynard Academy; students from the Maria L. Baldwin School; and members of the NCFO Festival Chorus.

We would like to extend a special thank you to David Haines, who not only composed 6 of our 20 songs, but also graciously agreed to accompany the chorus (and some of those piano parts are quite challenging). David is also here to teach children in the Cambridge Public School System about science songwriting. We are delighted that David’s work in the schools has been so well received by CPS.

Two members of our chorus also sing with David’s chorus back in the UK. We would like to thank Emily Dexter and Armond Cohen for generously agreeing to host them during their stay here in the States.

We are very grateful to Thalia Tringo Real Estate for their continued sponsorship of NCFO; and especially to Beanfields Family-Owned Bean and Rice Chips for their extremely generous sponsorship support this year. We also express our deepest thanks for the generous grants we received from the Robbins / de Beaumont Foundation and the Cambridge Community Foundation, and from the Cambridge Arts Council in support of David Haines’s work in the schools.

Finally, our greatest appreciation goes to our chorus members, some of whom have been with us for all of our eleven excellent Science Festival concerts. Thanks for sharing with us your music, your friendship, and your financial support.

NCFO MISSION

The North Cambridge Family Opera (NCFO) provides an opportunity for children and adults to experience and enjoy telling a story through song by performing original, high-quality, fully-sung operas and choral works for audiences of all ages. Our casts of children and adults come from Cambridge and other communities in the greater Boston area. We encourage participation by multiple family members. Solo and chorus roles varying widely in difficulty are assigned to both children and adults, so that everyone is both challenged and given an opportunity to succeed. To the extent possible, productions are financed through donations and volunteerism.

NCFO began as participants in the second North Cambridge (NoCa) All Arts Open Studios weekend in May 1999, and has since incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit and produced a family opera every spring. Since 2007, NCFO has also presented a concert of science songs every year as part of the Cambridge Science Festival.