

Rob Kapilow's
What Makes it Great?

***Love, Life, and Loss:
The Songs of Stephen Sondheim***

WHEN:
THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 11, 2018
7:30 PM

VENUE:
BING
CONCERT HALL



Artists

Rob Kapilow, *pianist and commentator*
Sally Wilfert and Michael Winther, *vocalists*

Program

"Send in the Clowns" from *A Little Night Music* (1973)

"Finishing the Hat" from *Sunday in the Park with George* (1984)

"Too Many Mornings" from *Follies* (1971)

"Getting Married Today" from *Company* (1978)

Guest vocalist Cassidy McCleary

The program will be performed without intermission
and will be immediately followed by
a question-and-answer session with the artists.

PROGRAM SUBJECT TO CHANGE. Please be considerate of others and turn off all phones, pagers, and watch alarms.
Photography and recording of any kind are not permitted. Thank you.

About the Artists

Rob Kapilow

For over 20 years Rob Kapilow has brought the joy and wonder of classical music—and unraveled some of its mysteries—to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Characterized by his unique ability to create an "aha" moment for his audiences and collaborators, whatever their level of musical sophistication or naiveté, Kapilow's work brings music into people's lives: opening new ears to musical experiences and helping people to listen actively rather than just hear. As the *Boston Globe* said, "It's a cheering thought that this kind of missionary enterprise did not pass from this earth with Leonard Bernstein. Rob Kapilow is awfully good at what he does. We need him."

Kapilow's range of activities is astonishingly broad, including his *What Makes It Great?* presentations (now for over 20 seasons in New York and Boston), his family compositions and Family Musik events, his Citypieces, and residencies with institutions as diverse as the National Gallery of Canada and

Upcoming Events

Tickets and information:
live.stanford.edu



Sundays With the St. Lawrence
St. Lawrence String Quartet with
Anne-Marie McDermott
Oct 14 • 2:30 PM
Bing Concert Hall



Music For Change:
The Banned Countries
Kronos Quartet
Oct 20 • 7:30 PM
Bing Concert Hall



Stanford University. The reach of his interactive events and activities is wide, both geographically and culturally: from Native American tribal communities in Montana and inner-city high school students in Louisiana to audiences in Kyoto and Kuala Lumpur, and from tots barely out of diapers to musicologists in Ivy League programs, his audiences are diverse and unexpected, but invariably rapt and keen to come back for more.

A frequent guest speaker for corporate events, museums, business groups, foundations, hospitals, law schools, math departments and conferences, Rob Kapilow is constantly finding connections and intersections between music and the outside world, making art essential to everyday life.

Kapilow's popularity and appeal are reflected in notable invitations and achievements: this past season he appeared six times on the PBS Newshour with segments ranging from "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" to Brahms and Mozart. He appeared on NBC's *Today Show* in conversation with Katie Couric; he presented a special *What Makes It Great?* event for broadcast on PBS's Live From Lincoln Center;

and he has written two highly popular books published by Wiley/Lincoln Center: *All You Have To Do Is Listen* which won the PSP Prose Award for Best Book in Music and the Performing Arts, and *What Makes It Great* (2011), the first book of its kind to be especially designed for the iPad with embedded musical examples. His newest book, *Listening for America*, will be published by Norton/Liveright in the fall of 2019. A documentary film, named *Summer Sun*, Winter Moon after Kapilow's choral/symphonic work of the same name, which traces the process of that work's composition from its conception through to its premiere, has been broadcast hundreds of times on Public Television since 2009.

Rob Kapilow dedicates his summer months to writing and composing new music, most recently *Chrysopylae*, a large-scale work commissioned by the Marin Symphony to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge, which was premiered to great acclaim. He is currently completing a new composition for the 25th anniversary of Ottawa Chamberfest based on Louise Bourgeois' iconic sculpture, "Maman" to be premiered in August, 2019. He was also the first composer to be granted the rights to set Dr. Seuss' words to music, and his *Green Eggs and Ham* has been called "the most successful piece written for families this half century." A new CD featuring Nathan Gunn and Isabel Leonard in two more of his popular FamilyMusik compositions, Chris van Allsburg's Polar Express and Dr. Seuss's Gertrude McFuzz, was released in November 2014.

Numerous major awards and grants have marked Kapilow's career. He won first place in the Fontainebleau Casadesus Piano Competition and was

the second-place winner of the Antal Dorati Conductor's Competition with the Detroit Symphony. As a composer, Kapilow was featured on Chicago Public Radio's prestigious "Composers In America" series and is a recipient of an Exxon "Meet-the-Composer" grant and numerous ASCAP awards.

Kapilow has conducted many of North America's finest orchestras including the Philadelphia Orchestra, the National Symphony, the Toronto, St. Louis, Atlanta, and Detroit Symphonies and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra. He is an exclusive G. Schirmer composer and his many compositions have been performed by nearly every major American orchestra as well as orchestras in Europe, Asia, and Australia.

Kapilow has conducted many new works of musical theater, ranging from the Tony Award-winning *Nine on Broadway* to the premiere of *Frida* for the opening of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's "Next Wave Festival" and premieres of works for the American Repertory Theater.

He is the conductor/creative director of *What Makes It Great?* for the Celebrity Series of Boston, New York's Merkin Concert Hall, Washington Performing Arts, the Cerritos Center for the Arts, and the Toronto Symphony. Last season he began a new series at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. He has been conductor/director of FamilyMusik for New York's Lincoln Center and 92nd Street Y, co-director of the Rutgers SummerFest Festival, assistant conductor of the Opera Company of Boston, Music Director of the touring company Opera New England, and conductor of the Kansas City Symphony's summer FamilyFare program.

He was also music director of the Yale Symphony Orchestra for five seasons.

At the age of 19, Kapilow interrupted his academic work at Yale University to study with the legendary Nadia Boulanger. Two years later, after graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Yale, he continued his studies at the Eastman School of Music. After graduating from Eastman, he returned to Yale, where he was assistant professor for six years at the university. He lives in River Vale, NJ, with his wife and three children.

Sally Wilfert

Sally Wilfert has appeared on Broadway in the Tony Award-winning production of *Assassins*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *King David*. She also toured the country as Rona Lisa Peretti in the first national tour of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*. Off-Broadway, Ms. Wilfert's credits include *See Rock City (Lauren)*, *Make Me A Song: The Music of William Finn (Sally)*, *The Mistress Cycle (Tess)* and *The Prince & The Pauper (Mary Canty)*. At Carnegie Hall she has appeared in *Cole Porter's Jubilee*, *South Pacific in Concert (starring Reba McEntire)*, and *Sondheim: A Tribute*, (all for PBS). Performing with the New York City Ballet at Lincoln Center and Tokyo, she was featured soloist, singing *Somewhere* for their performances of *West Side Story Suite*. Wilfert has performed throughout the country, including shows at the LaJolla Playhouse, Cincinnati Playhouse, Baltimore Center Stage, Finger Lakes Musical Theatre Festival, Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera, Maltz Jupiter Theatre, New Haven's Schubert Theatre, Barrington Stage, Goodspeed Musicals, Hartford Theatreworks, The Fulton Opera House, Connecticut Grand Opera, and The Ensemble Theatre of Cincinnati in such shows as *The Best Little Whore-*

house in Texas (Mona), *Chasing Rainbows: The Road to Oz (World Premiere, Ethel Gumm)*, *Damn Yankees (Meg)*, *Kiss Me Kate (Lily/Kate)*, *The Light in the Piazza (Margaret)*, *Footloose (Ethel)*, *LMNOP (World Premiere, Georgeanne)*, *Little Miss Sunshine (World Premiere)*, *Marry Me A Little*, *Les Miserables (Mme. Thernardier)*, *The Last Five Years (Cathy)*, *Amadeus (Constanze)*, *Enchanted April (Rose)*, *Into the Woods (The Witch)*, *The Threepenny Opera (Polly Peachum)*, *Elegies: A Song Cycle (Woman 1)* to name a few. Sally has appeared with Rob Kapilow in *What Makes it Great?* in major venues around the country, celebrating the songs of Arlen, Gershwin, Cole Porter, Sondheim and Bernstein. Other concert credits include *Sally Wilfert: It's Time*, *American Songbook: Rebecca Luker*, *William Finn's Songs of Innocence and Experience*, *Broadway in South Africa*, *Jeff Blumenkrantz Songbook*, *New York City Christmas* in such venues as The Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts, 54 Below, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Dallas' Horchow Center, The Jacob Javits Center, Le Chat Noir, The Allen Room, Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Zipper Theatre, Merkin Hall, Symphony Space, Joe's Pub, Birdland, and Williamstown's 62 Center.

Michael Winther

Acclaimed by *The New York Times* as "a theater singer of unusual refinement" with "a voice that traverses genres," Michael Winther has appeared with Robert Kapilow in *What Makes It Great?* at major venues across the country, celebrating the songs of Sondheim, Arlen, Gershwin, Porter, Bernstein, and Rodgers.

Michael has appeared on Broadway in *33 Variations*, *Mamma Mia!*, *1776*, *Artist Descending a Staircase* and *Damn Yankees*. He recently completed the

national tour of the 2015 Tony Award-winning Best Musical, *FUN HOME*. Prior to that, he collaborated with multiple Grammy-nominee, jazz composer Fred Hersch and poet Mary Jo Salter in the premiere of a new song cycle, *Rooms of Light* for Peak Performance at Montclair University. He portrayed Albert Einstein in author and theoretical physicist Brian Greene's multimedia theater piece, *Light Falls* in New York and in Australia (March 2016). He starred as "Dan" in the Pulitzer winning musical, *Next To Normal* at Baltimore/Centerstage; Frank London and Neil Berger's *A Night In The Old Marketplace* in São Paulo; Tectonic Theatre Company's *The Laramie Project Cycle* at BAM/Harvey Theatre; Fred Hersch's multimedia jazz-theatre piece, *My Coma Dreams* in NYC, Berlin and San Francisco; and *Merrily We Roll Along* at City Center Encores!®. His regional credits include productions at Center Theatre Group/LA, Guthrie Theater, Yale Rep, McCarter Theater, Old Globe, Goodspeed Musicals, TheatreWorks/Palo Alto, La Jolla Playhouse, George Street Playhouse, Perseverance Theater, O'Neill Theatre Center and Sundance Theatre Lab. Recent film credits include *The Avengers*, *Jumper*, *The Break-Up*, *Mr. & Mrs. Smith*. Television credits include *The Blacklist*, *Mysteries of Laura*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *Hostages*, *Leverage* and *Law & Order*. Other concert credits include Lincoln Center's *American Songbook* series (*William Finn's Songs of Innocence and Experience*, *The Songs of Fred Hersch*, and his solo evening, *Hear & Now: Contemporary Lyricists and Composers*); *Broadway Cabaret*, *Broadway By The Year* and *Broadway Unplugged* series' at Town Hall; concerts with the *New Voices Collective* at Symphony Space as well as with The New York Pops at Carnegie Hall and the New York Philharmonic.