Music of William Finn (Sally); The Mistress Cycle (Tess) and The Prince & The Pauper (Mary Cantly). At Carnegie Hall she has appeared in Cole Porter’s Jubilee, South Pacific in Concert (starring Rob 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 Side Story Suite. Sally has appeared with Rob Kapilow’s Rob Kapilow’s The Songs of Leonard Bernstein in San Francisco; 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 Encore!. His regional credits include productions at Center Theatre Group/LA, Guthrie Theatre, Yale Rep, McCarter Theatre, 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 four appearances as part of Lincoln Center’s American Songbook series (William Finn’s Songs of Innocence and Experience, The Songs of Fred Hersch, and two consecutive years of 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 at Avery Fisher Hall. He has performed various solo evenings of music at 54 Below, Joe’s Pub, Birdland, The Metropolitan Room and Ars Nova.

Michael Winther

Acclaimed by Stephen Holden of 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-nominees, 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 Encore!®. His regional credits include productions at Center Theatre Group/LA, Guthrie Theatre, Yale Rep, McCarter Theatre, 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 four appearances as part of Lincoln Center’s American Songbook series (William Finn’s Songs of Innocence and Experience, The Songs of Fred Hersch, and two consecutive years of 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 at Avery Fisher Hall. He has performed various solo evenings of music at 54 Below, Joe’s Pub, Birdland, The Metropolitan Room and Ars Nova.

WHAT MAKES IT GREAT?

Carnegie Hall presents:

Rob Kapilow’s

WHAT MAKES IT GREAT?

Theater Songs of Leonard Bernstein

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2018
7:30 PM

CONCERT HALL

STANFORD LIVE
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.

Program

Theater Songs of Leonard Bernstein

"I Can Cook Too" from On the Town (1944)
Lyrics and music by Leonard Bernstein

"A Little Bit In Love" from Wonderful Town (1953)
Lyrics by Adolf Green and Betty Comden, music by Leonard Bernstein

"Something's Coming" from West Side Story (1957)
Lyrics and music by Leonard Bernstein

"Maria" from West Side Story (1957)
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, music by Leonard Bernstein

"Tonight" from West Side Story (1957)
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, music by Leonard Bernstein

The program will last approximately 90 minutes and will be performed without intermission. The performance will be followed by a Q&A with the artists.

This program is generously supported by Bonnie and Marty Tenenbaum.

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

Biographies

Rob Kapilow
For over 20 years Rob Kapilow has brought the joy and wonder of classical music—and unravelled 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 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 toots barely out of diapers to musicologists in the Ivy League:

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. 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.

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 was also the first composer to be granted the rights to set Dr. Seuss’s 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 FamilyMusic compositions, Chris van Alsburg'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 Dornici Conductor’s Competition with the Detroit Symphony. As a composer, Kapilow was a 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 Fiddler 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. This season he begins a new series at the Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. He has been conductor/director of FamilyMusic 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 Nora 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...