

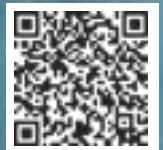
The Seas Are Rising:

Stories of a Climate in Crisis

a concert experience by Dan Sheehan performed by
Bergen Community College music faculty and special guests

Anna Maria Ciccone Theatre
April 20, 2023 7:30 p.m.

Part of Bergen Community College Earth Week



The Seas Are Rising: Stories of a Climate in Crisis is a concert experience and forthcoming album aimed at increasing public awareness of the urgency of the climate crisis. While TV news reporting wavers between outright climate change denialism or focusing on stories that appear to be more immediate to viewers' concerns, disastrous things are already occurring to the planet and its inhabitants which receive little coverage even as more and more people suffer the consequences. *The Seas Are Rising* aims to highlight stories that point to how immediate and urgent the climate crisis is in an effort to recruit more people to be climate activists through voting, advocating, and greatly reducing their personal carbon footprints.

The Seas Are Rising is an evolving show, with new songs being written as developments occur.

-Dan Sheehan, songwriter and performer
For more info visit www.dansheehan.net

The songs:

"The Seas Are Rising" sets the table for the show, envisioning a future of intensified storms as politicians continue a pattern of inaction.

"Maria" reflects on the 2017 hurricane's devastating effects on the people of Puerto Rico.

"Dam That River" originally appeared on *Tales from Earth Incorporated* to tell the story of indigenous tribes of the Amazon being displaced by the Brazilian government for a hydro-dam project, and has been updated to include continued displacement of the tribes and destruction of the rainforest from the illegal practice of burning down vast areas of rainforest for cattle farming.

"Wishing Well" – from *Tales from Earth Incorporated* discusses extreme measures being taken by the island and nations of Kiribati and the Maldives as they face potential extinction of their low lying islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, as well as measures being taken by the coastal residents of Bangladesh as they face constant flooding.

"The Continent"- long considered one of the regions of the world contributing the most to climate change but suffering from it the least, Europe now itself faces drought and raging fires throughout the continent.

“Black Gold (Ogoni Nine)” – originally appearing on the 2019 album *Tales from Earth Incorporated*, “Black Gold” tells the story of the Ogoni Nine, nine Nigerian men led by author Ken Saro-Wiwa in protest over environmental damage to the Nigerian delta caused by oil excavation who were tried on manufactured murder charges in 1995.

“Patterns of the Rain” – originally from the 2008 album *The Dan Sheehan Conspiracy*, “Patterns of the Rain” is a song which speaks of the beauty in the world around us, and the inspiration that can be drawn from such beauty

“Que Sera Sera,” based on the music of Amanda Brite’s “Who You Are,” speaks of the intensified hurricanes and fires plaguing the United States in recent years with primary inspiration from 2005’s Hurricane Katrina and other storms that have devastated the historic port city of New Orleans.

“Brighten the Earth” laments the tendency of world leaders to hold the world hostage by preventing progress on climate and other matters by holding up legislation and even starting senseless wars, while inspiring people around the world to demand more and hold their leaders to higher standards

“Love Your Mother” calls for people wherever they are around the world to come together and take on climate change on every level, from personal responsibility to voting and legislating.

All songs written by Dan Sheehan except “Que Sera” by Dan Sheehan and Amanda Brite. All songs arranged by Sheehan and the various performers.

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES:

Dan Sheehan (writer, producer, guitar, vocals) is an Associate Professor of Music at Bergen, where he chairs the Performing Arts program. Sheehan is also a guitarist, singer and songwriter whose recent work is dedicated to raising awareness on social and environmental issues. The Seas Are Rising follows on the heels of his 2019 album, Tales from Earth Incorporated, a collection of songs calling out corporate and political greed and its devastation around the globe. Tales earned Dan “Songwriter of the Year” honors at the 2019 Elephant Talk Indie Music Awards based in South Jersey, and was named “Best Political Subject Album” in the 2019 WHFR-FM (Dearborn, MI) music director’s awards. His previous albums with his band The Dan Sheehan Conspiracy earned two awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). He has performed in various parts of the U.S. as well as in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Spain.

Gareth Dylan Smith (drums) is Assistant Professor of Music at Boston University and the drummer for Pennsylvania New Wave band, Black Light Bastards. His research interests include drum kit studies, popular music education, sociology of music education, punk pedagogy, and eudaimonia. His first love is to play drums. Recent music releases include progressive smooth jazz tracks with The New Titans, the Sun Sessions EP with Stephen Wheel, and the Ignorant Populists EP with Build a Fort. Gareth is founding editor of the Journal of Popular Music Education and the Intellect book series, Contemporary Music Making and Learning. Gareth’s books include I Drum, Therefore I Am: Being and Becoming a Drummer (Ashgate) and A Philosophy of Playing Drum Kit: Magical Nexus (Cambridge University Press). Gareth is a founding editor of the Journal of Popular Music Education.

Will "WilHelmus!" Sapanaro (bass) is a professional bass player and session musician based out of Northern New Jersey. After attending Bergen he earned a Bachelors of Music from NJCU and is currently playing and writing in the sci-fi progressive metal band Valence. Will's versatility as a musician and collaborator has led him to perform, record, and collaborate with artists such as Max Feinstein, Babyllon, Libricide, NiCori Studios and Productions, including some recent headlining US and European festival performances with legendary 80s power metal band Liege Lord. Will proudly endorses TWA Pedals, Barefoot Buttons, Evidence Audio, Morley, and Godlyke, Inc. products. More information at BassistAtLarge.com

Dr. Andy Krikun (keyboards) is Professor of Music at Bergen Community College where he teaches courses in songwriting, world music, and popular music as well as founding and directing the BCC Pop/Rock Ensemble. He holds a MA in Ethnomusicology from UCLA and a PhD in Music Education from NYU. His research has appeared in academic journals and books, and he has presented at numerous international conferences. In addition to his teaching and scholarship, Andy has maintained an active career as a performer, composer, and recording artist. His band, Andy and the Rattlesnakes, was a seminal force in the L.A. Punk/New Wave scene in the early 1980s and will be releasing a new album this summer. Andy is also currently working on his first solo album, "Where Have I Been All These Years."

John T. La Barbera (guitar, Latin strings and percussion), adjunct faculty in music at Bergen Community College. He is an active film score composer, producer, concert guitarist and stringed instrumentalist. He has won several awards and commissions from The Jerome Foundation, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, The Martin Gruss Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts, Meet the Composer, UMass-Dartmouth, and ASCAP. Since 1973 he has performed in concert halls throughout Europe, South America, Canada and the US. with classical music, jazz and traditional world music (as composer, solo guitarist and chamber music). He recently composed music for the award winning short silent film *The Old Guitarist* starring the actor Dominic Chianese. He is the author of the first and foremost book published in the U.S. on the Italian mandolin called *Traditional Southern Italian Mandolin and Fiddle Tunes and Italian Folk Music For Mandolin*, with Mel Bay Publications. His music can be found on: Bandcamp, DistroKid, YouTube, iTunes, Spotify, Soundcloud, CD Baby and at www.johntlabarbera.com

Peter Furlan (saxophone) is a saxophonist, composer, arranger and educator whose striking originality is demonstrated on his Peter Furlan Project release "Between The Lines," and Peter Furlan – *Spy Glass Hill*." In addition to leading The Peter Furlan Project and The Peter Furlan Trio & Quintet, he co-leads two groups Mr. Gone and Le Jazz Electronique. He has performed and recorded with Terumasa Hino, Dizzy Gillespie, Eddie Henderson, Thomas Chapin, Don Alias, Frank Foster, Brian Lynch, John Hart, Mike Richmond, Terry Silverlight, Sail Rubin, Cameron Brown, Steven Bernstein, Duane Eubanks, Vinnie Cutro, David Budway, Roger Rosenberg, Ratzon Harris, Richie Morales, Mahavishnu Project, The Temptations, 10,000 Maniacs, The Four Tops and many others. He is the founder, artistic director and conductor of the Rockland Youth Jazz Ensemble, an adjunct music professor at Bergen Community College in Paramus, NJ, jazz ensemble director for Bergen Catholic High School in Oradell, NJ, vice-president of the Rockland County Jazz and Blues Society, active member of the Rockland County Music Teachers Guild and a private woodwind teacher in Rockland County, NY with 35 years experience.

Vinnie Cutro (trumpet) - During the past 40 years Vinnie has performed with noted great musicians such as Horace Silver, Buddy Rich , Lionel Hampton, Ron Carter, Ray Charles, Blood Sweat & Tears, Aretha Franklin ,Machito and The Vanguard Orchestra. He has traveled extensively throughout the world appearing at jazz festivals and concerts in Europe, Japan, Africa, Canada, South America and the U.S.A.

Paul Lee (violin) is a composer, violinist, and conductor in New York City. As a composer, his works have been performed in London, Berlin, Italy and New York City. Lee's works have been performed by members of the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, the London Sinfonietta, the International Street Cannibals, and The Chelsea Symphony. As a chamber and orchestral violinist, Lee has shared the stage with members of the New York Philharmonic, former members of the MET Opera Orchestra, The Silk Road Project, the Orchestra of St. Luke's, and with such soloists as Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg. Paul received his Master's and Doctoral degrees in Composition from NYU Steinhardt. In addition to his composition, conducting and performance and activities, he served as a faculty member in the music departments of Lehman College and NYU's Steinhardt Music Composition Program and is currently an adjunct faculty at Bergen Community College. He is the music director of the Brooklyn Camerata Ensemble.

Divinity (vocals) is a multi-talented passionate JapaRican singer-songwriter, from Jersey City. Recognized by her unique musical blend of Pop, Jazz, R&B, and Dance, and her lyricism, as she lays her heart on the line with searing honesty. Divinity began her singing career at an early age, in a girl group that toured across Germany and Japan. She took on various projects with different collaborators throughout the years, until she arrived at her current solo project, Summer Love. Her first upcoming single, Summer Love, is set to release this summer. Summer Love, is a distillation of equal parts sunshine and nostalgic love. With her soulful vocals and her bands irresistible groove, that is sure to get the crowd on their feet!

Georgia Cassidy (vocals) is a singer/songwriter from England who began her music journey after moving to America. Coming from a very musical family, Georgia has always been passionate about following in her mother's and father's footsteps. She has been performing on stage since she was nine years old and her love for it has only grown since joining the music department at Bergen. Georgia has also extended her interests to music production and creating original songs. She has released two EPs and singles under her artist name, "Redfish". Being able to share the stage with such talented musicians has been the highlight of Georgia's year. In the future Georgia will continue to seek out and create opportunities to explore and learn from the amazing diversity of sounds and techniques offered through music.

Amanda Brite (vocals, music for “Que Sera”) is a singer/songwriter from Wyckoff, New Jersey. In 2017, she released an EP called Intimacy Issues, which included a song that inspired the music for Dan Sheehan's "Que Sera Sera". She attended BCC from 2011 to 2014, earning an Associates' degree in Music Business. Now she is proud to return to Bergen to help redefine her song for a good cause.

Zaki Ali (guitar) is a Bergen Community College alum and a multi-faceted instrumentalist. After gaining experience from working at several recording studios, he owns and operates Cinderella Man Studios. After having been completely immersed in music scenes across The tristate area he has played in over 30 bands, toured across the country, created a multitude of full length albums with a focus on production and mixing, has worked with a diverse set of record labels, and has worked on crafting his abilities to become an expert musician. Zaki Ali is currently working on crafting his own solo record, on which he will play every instrument on the album, with a few guest solos from world class musicians.

Henizaret Figueroa (ukulele), is the lead singer of Kurley Skeletons and a student at Bergen Community College studying Music Production. Henizaret was a composer for the known play “Mother Courage” by Bertolt Brecht and Margarete Steffin produced by the Thomas Jefferson Arts Academy Liberty Players in 2018. Henizaret is currently appearing with Kurley Skeletons at venues in the local metropolitan area.

Andrea Geller (paintings) is a painter and educator who received her BFA from Parsons School of Design after studying at Cornell University. Following a career as an illustrator and graphic designer, she earned her MFA from William Paterson University. Geller’s series, Rising Water, developed from her love of water and concern for the human-made climate crisis that threatens lands and communities across the globe. She emphasizes this outrage by painting surrealist potential futures, with figures swimming over shrinking land masses. By painting the figure directly on maps she calls attention to the human connection to the climate crisis; although a handful of countries are driving the crisis, all humans and continents are existentially affected. These works are currently in two exhibitions, The New Jersey Arts Annual ‘Mother Nature vs Human Nature: The inequity of Climate Resilience’, through June 23 and ‘cARTography: alternate routes,’ through May 6.



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