

**** PRESS ADVISORY ****

March 28, 2021 (Northampton, MA) In his recent book, *The New Climate War*, Michael E. Mann makes the case that the new enemy in the planetary crisis is doomism - the false belief that it's already too late. Instead, Mann sees this moment in time as a turning point - when forces for social and systemic change are aligning to reshape business as usual.

To shine a light on the forces fighting runaway destruction, inspire hope, and catalyze wide-spread action, Third Row Live presents Hybrid Vigor Music's *A Passion for the Planet: It's Not Too Late* on Sunday, April 25th. This interactive, multimedia experience delivers a potent blend of science, activism, and art - a microcosm of the coalition converging to change course at this dramatic moment in planetary history.

Together, celebrated climate scientist and author Michael E. Mann, and composer Geoffrey Hudson take a deep dive into science and storytelling in Hudson's stunning eco-oratorio, *A Passion for the Planet*. The afternoon begins with a conversation between the audience and a diverse panel including Mann, Hudson, and author and activist Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas to discuss the climate emergency and identify just solutions by exploring the question, "What gives you hope?"

In the evening, Third Row Live will stream a richly annotated, multimedia version of Hudson's 2019 oratorio *A Passion for the Planet*, which uses the emotional power of music to explore the climate crisis. At the center of Hudson's piece is a musical depiction of Mann's famous "Hockey Stick" graph. Like Mann, Hudson ultimately sees reason for optimism and ends his oratorio on a note of hope, with musical settings of words from the naturalist David Orr - "Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up" - and Reinhold Niebuhr - "Nothing that is worth doing... can be accomplished alone."

As the performance unfolds, audience members will enjoy director's-cut-style annotations by Mann and Hudson. As vital participants in the work to be done, viewers can engage in real-time with the panelists via chat and join the performers to sing the final chorale.

About A Passion for the Planet

Geoffrey Hudson's *A Passion for the Planet* is an hour-long oratorio on the subject of the climate crisis. Blending scientific prose, poetry, and sacred texts from many faiths, the libretto traces an arc from beauty and gratitude into darkness and out again into hope.

A Passion for the Planet is scored for a chorus of mixed voices, children's chorus, soprano and baritone soloists, and instrumental ensemble. Sunday's performance features Tony Thornton conducting the Illuminati Vocal Arts Ensemble and the Hampshire Young People's Chorus with

soloists Dashon Burton and Alisa Pearson. In the final movement, performers and audience members join together to sing a simple tune.

Follow our hashtag campaign on Instagram and Twitter #WhatGivesMeHope to join the conversation.

PANEL DISCUSSION: *Earth Optimism: It's Not Too Late*

DATE: April 25, 2021 - 4:30 PM Eastern

SYNOPSIS: Join *A Passion for the Planet* composer Geoffrey Hudson, climate scientist Michael E. Mann, activist Rev. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas, and others as they discuss the climate emergency and explore viable solutions. There is a lot of work to be done, and we are capable of doing it. There is still time to create a better future. And that work is underway all around us. What gives you hope?

CONCERT PERFORMANCE: *It's Not Too Late: A Passion for the Planet*

DATE: April 25, 2021 - 7:30 PM Eastern

SYNOPSIS: The show begins with composer Geoffrey Hudson teaching the audience to sing a simple tune. Next is the viewing of *A Passion for a Planet* with director's-cut-style annotations by Hudson and climate scientist Michael E. Mann, which include graphs, backstory, and musical examples. The eco-oratorio ends with audience members and performers joining to sing the tune learned at the top of the program, providing a sense of unity and underscoring the message that we all have parts to play in this campaign to save our planet.

ABOUT THIRD ROW LIVE

Live performance was one of the first casualties of the pandemic and it may be one of the last areas to recover. Third Row is a project of Laudable Productions, a Massachusetts based creative agency specializing in festival production and immersive events. Our global coalition of over fifty presenting organizations is working together to sustain the performing arts during this uncertain time while re-imagining a more equitable future for artists, presenters, and audiences alike.

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