

The California Academy of Sciences,
The Gardens of Golden Gate Park,
and The ClimateMusic Project present



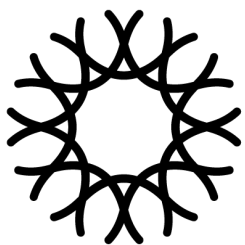
ClimateMusic.org



Climate Solutions: Connecting People, Plants, and the Planet

A live event combining powerful
music, engagement, and action

Featuring *Icarus in Flight* and *Feel It All*
June 16th, 2026



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- **Welcome and Introduction**
 - Dr. Shannon Bennett, California Academy of Sciences
 - Laura Klivans, Emcee
- **Presenting *Icarus in Flight* by Richard Festinger**
- **Live performance of *Icarus in Flight***
- **Expert conversation on climate solutions**
 - Brandi Eide
 - Dr. Ricardo Kriebel
 - Dr. Whendee Silver
- **Closing and engaging with your community**
- **Presenting *Feel It All* by Raine Stern**
- **Live performance of *Feel It All***
 - Music video premiere for the live-stream



CREDITS



Icarus in Flight

Composer

Richard Festinger

Performers

Ani Bukujian

Cordula Merks

Saul Richmond-Rakerd

Yi Zhou

Science Advisors

Dr. William Collins

Dr. Alison Marklein

Visual Designer

Weidong Yang (Kinotech Arts)

Feel It All

Composer

Raine Stern

Performers

Raine Stern

Kya Karine

Guy Azoulay

Brian Hargrove

Aaron Colverson

Science Advisors

Dr. Whendee Silver

Dr. F. Garrett Boudinot

Dr. Alison Marklein

Dr. Wendy Chu

Visual Designer

Angelo Chiacchio

Production and Management

Stephan Crawford, ClimateMusic Executive Producer

Fran Schulberg, ClimateMusic Executive Producer

Charlotte Saunders, Communications Lead

Event Hosts

California Academy of Sciences

Gardens of Golden Gate Park

Emcee

Laura Klivans

Artwork

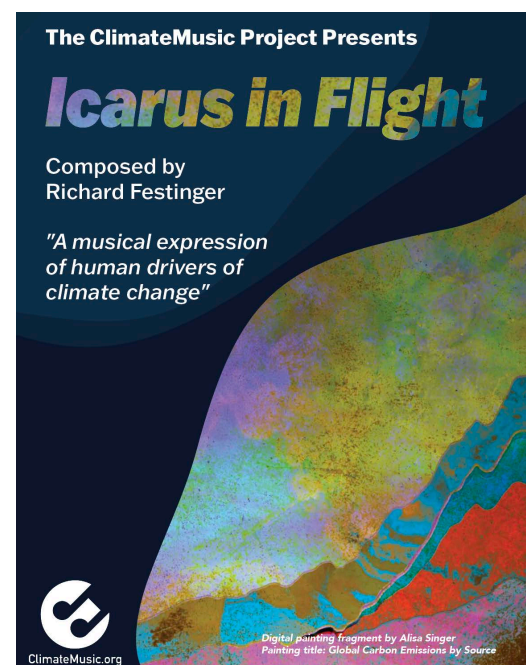
Alisa Singer/Environmental Graphiti





“The title of my quartet offers a metaphor for the trajectory of climate change. Imprisoned by King Minos on the isle of Crete, the brilliant Athenian craftsman Daedalus fashioned wings of feathers fixed with wax for himself and his son Icarus, so to escape from the isle by flight. Daedalus warned his son against flight too low or too high, to avoid both the lading dampness of the sea and the wax-melting heat of the sun. Elated by the thrill of flight, Icarus ignored his father’s admonitions, venturing high into an environment too warm to sustain him.”

- Richard Festinger



Composer Notes for *Feel It All*



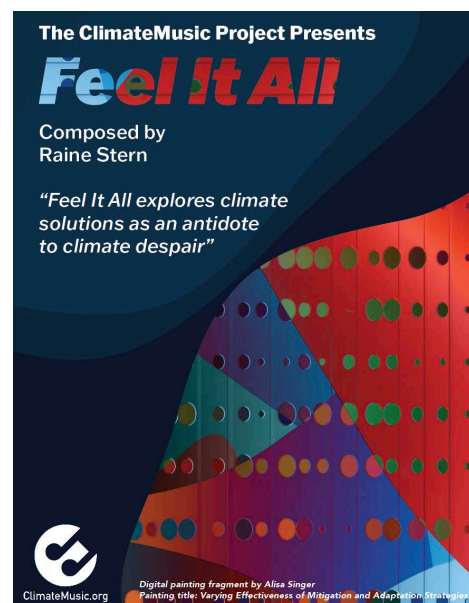
“Feel It All is my attempt to make the science of climate change not just understandable, but perceptible in the body. You can hear the data: CO₂ rising as ascending distorted notes, problems resolving as descending, playful passages, points on a graph transformed into sound. I’ve taken unbiased, reliable science about solutions and infused it with my own artistic expression — the sonic landscape is joyful where good news emerges, celebratory where the Earth shows promise. Because yes, I am biased: I believe we have a duty to care for this magnificent, mystical world we call home.

This piece is about reconnecting with the fundamental truths that shape our world. Science gives us honesty; music gives us feeling. When we learn to meet these truths fully, we reconnect with ourselves, with our environment, and with the quiet, subtle joys of life — from the honey in our tea to the stars in the sky. By engaging deeply with reality, we open ourselves to curiosity, humility, grace, and emotional availability.

Through composing this work, I’ve practiced seeing the beauty and patterns inherent in data, in nature, and in human relationships. I’ve learned patience for myself, for others, for life itself. And I’ve realized that when we face truth — whether in a graph, in a relationship, or in the world around us — we create space for real freedom, real joy, and real choice.

Feel It All is a celebration of life, grounded in the rigor of data, expressed through the intimacy of music, and offered as an invitation: to feel, to wonder, and to recognize that the tools for solutions are already all around us.”

–Raine Stern





Feel It All Lyrics (Climate Solutions) – Raine Stern

They say that “there’s no hope now
You might as well lay down and cry...”
“The system’s rigged and we’re too late, this is our fate”
They say as they drive by
Well I don’t want you to despair
That’s not fair for us to take away your life
So child listen close you should know
The truth from a lie

Show me how you find good news
I’ve been down and I’m looking to you
The poet and The scientist
We hold them both inside
They teach the heart to look with love
The mind to open wide

I’ve seen the innovation, it’s so amazing
The things that people can do
She’s the gift that keeps giving
We bring death, she’s our living
And the solution sounds like... (bum bum!)
Well there’s no excuse for this abuse
Because we have the tools
And I’m showing you the fool proof truth
And it feels like

Show me how you find good news
I’ve been down and I’m looking to you
The poet and The scientist
We hold them both inside
They teach the heart to look with love
The mind to open wide

All my life has to come to this...

I know there’s a way, I know there, there’s a way to feel it
You know the way, you know the way, you know the way to feel it
I’ll show the way, I’ll show the way, I’ll show the way to feel it all!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

To feel it all is the way (x2)

Don’t let yourself become numb
My friend you know the time has come
You’ve got to be under the sun
To feel it all

To feel it all is the way

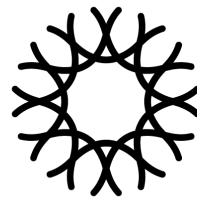


ABOUT THE HOSTS



The California Academy of Sciences is a renowned scientific and educational institution with a mission to regenerate the natural world through science, learning, and collaboration. Based in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, it is home to a world-class aquarium, planetarium, and natural history museum, as well as innovative programs in scientific research and environmental education—all under one living roof.

<https://www.calacademy.org>



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The Conservatory of Flowers, Japanese Tea Garden, and San Francisco Botanical Garden comprise the Gardens of Golden Gate Park, connecting people to plants, the planet, and each other. We believe all people have access to beautiful public gardens and experience the intrinsic value of plants to life and culture for a healthy community and planet.

<https://gggp.org>



ABOUT THE CLIMATEMUSIC PROJECT AND THE ECOECHO CONCERT SERIES



The ClimateMusic Project's mission is to advance climate literacy and to accelerate climate action. We do this by creating and performing science-informed music and visual experiences that educate, inspire, and motivate the broad public to engage actively on climate change. Our events generate conversations about the climate crisis and solutions. These solutions exist; the challenge is to create the individual and collective will to apply them at scale now.

Our EcoEcho concert series engages the broad public by live streaming performances to communities, small and large, across the country and beyond, allowing them to experience the concert stream together and then engage in local conversations about climate action.

For more information about The ClimateMusic Project, and to learn how to support our work, please visit:

Website: www.climatemusic.org

Email: info@climatemusic.org

EcoEcho Page: <https://climatemusic.org/ecoecho/>

Instagram: [theclimatemusicproject](https://www.instagram.com/theclimatemusicproject)

Facebook: [theclimatemusicproject](https://www.facebook.com/theclimatemusicproject)

Linkedin: [linkedin.com/company/the-climatemusic-project/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-climatemusic-project/)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@theclimatemusicproject>



You can learn more about the two compositions [HERE](#) or via this QR code:





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**Jane Goodall's
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Thank you for joining us for our June 16th EcoEcho Concert. Your support means the world to us and our mission at The ClimateMusic Project.

To help us make future events even better, we would be grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete this short survey. Your feedback is invaluable.

Scan or click [HERE](#) for a survey. Please complete after the program:





Dr. Shannon Bennett (Introduction)

As the Chief Science Officer and Harry W. and Diana V. Hind Dean of Science and Research Collections, Dr. Shannon Bennett is responsible for the Academy's programs of scientific research and exploration, as well as overseeing the Academy's priceless collection of nearly 46 million scientific specimens from around the world. In this role, she helps to shape bold new research initiatives and oversees a world-class team of explorers and scientific leaders who are working to explore, explain, and sustain life on Earth. Bennett also holds an appointment as one of the institution's Patterson Scholars in Science and Sustainability. Bennett joined the Academy in 2011 as the institution's first-ever Associate Curator of Microbiology, where she broadened the Academy's research scope to include a dedicated focus on viruses and bacteria. Her specialty lies in infectious diseases that can be transmitted from animals to humans. <https://www.calacademy.org/staff-member/shannon-bennett-phd>



Ani Bukujian (Performer/Violinist)

Ani Bukujian was born into a musical family and started playing the violin at the age of two and a half. Bukujian studied with her father exclusively until the age of 15. A native of Los Angeles, she is the winner of numerous musical competitions, including three gold medals at World Championship of Performing Arts, first place at JS Bach Competition, ASTA Annual National Solo Competition, and Pasadena String Festival. At the age of 7, she was a solo performer in her debut concert with a chamber orchestra at Glendale's Alex Theatre. Bukujian was also part of Viva-Vivaldi All-Girl Orchestra in Washington DC, being the youngest first violin in the orchestra. At the age of 8, she was asked to perform a solo piece with Bakersfield Symphony, where she played one of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. As an AGBU scholarship recipient, she performed at Weill Recital Hall in her first year at The Julliard School in 2012. (Read full bio: <https://www.sfballet.org/the-company/orchestra/>)



Angelo Chiacchio (Visual Designer)

Angelo Chiacchio is a designer, photographer, and filmmaker. Born in Basilicata (Italy) in 1986, Angelo studied design all around Europe: Politecnico de Milano, KISD a Cologne, ENSCI-Les Ateliers in Paris, Waag Society in Amsterdam. Today he's based in Paris where he researches the uses of technology to design its future with innovative products, services and exhibitions. In 2010 he joined the design studio Nodesign.net. He is also a photographer and film-maker, co-founder of italiasenzatempo.it, a project to tell about Italian natural heritage, and author of EPHEMERA, a documentary project that took him to explore some of the most fragile realities on the planet. His latest digital exhibition, "A World of Difference", is currently live on Google Arts & Culture. Please visit : Nodesign.net, italiasenzatempo.it, <http://ephemera.lif>



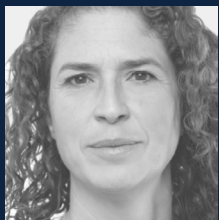
Brandi Eide (Panelist)

Brandi Eide leads the nonprofit collections team (Gardens of Golden Gate Park), bringing over 20 years of experience in public gardens. She has worked at San Diego Botanic Garden, UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, Desert Botanical Garden, and the Springs Preserve in Las Vegas. In senior positions such as Managing Director and Senior Director of Horticulture & Facilities, Brandi guided multidisciplinary teams, strengthened collections, and managed operations across departments. Throughout her career, Brandi has overseen living collections and conservation programs, directed horticulture teams, and led major capital and renovation projects. Her experience includes interpretation, master planning, sustainable landscape design, water conservation, and the creation of plant-themed exhibitions. <https://gggp.org/team-member/brandi-eide/>



Richard Festinger (Composer)

Richard Festinger has garnered international recognition for his extensive catalogue of vocal and instrumental compositions. Writing for the 2011 Tanglewood Music Festival, Frank J. Oteri describes Festinger's music as "notable for its combination of propulsive energy with an impeccable sense of poise and balance," and WQXR Radio in New York has dubbed him "an American master." Festinger is professor of composition at San Francisco State University where he is also Artistic Director of the Morrison Artists Series. He received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in composition from the University of California, Berkeley, and in the mid 1980s co-founded the acclaimed San Francisco based modern music ensemble Earplay. Festinger's music is published by C.F. Peters Corporation and Wildcat Canyon Music Press, and his works have been recorded for the Naxos, Bridge, CRI, Centaur, and CRS labels.



Laura Klivans (Emcee)

Laura Klivans is an award-winning science reporter for KQED News, where she covers climate change with an eye on both groundbreaking progress and gaps in action. She is the former host of KQED's blockbuster video series about tiny, amazing animals, Deep Look. Her work reaches national audiences through NPR, Here & Now, PRI, and other major outlets. Laura's won five Northern California Area Emmy Awards for Deep Look and First Place in the Greater Bay Area Journalism Awards for a podcast exploring how one Oakland neighborhood teamed up to reduce planet-heating pollution. Beyond her reporting, she hosts and moderates events. In the past, she taught audio storytelling at the UC Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, led international education programs, worked with immigrants and refugees along the Thai-Burmese border, taught high schoolers sex ed, and was an actress. She's a former UC Berkeley Human Rights Fellow, USC Center for Health Journalism's California Fellow and Coro Fellow in Public Affairs. Laura has a master's in journalism from UC Berkeley, a master's in education from Harvard, and an undergraduate degree from Northwestern University. She loves trying to riddle the meaning out of vanity license plates.



Dr. Ricardo Kriebel (Panelist)

Dr. Ricardo Kriebel is the Assistant Curator and McAllister Chair of Botany for The California Academy of Sciences. He is a Costa Rican biologist who started working in botany at the herbarium of the Instituto Nacional de Biodiversidad (INBio). He first came to the Academy as a master's student jointly with San Francisco State University and left to pursue a doctorate degree in plant sciences at The City University of New York in a joint program with The New York Botanical Garden. Afterwards, he did postdoctoral work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research focuses on the phylogeny, taxonomy, and morphological evolution in the Melastomataceae (Princess flower family) and more recently on the biogeography and floral evolution of the genus *Salvia* (sages). <https://www.calacademy.org/staff/ibss/botany/ricardo-kriebel>



Cordula Merks (Performer/Violinist)

December 2015 marked Cordula Merks' first season as concertmaster with San Francisco Ballet Orchestra. Prior to that, she served as assistant concertmaster of Seattle Symphony. Before moving to Seattle, Merks held concertmaster positions with Germany's Essen Philharmonic, Bochum Symphony, and Bergische Symphony. She has been a guest concertmaster for many orchestras, including the Dresden Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, West German Radio Orchestra, Cologne Opera, and Portuguese National Opera. Merks' summer appearances have included Claudio Abbado's Lucerne Festival Orchestra as well as touring in Europe as concertmaster of Mahler Chamber Orchestra. When not playing in the orchestra, Merks enjoys playing as a soloist and primarily as a chamber musician and has performed in the US, Israel, and all over Europe. (Read full bio: <https://www.sfballet.org/the-company/orchestra/>)



Saul Richmond-Rakerd (Performer/Cellist)

Saul Richmond-Rakerd is a San Francisco-based cellist and member of San Francisco Ballet Orchestra since 2023. At the age of nine, Saul began his cello studies in his hometown of Okemos, Michigan, and continued to study the instrument alongside piano until he completed high school. He went on to Brown University, where he received degrees in both Physics and Anthropology. While there, he also completed the Applied Music Program, served as principal cellist of the Brown University Orchestra, performed as a soloist, and played regularly with several chamber music groups. After graduating, Saul decided to immerse himself in music full-time, so after attending the Castleton Music Festival in 2013, he moved to Florence, Italy, to pursue a Biennio di Violoncello and to play professionally as principal cellist of the Orchestra Giovanile Italiana. After completing his diploma, he moved to San Francisco in 2015 and began a Master of Music degree at the San Francisco Conservatory under the tutelage of Jennifer Culp, a degree that he completed in December 2016. (Read full bio: <https://www.sfballet.org/the-company/orchestra/>)



Dr. Whendee Silver (Panelist)

Dr. Whendee Silver is the Rudy Grah Chair and Professor of Ecosystem Ecology and Biogeochemistry in the Department of Environmental Science, Policy, and Management at U.C. Berkeley. She received her PhD in Ecosystem Ecology from Yale University. Her work seeks to determine the biogeochemical effects of climate change and human impacts on the environment, and the potential for mitigating these effects. The Silver Lab was recently awarded the Innovation Prize by the American Carbon Registry. Professor Silver is a fellow of the Ecological Society of America and was named a University of California Climate Champion for 2016 for outstanding teaching, research and public service in the areas of climate change solutions, action and broad engagement.



Raine Stern (Performer/Composer)

Raine Stern is a Wisconsin-born powerhouse—an artist, guitarist, producer, and storyteller who captivates audiences the moment she steps on stage. She blends the ferocity of an unapologetic woman with a tender, magnetic masculinity that keeps people completely mesmerized. She doesn't just play music; she commands a room with raw conviction, charm, and an effortless, jaw-dropping presence. From sharing the stage with Clyde Stubblefield to being told by Snoop Dogg himself, “Just keep doing your thing” Raine has proven she's the real deal. She's performed on NBC, NPR, PBS, and festival stages, breaking through as a true visionary. Funky, electrifying, and impossibly versatile, she plays with a passion that makes guitars cry and hearts race, all while making you feel more alive, more in tune with yourself, and more connected to something bigger. But Raine's artistry runs deeper than sound—she shifts minds. She makes environmental activism cool.



Weidong Yang (Visual Designer)

Weidong Yang is the co-founder and director of Kinetech Arts. He founded Kineviz, creating visual analytics solution for complex data. He received his Ph.D in Physics and Masters in Computer Science from University of Oregon. Weidong was a postdoctoral fellow at UC Berkeley, conducting research on quantum dots. He has collaborated and created many performances and installations. As a dancer, he has performed with various dance companies including KUNST-STOFF, Paco Gomes and Sara Shelton Mann. He was a Scientific Delirium Madness resident artist at Djerassi Resident Artists Program in 2017. He is currently in a 3-year residency at ODC Theatre and Djerassi.

<https://counterpulse.org/staff-member/weidong-yang/>



Yi Zhou (Performer/Violist)

Yi Zhou joined San Francisco Ballet Orchestra as a principal violist in December 2015. Prior to his appointment, he was a principal viola of Los Angeles Opera. Zhou has made recent appearances in the international music scene, including performing Bela Bartok Viola Concerto with Dearborn Symphony Orchestra, a recital at the celebrated St. Martin-in-the-Fields in London, performances at the 2008 Edinburgh Fringe Festival, and a performance at Three Rivers Music Center in California. He was selected as a principal viola of the Pacific Music Festival in Japan in 2008 under the baton of Fabio Luisi and returned to the Festival in 2009 and 2010. Yi has also performed with Singapore Symphony Orchestra and Boston Philharmonic Orchestra. Yi is an active chamber musician. He has collaborated with renowned artists including Menahem Pressler, Arnold Steinhardt, Ronald Leonard, Quatuor Ebène, Fiato Quartet, and New Hollywood String Quartet. (Read full bio: <https://www.sfballet.org/the-company/orchestra/>)