

SYMPHONY SPACE ANNOUNCES 2008/2009 SEASON OF FAMILY PROGRAMMING

NEW YORK CITY'S FUN AND PROGRESSIVE
WEEKEND FAMILY DESTINATION

HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE PERFORMANCES BY ELIZABETH MITCHELL,
THE VERY HUNGRY CATERPILLAR, JUSTIN ROBERTS, RALPH'S WORLD,
THE GUSTAFAER YELLOWGOLD SHOW AND THALIA KIDS' BOOK CLUB

Symphony Space's 2008/2009 season of family programming kicks off **October 4**. Presenting the **Just Kidding** series of music, theater and dance performances, **Kids' Films** and the **Thalia Kids' Book Club**, Symphony Space has something for the entire family each weekend. Acclaimed Caribbean family musician **Father Goose** begins the season with his high-energy set of pop and folk music from the Islands, along with popular favorites **Bubble and Friends Do The Beatles' Abbey Road** and **Justin Roberts**, while **The Deedle Deedle Dees** and **Ralph's World** bring the final weeks of **Just Kidding** family music programming to a rousing, rocking, energetic close on **May 2**. With such a diverse line-up of family music, Symphony Space is the place to see kids' music in New York City.

In keeping with its mission of providing a wide array of engaging programming for everyone, Symphony Space offers families diverse and affordable cultural events each week. From the kid-centric series **Kids' Films**—which is co-presented by the New York International Children's Film Festival—and family-friendly shows by **Randy Kaplan**, **Uncle Rock** and **Elizabeth Mitchell** to theatrical performances like *The Nutcracker* and Mermaid Theater of Nova Scotia's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, Symphony Space reaches out to all ages.

The new season will include the New York debut of what could be called Lilith Fair for five-year-olds, as San Francisco's **Frances England** brings her folk and indie sound to Symphony Space for the first time, as well as up-and-coming and wildly popular Portland, OR-based music act **Captain Bogg and Salty**, who are the first (and only?) pirate-themed music group for kids. **The Harmonica Pocket** from Seattle will also make their Just Kidding debut this year. And New York favorite **The Gustafer Yellowgold Show** and the **National Dance Institute Celebration Team** return to Symphony Space following successful shows last season. The **Kids' Films** series will present rarely screened classics and international gems alongside exclusive short films. On select Sundays the **Thalia Kids' Book Club** offers young readers the chance to interact with their favorite authors, who discuss their new books with other writers or Symphony Space Education Director **Madeline Cohen**. This season's guests include **Cornelia Funke** (*Inkdeath*), *The Penderwicks* series author **Jeanne Birdsall** and **Jonathan Stroud** (*Heroes of the Valley*). Sometimes an actor stops by to read an excerpt, and every event includes a fun writing or drawing exercise and kids' Q&A.

When Symphony Space opened its doors in 1978 with its first production, Wall to Wall Bach, it gathered together an eclectic group of musicians, professional and amateur, well-known and emerging. What began as a natural outgrowth of the cultural epicenter that is the Upper West Side, traditionally home to many of the great actors, writers, dancers and musicians of our time, remains a unique melding of world-class artistry with the informality and intimacy of a neighborhood salon.

For more information, please contact
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SCHEDULE

JUST KIDDING

You can count on us to make planning every Saturday with the kids easy. Music, theatre, dance and a whole lot more—all the cultural riches and inspiring experiences that affirm why you raise your kids in New York!

Father Goose

October 4 at 11:00 am \$27 Day of Show; \$25 Advance; \$17 Day of Show Child; \$15 Advance Child; \$20 Member, \$10 Just Kidding Club

Just Kidding Club Day

“As part of the ensemble Dan Zanes & Friends, Father Goose routinely steals the show.”—*The New York Times*

Father Goose creates a high-energy block party that runs from Jamaica to New York and updates classic Caribbean folk songs into a mix of reggae, dancehall, rap, and funk. Strap on the whole family’s dancing shoes and hang on tight—his live show is a wild ride!

Music for a Green Planet with Hayes Greenfield

October 11 at 11:00 am \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$8 Just Kidding Club

With rollicking Dixieland beats, groovy beatnik vibes, and bossa nova rhythms, acclaimed musician and educator Hayes Greenfield’s Music for a Green Planet uses an array of jazz styles to teach kids about saving the earth and opens up their musical horizons at the same time.

National Dance Institute Celebration Team: Volando Á México

November 1 at 2:00 pm \$27 Day of Show; \$25 Advance; \$17 Day of Show Child; \$15 Advance Child; \$20 Member, \$10 Just Kidding Club

National Dance Institute’s Celebration Team returns to Symphony Space with an exuberant performance of original choreography.

Andrew Nemr and Cats Paying Dues

November 8 at 11:00 am \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$10 Just Kidding Club

Andrew Nemr, a protégé of the great Gregory Hines and compatriot of Savion Glover, is on the crest of a new wave of tap dance culture. He and his young troupe of like-minded hoofers CPD Plus (Cats Paying Dues) perform a dynamic kids program with high-flying action from start to finish.

Elizabeth Mitchell

November 15 at 11:00 am \$27 Day of Show; \$25 Advance; \$17 Day of Show Child; \$15 Advance Child; \$20 Member, \$10 Just Kidding Club

“Her lovely voice brings a fresh sound to cherished American folk songs and other melodies from around the world.”—*Smithsonian Folkways Recordings*

Mitchell sings like an angel and turns everything from Woody Guthrie to the Velvet Underground into the sweetest, most organic sounding music you’ve ever heard.

Randy Kaplan

November 22 at 11:00 am \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$8 Just Kidding Club

“One of the most exciting newcomers to kids’ music since Dan Zanes.”—*Parenting Magazine*

Kaplan’s shows are unpredictable and infectiously fun, introducing the tyke set to inventive originals alongside Tin Pan Alley gems, Broadway showstoppers, and Delta blues.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites

December 6 at 2:00 pm \$27 Day of Show; \$25 Advance; \$17 Day of Show Child; \$15 Advance Child; \$20 Member; \$10 Just Kidding Club

Mermaid Theatre uses black light puppetry to capture three favorite Eric Carle stories: the fanciful account of Little Cloud’s travels through the sky, the Mixed-Up Chameleon’s discovery of his own unique nature, and the classic tale of *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

Uncle Rock

December 20 at 11:00 am \$27 Day of Show; \$25 Advance; \$17 Day of Show Child; \$15 Advance Child; \$20 Member; \$10 Just Kidding Club

“Roundup of the best music for kids.”—*Cookie Magazine*

Uncle Rock’s catchy songs have won him rave reviews from kids and parents all over. His “rock of all ages” approach draws on his stints with garage rockers The Fleshtones and other bands, as well as influences that range from the Beatles to James Brown.

The Sippy Cups

January 10 at 11:00 am \$27 Day of Show; \$25 Advance; \$17 Day of Show Child; \$15 Advance Child; \$20 Member, \$10 Member Child; \$10 Just Kidding Club

“Every parent’s favorite kid-rock band and quite possibly the illegitimate offspring of The Cat in the Hat and Joey Ramone.”—*San Francisco Chronicle*

The Sippy Cups bring a high-energy rock show that combines comic stunts, puppets, and exciting visuals with original psychedelic rock tunes and unique versions of hits from bands like The Beatles, early Pink Floyd, David Bowie, The Who, and The Ramones.

The Harmonica Pocket

January 17 at 11:00 am & 2:00 pm \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$8 Just Kidding Club

With a hula hoop, a ukulele, some face paint, and a suitcase full of props and instruments, this duo offers swinging, acoustic story-songs and clever twists on classic American folk songs, all set to the choreography of a tap dancing ladybug.

Bubble and Friends Do The Beatles: *Abbey Road's* 40th Anniversary

February 7 at 11:00 am \$27 Day of Show; \$25 Advance; \$17 Day of Show Child; \$15 Advance Child; \$20 Member, \$10 Just Kidding Club

Just Kidding Club Day

Following last season's sold out *Sgt. Pepper* tribute, the pop band Bubble returns with another extended group of friends for an equally over-the-top celebration of *Abbey Road*—the classic album in its entirety.

Justin Roberts

February 14 at 11:00 am & 1:00 pm \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$10 Just Kidding Club

“On your feet fun and laugh-out-loud funny.”—*People Magazine*

The winner of four Parents' Choice Gold awards, Roberts crafts songs that are rich with humor and insight, capturing children's everyday lives with songs about temper tantrums, younger siblings, family pets, and more.

Dog on Fleas

March 21 at 11:00 am \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$8 Just Kidding Club

This band is making some of the most inventive and exciting all-ages music around—sophisticated, but bouncing-off-the-walls fun at the same time. Their recipe: In a big saucepan mix equal parts Cab Calloway and Woody Guthrie. Stir in a pinch of Spike Jones, NRBQ and Sun Ra. Top with a sauce of calypso, Cajun, highlife, soul, and reggae.

Captain Bogg and Salty

March 28 at 11:00 am \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$10 Just Kidding Club

New York Debut

Just Kidding Club Day

Join the roughest swaggerin' scallywaggs that ever sailed the seven seas—the buccaneer rock band for pirates of all ages. This costumed six-person crew from Portland blends original music with humor and history. Pirate jigs, mermaid lullabies, and rock 'n roll sea chanteys are interspersed with nautical advice and humor.

Frances England

April 4 at 11:00 am \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$10 Just Kidding Club

New York Debut

If there were ever a Lilith Fair for five-year olds, newcomer England would be a prime candidate to headline. The singer-songwriter brings a little bit of Sara McLachlan and a little bit of Norah Jones to her folk and indie sound.

The Deedle Deedle Dees

April 11 at 11:00 am \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$8 Just Kidding Club

With catchy songs paying tribute to historical figures such as John Brown, Nellie Bly, and Aaron Burr, alongside whimsical tunes like “Obedience School” and “Vegetarian Tyrannosaurus Rex,” this Brooklyn-based rock band will mesmerize clever kids and smart adults alike.

The Gustafer Yellowgold Show

April 25 at 11:00 am & 2:00 pm, April 26 at 11:00 am \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$8 Just Kidding Club

April 26 at 11:00 am

“A cross between Yellow Submarine and Dr. Seuss, filtered through the lens of the Lower East Side.”—*The New York Times*

Morgan Taylor’s Gustafer Yellowgold Show (which just had a hit run Off Broadway) is unlike anything in family entertainment. His story-songs about Gustafer and his pals, performed against a backdrop of large-screen animations, create a whole world as deep and original as it is beautiful. Join us for a fun new DVD release party.

Ralph’s World

May 2 at 11:00 am & 2:00 pm \$19 Day of Show; \$18 Advance; \$13 Day of Show Child; \$12 Advance Child; \$12 Member, \$10 Just Kidding Club

Just Kidding Club Day

GRAMMY Award-nominated Ralph Covert returns to get little bodies jumping. The Chicago-based artist takes the same McCartney-esque super-melodic approach to kids’ music as he does with his indie rock band The Bad Examples. The result is high-energy mayhem the kids can’t enough of.

THALIA KIDS’ BOOK CLUB

Lively talks between children’s book authors and their fans ages 9-12. Each event includes a creative writing project, a free-wheeling discussion with the audience and a book signing. Sometimes actors stop by to read from the book. There will be one event for teens, with special guest **Sherman Alexie**.

Co-presented with Bank Street Bookstore.

Cornelia Funke’s *Inkdeath*

October 19 at 1:00 pm \$18; \$12 Child; \$12 Member; \$8 Member Child (ages 12 and under)

“Conveys so well the joys, terrors, and pitfalls of reading.”—*The Guardian*

The *New York Times* bestselling author makes a rare appearance to talk about the stunning conclusion to the beloved *Inkheart* trilogy, a thrilling adventure series in which storybook characters come to life and take the readers on their journey.

Jonathan Stroud's *Heroes of the Valley*

January 25 at 1:00 pm \$18; \$12 Child; \$12 Member; \$8 Member Child (ages 12 and under)

The author of the *Bartimaeus Trilogy* discusses his new novel that follows a young shepherd on a hero's quest. Along the way, he encounters highway robbers, terrifying monsters, and the truth about the legends he grew up listening to.

Kirsten Miller's *Kiki Strike* series

February 8 at 1:00 pm \$18; \$12 Child; \$12 Member; \$8 Member Child (ages 12 and under)

"The love for New York's nooks and crannies shines from every page."—*Publishers Weekly*

Miller talks about her popular middle-grade series *Kiki Strike*, the action-packed adventures of delinquent girl scouts out for revenge and a secret city below the streets of Manhattan.

Gary Schmidt's *The Wednesday Wars*

February 22 at 1:00 pm \$18; \$12 Child; \$12 Member; \$8 Member Child (ages 12 and under)

"One of my favorite books of the year."—*The New York Times*

The two-time Newbery Medal winner talks about the frequently comic mishaps and adventures of a 12-year-old Long Island boy in the Vietnam era.

Jeanne Birdsall's *Penderwicks* series

March 22 at 1:00 pm \$18; \$12 Child; \$12 Member; \$8 Member Child (ages 12 and under)

The National Book Award-winning author of *The Penderwicks* talks about the much-loved series that takes readers into the enchanting world of four very different sisters. Fans of classic children's literature will love the charming, old-fashioned style that still appeals to a contemporary audience.

First event for teens!

Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*

April 5 at 1:00 pm \$18; \$12 Child; \$12 Member; \$8 Member Child (ages 16 and under)

"It may be Alexie's best work yet."—*The New York Times*

"Alexie nimbly blends sharp wit with unapologetic emotion in his first foray into young-adult literature."—*Kirkus Reviews*

The author talks about his National Book Award-winning novel, a semi-autobiographical tale about a Native-American boy living on the Spokane Indian reservation while attending an all-white school.

KIDS' FILMS

For the fledgling actor or director in your family, or just for the sheer fun of a weekend afternoon at the movies.

The Best Selections from The New York International Children's Film Festival

October 25 & 26 at 11:00 am \$11; \$8 Child; \$6 Member

Kid Flix 3

October 25 & 26 at 1:00 pm

NYICFF Party Mix 3

SACKS AND CO.

November 29 at 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

Azar & Azmar

December 27 & 28 at 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

Duck Soup & Babes in Toyland

January 24 at 11:00 am & 1:00 pm

Lotte from Gadgetville

February 28; March 1, 7, 8, 14, & 15; April 18 at times tbd

Throughout the season, NY International Children's Film Festival brings Symphony Space family audiences great films from around the world. Specific titles are chosen as each date approaches, and additional Saturday and Sunday screenings are often added, so log on to symphonyspace.org and sign up for our e-mail newsletter to make sure you don't miss a thing!

The Wizard of Oz

January 3 at 11:00 am \$11; \$8 Children; \$6 Member

Take your kids over the rainbow with Dorothy Gale as she meets a cast of magical characters who escort her to the shining Emerald City. 70 years after its initial release, this classic is still considered one of the best movies of all time.

BOX OFFICE

Tickets for performances are available:

- In person at 2537 Broadway at 95th Street, Tuesday-Sunday, noon to 7 P.M.
- Over the telephone at (212) 864-5400, Tuesday-Sunday, 11 A.M. to 7 P.M.,
- Online at symphonyspace.org.

For more information, please contact

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