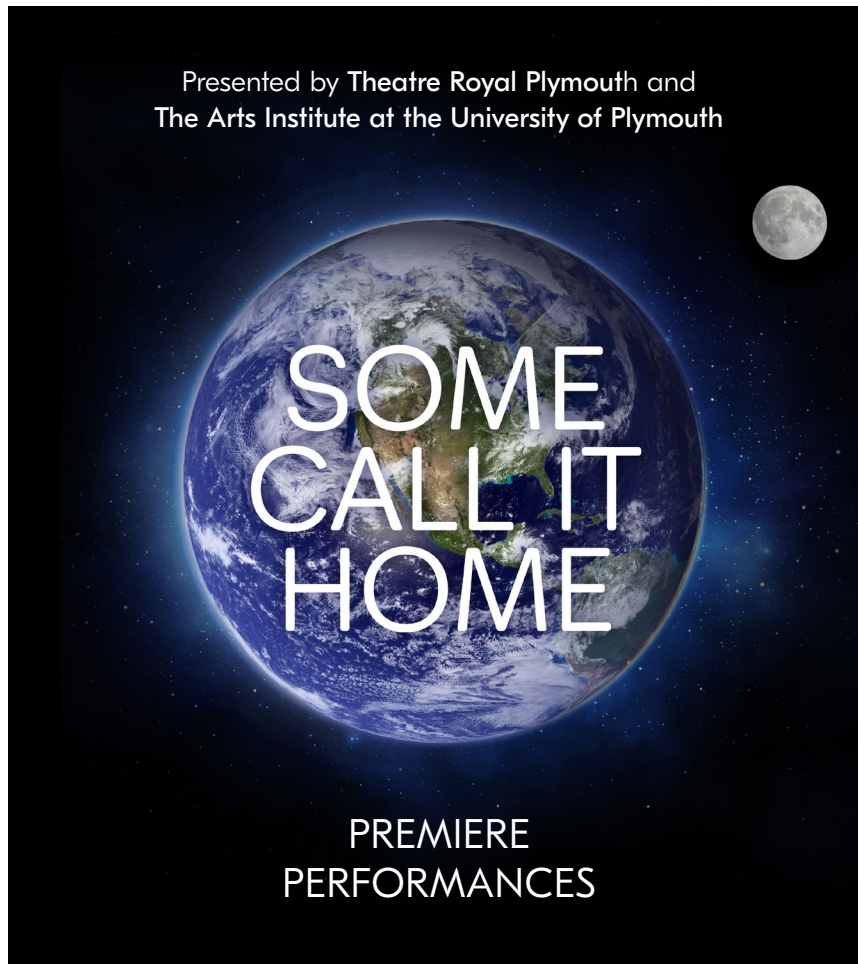


# PROGRAMME



Music by Jane O'Leary and Jonathan Dawe

Erika Baikoff, soprano  
Timothy Nelson, baritone

Kokoro Ensemble, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra,  
Mark Forkgen, conductor

Plymouth Performing Arts Academy, Junior Chorus

Created, produced, and directed by Robert Taub

**Some Call It Home** is a passionate multimedia music drama inspired by our ongoing relationship to our home, our planet.

Here in the theatre, this work brings to life pivotal perspectives of our home. Prior to the crossing of the *Mayflower*, the New World was described as an unexplored Eden. Upon their arrival in North America, the courageous Pilgrims viewed their future home as a wilderness. Throughout intervening years there have been conflicting views of "home" and the ways in which we regard our home. More recently, astronauts who have viewed our planet from the closest celestial body - the moon - comment humbly on the fragility of Earth, our universal home, hovering, suspended in space.

Beyond the stage, we all play roles in this ongoing drama.

*Robert Taub*



**Fri 04 & Sat 05 June 2021, 7.30pm**

Post-performance panel discussion with

Erika Baikoff, soprano

Timothy Nelson, baritone

Ben Taub, Pulitzer prize-winning investigative journalist  
who provided the video footage for Scene 8

# LIBRETTO

## Scene 1: Home

It's only a wilderness  
or a frontier  
if it's unfamiliar to you.  
From another perspective,  
some call it home.

## Scene 2: Eden

"We found the soyle to bee fatter,  
the trees greater and to growe thinner,  
the grounde more firme  
and deeper mould,  
finer grasse  
and as good as euer  
we saw any in England,  
in some places rockie and farre  
more high and hillie ground,  
more plentie of their fruites,  
more abundance of beastes."

*Harriot's A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia, 1585*

## Scene 3: Arrival 1620

"God has cleared a space  
for us  
in the wilderness."

*William Bradford: Pilgrims arriving in the New World, 1620*

## Scene 4: God's purpose

"That God hath a special purpose  
to give that Land  
as an inheritance to our Nation,  
and great pittie  
it were that it should long lie  
in so desolate a state,  
considering it agreeth so well  
with our own bodies,  
being both fertile,  
and so temperate for heate and cold,  
as in the respect  
one can scarce distinguish  
New England from Old."

*1624: Edward Winslow, pilgrim leader, 1624*

## Scene 5: Expansion

"I know  
that the acquisition of Louisiana  
has been disapproved by some ...  
that the enlargement of our territory  
would endanger its union..."

The larger our association  
the less will it be shaken by local passions;  
and in any view  
is it not better  
that the opposite bank of the Mississippi  
should be settled by our own brethren and children  
than by strangers of another family?"

*President Thomas Jefferson: 2nd Inaugural Address, 1805*

## Scene 6: Manifest Destiny

"What good man  
would prefer a country  
covered by forests  
and ranged by a few thousand savages,  
to our extensive Republic,  
studded with towns  
and prosperous farms...  
and filled with the blessings  
of liberty,  
civilisation,  
and religion?"

*President Andrew Jackson: Manifest Destiny, 1830*

## Scene 7: Transmogrified

"We knew the world would not be the same.  
A few people laughed,  
a few people cried,  
most people were silent.  
I remembered the line  
from the Hindu scripture,  
the Bhagavad-Gita...  
'Now I am become Death,  
the destroyer of worlds.'"

*Robert Oppenheimer: Director, Manhattan Project, commenting on the  
successful test of "Trinity" - the world's first nuclear explosion - in the desert of  
New Mexico in July 1945*

## Scene 8: Migration 2017

"No one would go into the desert  
if they had other means to live  
here  
under decent conditions.  
The desert is hell.

You're always close to death.  
You can always get lost.  
The people who are doing this work  
— this route —  
they're doing it because  
there is nothing else to do."

*Human smuggler in the Sahara Desert, 2017*

## Scene 9: Earthrise

"We set out to explore the moon  
and instead  
discovered the Earth.

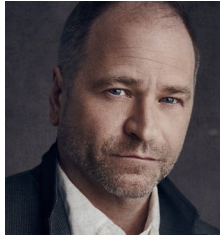
Fifty years later,  
"Earthrise"  
- the lingering imprint of our mission -  
stands sentinel.

It still reminds us  
that distance and borders and division  
are merely a matter of perspective.  
We are all linked  
in a joined human enterprise;  
we are bound to a planet  
we all must share.

We are all,  
together,  
stewards of this fragile treasure."

*Bill Anders, Apollo 8 crew member, "Earthrise" witnessed, Dec 1968*

# BIOGRAPHIES



## **Jonathan Dawe** composer

The highly innovative world of composer Jonathan Dawe joins Baroque imagery with a modernist mix, cast with dynamic dramatic flair. Recent commissions include operas in Montreal and orchestral works with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and American Composers Orchestra, The Wharton Center for Performing Arts, Da

Capo Chamber Players, Load Bang, The Miro Quartet, The Brentano String Quartet, and the Cygnus Ensemble, Awards he has received include recording grants from The Copland Fund for New Music, a Koussevitzky Music Foundation Commission (Library of Congress) and a Fromm Foundation Grant (Harvard University). Jon lives in New York, where is on the faculty of The Juilliard School.



## **Jane O'Leary** composer

Jane has been active as a composer, performer, teacher, mentor and concert promoter since arriving in Galway, Ireland in 1972 from the USA. Having studied music at Vassar College and Princeton University, she created Ireland's first contemporary music ensemble, Concorde.

Recent performances include a portrait concert in New York City, festivals in Italy and Brazil, with PluralEnsemble in Madrid, as featured composer with Hard Rain Ensemble in Belfast. Triptych, for string quartet and orchestra, was premiered last month in Dublin by the National Symphony Orchestra and Ligeti Quartet. One of Jane's ancestors (twelve generations back) is Richard Warren, a leader onboard the Mayflower.



## **Erika Baikoff** soprano

Erika comes to us from New York, where she is a current member of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program. She has performed major operatic roles with Lyon National Opera and was featured as soloist in Mahler's 4th Symphony with the Lyon National Opera Orchestra, directed by Maestro

Daniele Rustioni. Additional recent appearances include performances at Deutsche Oper Berlin, Chautauqua Voice Institute, Songfest, and Internationale Meistersinger Akademie. Erika is the winner of several prestigious international competitions and career grants. A graduate of Princeton University, she also holds a Masters Degree from The Guildhall School of Music in London. Erika appears by kind permission of the Metropolitan Opera Lindemann Young Artist Development Program.



### **Timothy Nelson** baritone

Timothy gained a degree in Physiology from Cardiff University before studying at the Royal College of Music International Opera School, where he was awarded the McCulloch Prize for Opera. He was a Jerwood Young Artist at the Glyndebourne Festival, winner of the RCM Joan Chissell Schumann Competition and the Gerald

Moore Award Singers Prize, and a recipient of an Independent Opera at Sadler's Wells Postgraduate Voice Fellowship. Timothy has been featured in major roles with Opera North, Glyndebourne, and Welsh National Opera. Additional recent appearances include performances at BBC Proms, Royal Albert Hall, and Royal Festival Hall.

### **Kokoru**

#### **Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra New Music Ensemble**

**Violins:** Richard Milone, Rowan Patterson, Jens Lynen, Jack Greed

**Violas:** Joe Fisher, George White

**Cellos:** Judith Burgin, Kate Keats

**Double Bass:** Martin Henderson



### **Mark Forkgen** conductor

Mark is Principal Conductor and Artistic Advisor of Kokoru, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra's contemporary music ensemble, and Director of the London Concert Choir. He has also been guest conductor of a number of leading British orchestras, including the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Orchestra of the Age of

Enlightenment, Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, City of London Sinfonia, and others, and has conducted major orchestras throughout Europe. Mark has premiered more than a hundred works, including theatre works and contemporary operas.

### **Childrens Chorus (Scene 9)**

#### **Students at Plymouth Performing Arts Academy**

Theadora Beavan, Ava Bend, Midori Dutta, Morgan Stringer.



### **Robert Taub**

Robert was inspired to create *Some Call It Home* by the desire to explore what we can learn today from events of 1620. As a concert pianist, he has performed as guest soloist with major orchestras worldwide with a repertoire ranging from Bach to music of our time. He has recorded the complete Beethoven Piano

Sonatas, Scriabin Piano Sonatas, and works of Milton Babbitt. He has also built and led several concert series and festivals, including a highly touted series at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, where is only predecessor as Artist-in-Residence was TS Eliot. He is currently Music Director of The Arts Institute, University of Plymouth.

## We would like to thank

**Kathryn N Gray**, Associate Professor (English), University of Plymouth, whose research on ways in which the colonial natural world of North America was described, presented and monetised through the 17th and 18th centuries provided valuable context for the historical framework of *Some Call It Home*.

**James Longford**, pianist, for his wonderful help in rehearsals.

**The British Museum**, for use of the watercolour paintings by John White (Scene 2 and Scene 4)



**The Arts Institute** is the wide-ranging public arts programme of the University of Plymouth. It plays a pivotal role in building culture and art in the city and South West region, supporting established, new and emerging artists from around the world. **Musica Viva** – created within the Arts Institute in 2019 – brings internationally acclaimed musical performers and composers to our Plymouth community to inspire, educate, challenge, and unite audiences by presenting world-class musicians in public concert performances, open rehearsals, and informal talks.

**Theatre Royal Plymouth** is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement throughout Plymouth and the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching the lives and interests of people from all backgrounds. It creates and presents a wide breadth of shows on a range of scales by embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists, and by collaborating with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.

