

Mukund S. Kulkarni
CULTURAL SERIES

Rabin Spielberg

PIANIST AND COMPOSER

"RE-INVENTIONS"



A LIVE VIRTUAL CONCERT FROM THE STAGE

KULKARNI THEATRE

AT



PennState
Harrisburg

THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 2021 • 7:30 P.M.

Welcome to the Mukund S. Kulkarni Theatre and the **KULKARNI CULTURAL SERIES**



Thank you for joining us for this special virtual LIVE event taking place on the stage of the Kulkarni Theatre at Penn State Harrisburg. It's hard to believe that a year ago, we had to "close" our theatre, cancel and postpone shows, and embrace a new way of doing our work.

The coronavirus pandemic has impacted the performing arts world in devastating ways and temporarily took away our core mission of gathering people in theatres to experience the power and pleasure of live performances. The Kulkarni Cultural Series took a pause in the fall of 2020, but we are happy to bring this free special event to you in this virtual platform.

Robin Spielberg's glorious piano music is the perfect antidote to bring to us peace, comfort and joy...something we all need right now. You will be transported, engaged and soothed by her lovely and lively compositions. It is our hope that this virtual broadcast makes you feel as though you were in your seat in the Kulkarni Theatre. We look forward to hosting live audiences very soon and can't wait to welcome you back. Stay safe, stay in touch and enjoy the concert!

Teri Guerrisi, Arts Manager, Kulkarni Theatre

MUKUND S. KULKARNI THEATRE



Penn State Harrisburg officially dedicated this theatre facility in honor of retired Chancellor Mukund S. Kulkarni in September of 2018. A plaque identifying his legacy and accomplishments hangs at the base of the staircase in the Student Enrichment Center. Here is a portion of the statement on the plaque:

"Dr. Mukund S. Kulkarni joined Penn State Harrisburg in 1985 as a faculty member in the School of Business Administration, and advanced in faculty rank and in leadership posts prior to becoming chancellor in 2010. He retired June 30, 2018.

Penn State Harrisburg experienced substantial growth in its student population, including a record number of international students, during Dr. Kulkarni's tenure. He built upon the college's reputation for attracting high-caliber students, highly credentialed faculty members, and dedicated staff members...

Dr. Kulkarni's leadership was marked by a commitment to diversity and inclusiveness and the belief treating each other with respect and civility is paramount and that education is fullest when we learn from those around us, regardless of differences."

The portion of the University endowment that benefits Penn State Harrisburg grew by more than \$3 million thanks to recent gifts in the spring of 2018 honoring Dr. Kulkarni. The gifts support the naming of the Kulkarni Theatre; the Mukund S. Kulkarni Cultural Series Program Fund, which will support annual cultural programs and performances in the theatre; and scholarships through Penn State's Open Doors Scholarship Matching Program.

"Facilities for arts and culture have been a dream of mine for years. This facility fills this major gap that existed on the campus and I am honored that it will bear my name," Kulkarni said. "I am truly humbled by the generosity of many donors and the consideration given by the University."

Robin Spielberg

PIANIST AND COMPOSER

"RE-INVENTIONS"

Thursday, March 18, 2021 • 7:30 p.m.

Mukund S. Kulkarni Theatre, Penn State Harrisburg

Forgiving Winter

I Remember Spring

Saving the Irises

Ireland

Hi Lilli Hi Lo

Save the Best for Last

Kitten's First Snow

Sonata No. 16 in C Major (Re-Invented)

Kinderszenen Op15. No.1 (Re-Invented)

When We Were Young

If

All By Myself/Alone Again, Naturally

Cherry Blossom

A Song for Jennie

Canon in D (Re-Invented)

ABOUT THE ARTIST:

Robin Spielberg



“Music smooths the rough edges of life,” says Robin Spielberg in a recent interview. “It speaks to us when words fail, and expresses our deepest emotions.” Ms. Spielberg discovered her passion for music as a youth and began formal piano lessons at the age of 7. By the time she turned 10, she had composed more than 50 original songs.

Growing up just outside of New York City, Spielberg often frequented the Broadway theater district with her family. Her love for the American Musical inspired her as a youth to arrange popular American songs from theater and film alongside her classical training. With interests in both theater and music, Spielberg earned a B.F.A. in drama from New York University. As a founding member of the Atlantic Theater Company, she has acted in dozens of off-Broadway plays, radio dramas, and composed several original scores while building a career as one of the premiere piano performers in New York. It was in these Manhattan piano rooms that Spielberg debuted her original piano solos.

Spielberg began her concert career in 1996. Audiences returned again and again to hear Spielberg’s unique arrangements and original music.

Her Carnegie Hall debut was a sold-out performance at the Weill Recital Hall in 1997 and she has been a headline performer in the hall twice since.

Robin Spielberg has been hailed as one of America’s most popular contemporary female pianists/ composers and has been featured in live performances on such programs as “The Soul of Christmas: A Celtic Music Celebration with Thomas Moore” and “The Great American Ballroom Challenge” on PBS, CBS Saturday Morning, ABC News, Lifetime Live, and NPR. Spielberg has toured South Korea, making concert appearances at the renowned Seoul Arts Center, LG Arts Center and KBS Hall. Recently, South Korea’s Airiang TV recorded a full concert of Spielberg and broadcast it throughout Asia.

Spielberg’s music has now been heard by over 80 million listeners on Pandora and has had hundreds of millions of plays on Apple Music and Spotify. As her popularity continues to skyrocket, Spotify has now created a ‘Robin Spielberg Spotify Playlist’.

Spielberg recently released “Re-Inventions,” her 20th album, and it is in the top 1% of artists played on Pandora Radio, the internet’s largest radio station. In addition to over 200 million streams on that platform, she has over 240,000 monthly listeners on Spotify and has sold over a million physical CDs of her piano-centric music.

Known for her expressive touch at the piano, melodic original compositions and unique arrangements of covers, Spielberg’s newest recording contains original arrangements of classical masterpieces by Mozart, Beethoven, Chopin, Strauss, Schumann, Schubert, Brahms and more.

Spielberg's music has been heard on the History Channel and several national documentaries. Her music has served as the soundtrack for both the 2013 and 2014 Lantos Human Rights Prize videos as part of the awards presented to both Hilary Clinton and Shimon Peres.

In the field of dance, ballroom waltzes were choreographed to her pieces, "Walk with Me" and "A Song for Jennie" on PBS's "Great American Ballroom Challenge." University ballroom teams have toured with her work, and international ballroom competitions have utilized her music for the compulsory waltz portion of competitions, including the Copenhagen and Tokyo Open.

Spielberg's memoir, "Naked on the Bench: My Adventures in Pianoland," won Gold Medal in the Reader's Favorite International Book Award contest. In it, she demystifies the life of a touring artist with humor, and a dose of the sometimes harsh realities of life on the road. Praised as a "must read" for anyone going into the arts by the Kirkus Review, the author self-narrates the audiobook found on iTunes and audible.com with warmth and wit.

In addition to her multi-faceted work in music, Robin Spielberg is a celebrity spokesperson for the American Music Therapy Association. Spielberg's interest in the connection between music and healing synergized when she witnessed the positive effect music had on her own baby when born prematurely and the difference music made during her 4-month stay in the neo-natal intensive care unit. The release "Beautiful Dreamer" was the result of this experience, a recording of lullabies and songs on solo piano for the parent and child.

Spielberg's work with music and wellness has been covered by The New York Times and in segments on LifeTime Live and ABC News. Her popular TEDx Talk on music and wellness has had over 87,000 views and has resulted in lectures and workshops in schools, hospitals, community centers, nursing care facilities and performing arts centers nationwide. Major institutions who have presented these sessions include The Mayo Clinic, Eastern Tennessee State University, Fergus Fall Arts Center, Saint Joseph College, Castleton State College, The Kerr Cultural Center, and the Pennsylvania Psychological Association. Spielberg donates \$1 from the sale of each release to national music therapy research.

Spielberg resides in rural Pennsylvania with her husband/business partner, and their teenaged daughter. For more information visit her website. Robin Spielberg is represented by Kosson Talent.

The Mukund S. Kulkarni Cultural Series at Penn State Harrisburg receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.



Mukund S. Kulkarni Theatre Staff

Teri Guerrisi, Arts Manager

Matthew Mitra, Production Manager/Technical Director

Abigail Palaski, Production Supervisor/Assistant Technical Director

Sophia Saavedra, Box Office/Arts Intern

Student Production Assistants

Tessa Arnold

Emily Dempsey

Jesse Goranson

Zarah Light

Alexander Owens

Brittany Graham

Megan Todd

Tori Riley

Liam Crider

Kulkarni Cultural Series Advisory Committee:

Teri Guerrisi, Arts Manager

Matthew Mitra, Production Manager/Technical Director

Maria Enriquez, Assistant Teaching Professor, Theatre/Humanities

Adam Gustafson, Associate Teaching Professor, Music/Humanities

Anna Marshall, Global Education Coordinator, Global Relations

Ali Moyer, Marketing and Communications Specialist

SPECIAL THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank the following for their assistance and support:

Dr. John M. Mason, Jr.

Chancellor, Penn State Harrisburg

Dr. Omid Ansary

Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs

Dr. Mukund S. Kulkarni

Retired Chancellor, Penn State Harrisburg

Marie-Louise Abram

Director, International Programs, External Relations and Special Projects

Janet Althouse

Administrative Support Coordinator, International Programs,
External Relations and Special Projects

SAVE THE DATE

Mayim Bialik

Penn State Harrisburg's
Diversity and Educational Equity Committee
(DEEC) presents:

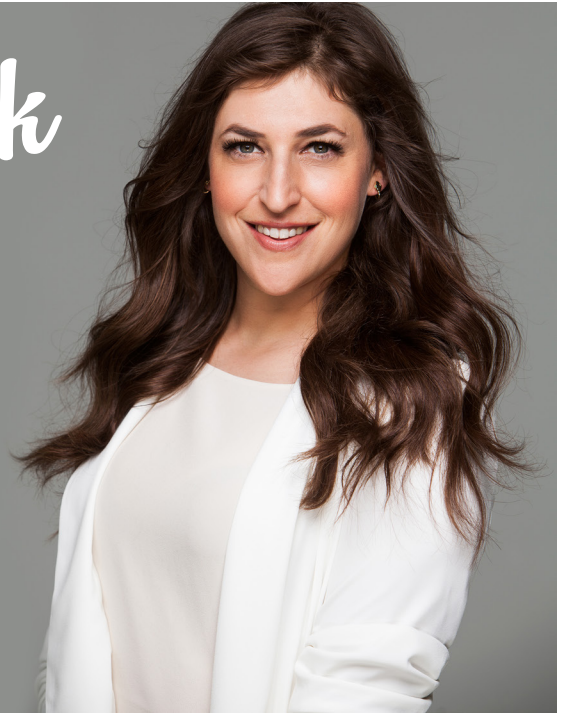
**"The Big Bang Theory: Making
Science Cool (& Funny)"**

Tuesday, March 30, 2021

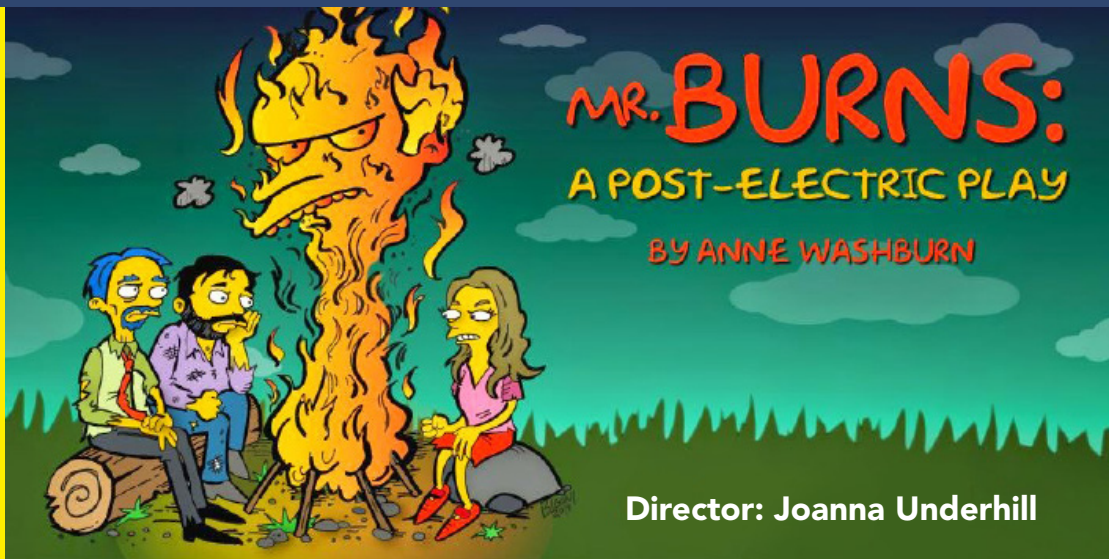
5:00-6:00 p.m.

via YouTube LIVE

Register at [mayim-bialik.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mayim-bialik-tickets-14984444444)



SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES THEATRE AND MUSIC PROGRAMS PRESENT:



April 29, 30 and May 1, 2021

Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play is a futuristic comedy about an eclectic group of survivors who navigate post-nuclear meltdown America by retelling their favorite episodes of the animated series *The Simpsons*. This hilarious mash-up of pop culture references explores how storytelling can help us get through devastating events and reconnects us to our humanity.