

# Robert Kapilow

## Stage Works

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With his diverse array of talents and his infectious enthusiasm for all things musical, Rob Kapilow has been compared to Leonard Bernstein for bringing the pleasures of classical music to audiences of all ages and backgrounds. As the Boston Globe said, "It's a cheering thought that this kind of missionary enterprise did not pass from this earth with Leonard Bernstein. Robert Kapilow is awfully good at what he does. We need him."

Traveling the country enlightening audiences about classical music, Kapilow is well known for his acclaimed program "What Makes It Great?" He initially gained recognition through regular installments on National Public Radio, which were soon expanded into full-length concert evenings and series throughout North America where Kapilow's interactive presentation has lured thousands of new listeners to the concert hall. The series has become a recurring event at New York's Lincoln Center (where Kapilow has the distinction of being the only artist to have his own series), in Boston, Los Angeles and Kansas City, and more venues are catching on to his infectious entertainment all the time.

As a conductor, Kapilow has led orchestras throughout the United States including the Philadelphia Orchestra, National Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestra, performances of a Lukas Foss opera, and leading Robert X. Rodríguez's *Frida* for the opening of the Next Wave Festival at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the American Repertory Theatre. In addition, Kapilow conducted the Hagen Symphony (Germany) in the world premiere of his commissioned work for orchestra, *Sing God: in Memoriam Leonard Bernstein*.

### PHOTO CREDITS

*Many Moons*, G. Schirmer Archives; *You and Hugh*, Richard Termine; Back Cover, Peter Schaaf

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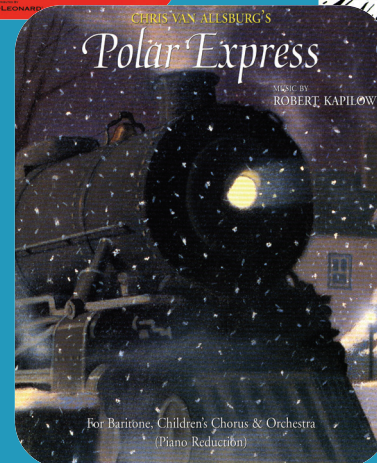
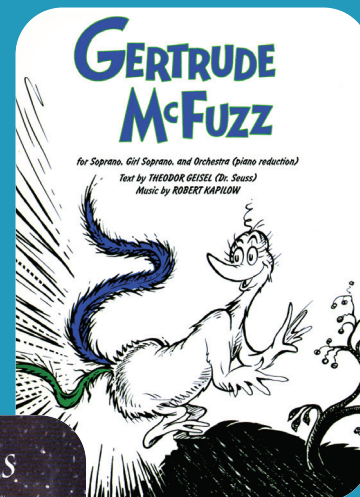
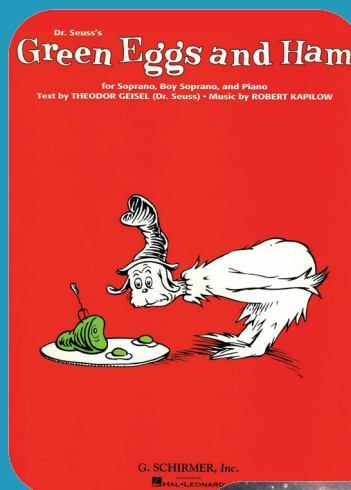
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# Robert Kapilow

## Stage Works



# Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham

## Dr. Seuss's Green Eggs and Ham



Duration: 18 minutes  
Text in English by Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss)

**ORCHESTRATION**  
Soprano, Boy Soprano  
2(pic)222/2220/2perc/pf/str  
alt.: 1(pic)021/1100/perc/pf/db

"It's a measure of Kapilow's expertise that the piece plays off major and minor seconds with abandon, yet the music never loses its atmosphere of slam-bam zaniness... it's clever and bright, there's never a dull moment...the piece is dynamite."

—Michael Redmond, *The Star-Ledger*

### SYNOPSIS

A 'merry, whiz-bang romp through the Dr. Seuss classic' that seamlessly incorporates sophisticated references to familiar classical and popular music with a timeless parable about prejudice. Kapilow's crackerjack musical accompaniment to a psychological tug-of-war between a boy named Sam-I-Am and a character called the Grouch meets Dr. Seuss's touching and funny tale about overcoming everyday prejudice.

# Many Moons

Duration: 1 hour, 10 minutes  
Libretto in English by Hilary Blecher,  
based on the story by James Thurber

### SYNOPSIS

This is an opera based on a classic children's story that is resonant with the myths, dreams and aspirations of childhood. It celebrates an understanding and acceptance of the process and renewal of the life cycle and the intuitive wisdom of children's insights over dry academic theories and learning. This opera combines rigorous standards of artistic excellence with an energetic and vital form to create a vehicle accessible and appealing to both children and adults.



**ORCHESTRATION**  
Boy S, 3S, Mz, T, 2Bar, 2B-Bar, B  
1(pic).1.2.1/2100/perc/hp/pf/str

"It was an opera with a spoonful of honey. Kapilow's musical setting is light-hearted and craftsmanly."

—Ellen Pfeifer, *The Boston Herald*

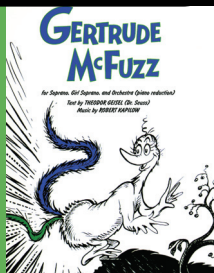
# Dr. Seuss's Gertrude McFuzz

Duration: 16 minutes  
Text in English by  
Theodor Geisel (Dr. Seuss)

**ORCHESTRATION**  
Soprano, Girl Soprano  
2(pic).222/2220/2perc/pf/str  
alt.: 1(pic)021/1100/perc/pf/db

"...the kind of idiom that can move with ease from Stravinskian scrub-a-dub to some low-down blues..."

—Richard Dyer, *The Boston Globe*



### SYNOPSIS

The classic Dr. Seuss story of the girl-bird who learns to like herself just as she is, presented in a delightfully lively musical style combining jazz, pop, and classical influences. Teaching self-acceptance and how to overcome petty envies and jealousies, Kapilow's fanciful score uses a variety of instrumental timbre to evoke the story's images.

# Elijah's Angel

Duration: 23 minutes  
Libretto by Jim Friedland; based on the  
book *Elijah's Angel* by Michael Rosen

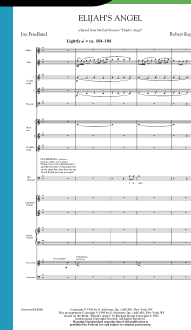
**ORCHESTRATION**  
Boy S, Bar, B Bar; children's chorus  
2(pic)222/2200/2perc/str  
alt.: 1(pic).121/2100/perc/pf(cel)/db

"[a] lesson of brotherhood and friendship that transcends color, creed, or age."

—Glen Greason, *Los Cerritos Community News*

### SYNOPSIS

Kapilow comments: "I wanted to create a Holiday concert... that would not be a Christmas or Chanukah concert, but a concert that would welcome everyone. The key for me to Michael Rosen's story is the idea that a young Jewish boy and an elderly Black wood-carver develop a friendship in which each learns that the differences that separate us are not as significant as the human connections that can bring us together."



# Chris van Allsburg's Polar Express



Duration: 22 minutes  
Text in English by Chris van Allsburg

**ORCHESTRATION**  
Baritone; Children's Chorus  
2(pic).222/2230/2[+]perc/hp.pf(cel)/str  
alt.: 2(pic).021/2100/perc/pf/4vn.va.2vc.db

"Christmas comes faster and faster each year, but this is a show that could become as traditional as *The Nutcracker* in the holiday season."

—Glen Greason, *Los Cerritos*

### SYNOPSIS

*The Polar Express*, Chris Van Allsburg's best-selling Christmas classic, tells the story of a boy who boards a mysterious train bound for the North Pole. Kapilow explains, "Chris Van Allsburg has taken all the basic elements of Christmas and invented a completely new story, making those elements come alive in a new way. Throughout the composition are familiar strains of beloved Christmas music: Deck the Halls, Joy to the World and The First Noel — all reinvented as part of the fabric of a new Christmas tradition."

# You and Hugh

Duration: 22 minutes  
Text in English by Terrence McNally

**ORCHESTRATION**  
Boy S, S, B  
1(pic)121/0110/perc/pf/str

### SYNOPSIS

An up-to-date, hip urban fairy tale with an emotional range from comic strip to serious family values. The main characters, a nine-year-old boy and his single working mother, sing a witty, theatrical score, in which the reluctant school-goer Hugh and his single mom, Sue, consult Phil Donohue, a karate instructor and others about Hugh's anxieties over a schoolyard bully.



"The music is not strictly classical; it zig-zags from pop to classical, jazz and soul..."

—*The New York Times*