



# SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

MUSIC & LYRICS BY JASON ROBERT BROWN

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# DIRECTOR'S NOTE

There is a draft of this director's note somewhere, which is a little self important, describing how gratifying it is to be making art after the devastation of the past year. It details how the show's themes revealed themselves in ways I never could've predicted over the project's evolution, and you bet it includes a clever and effective metaphor about the ways in which creating a filmed production was the epitome of "a new world." Instead, I'd rather share with you one of the most profound moments I experienced over the course of creating our show.

With three hours to go in our penultimate day of filming, *Stars and the Moon* was on the slate. About halfway through the song, I knew it would be our final take— it was going too well. Standing behind the camera monitor, I shifted my gaze to watch what was happening beyond the frame. I got emotional at the realization that while I would watch it happen again, I'd never again be watching while it happened. I wished everyone could be there— and in a way, you can be.

It was July 2019 when the Monumental team made the decision to produce *Songs for a New World*. We never could have imagined then that it would take this form (with our audiences left to their own devices) but I am so proud and grateful that our show made its way to you. I hope you enjoy.

—Megan Bunn

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**Michael Windsor**  
Co-Artistic Director

**Beth Amann**  
Managing Director



# SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD

**Music and Lyrics by** Jason Robert Brown

Originally Produced by the WPA Theatre, New York City, 1995 (Kyle Renick, Artistic Director)

Original Orchestration by Brian Besterman and Jason Robert Brown

FEATURING

**Kylie Clare Smith | Elvie Ellis | Sarah Anne Sillers | Ryan Burke**

**DIRECTOR**  
**MEGAN BUNN**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR**  
**MARIKA COUNTOURIS**

**CHOREOGRAPHER**  
**DAVID SINGLETON**

**PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER**  
**THOMAS NAGATA**

**COSTUME DESIGN**  
**JEANNETTE CHRISTENSEN**

**VIDEOGRAPHER**  
**ZACK GROSS**  
**HAND ME DOWN FILMS**

**PRODUCTION ASSISTANT**  
**ALETHA SAUNDERS**

**AUDIO ENGINEER/  
SOUND DESIGN**  
**ALEC GREEN**

**RECORDING ENGINEER**  
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# THE CAST



**Elvie Ellis**

Man 1  
he/him/his



**Kylie Clare Smith**

Woman 1  
she/her/hers



**Ryan Burke**

Man 2  
he/him/his



**Sarah Anne Sillers**

Woman 1  
she/her/hers

# ORCHESTRA

## CONDUCTOR & KEYBOARD

Marika Countouris

## GUITAR

Matt Horanzy

## BASS

Jonas Creason

## DRUMS

Sam Carolla

## PERCUSSION

Marty Risemberg

## CELLO

Aron Rider

## VIOLA

Andrew Weaver

## VIOLIN

Jeffrey Thurston

## VIOLIN

Sonia Garcia-Lee

## MONUMENTAL STAFF:

### MANAGING DIRECTOR

Beth Amann

### CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTORS

Jimmy Mavrikes  
Michael Windsor

### ASSOCIATE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CASTING DIRECTOR

Megan Bunn

### MUSIC SUPERVISOR

Marika Countouris

### MARKETING DIRECTOR

Sarah Biddle

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Quoc Tran

### AUDIENCE SERVICES MANAGER

Ashton Schaffer

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## LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Monumental acknowledges that our production of Songs For A New World was created on the unceded Indigenous lands of the Nacotchtank (Anacostan), Piscataway, and Susquehannock peoples.*

*We honor with gratitude the land itself, the indigenous communities, and their elders both past and present, as well as future generations.*

*We think it is important to reflect on the fact that the "new world" was not new and that we all must learn from the injustice of colonization in order to make a better future.*

*To learn more about the land you are viewing our production from, visit <https://native-land.ca/>. To support the Native American Rights Fund, visit <https://www.narf.org/>.*

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# THE CAST

**Kylie Clare Smith (Woman 1)** DC Area: Signature Theatre: *Gun and Powder*, *Assassins*; Monumental: *Flip Flop*; ArtsCentric: *Memphis*, *Smokey Joe's Cafe*, *The Passion of Whitney Houston*; ATMTC: *Fancy Nancy Splendiferous Christmas*. Regional: *Joseph and the Amazing...*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Sister Act*, *Seussical*, *Matilda*, *You're a Good Man...*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Jekyll & Hyde*, *Murder Ballad*. @kylclare

**Elvie Ellis (Man 1)** Elvie is excited to be making his Monumental Theatre debut! INTERNATIONAL CREDITS: *The Best of...Rock Musicals* (Featured Soloist) at Eventim Apollo London; *Broadway Rhythm & Rhyme* and *All Access* on Royal Caribbean's *Grandeur of the Seas*. REGIONAL CREDITS: *Curious George: The Golden Meatball* (Phinneas T. Lightspeed), *Newsies* (Bunsen), *The Rocky Horror Show* (Riff-Raff), and *Titanic* (Charles Clarke) at Lyric Theatre of Oklahoma; *The Christmas Show 2018 & 2019* (Featured Soloist) with OKC Philharmonic; *Hairspray* (Gilbert), *Home for the Holidays* (Featured Soloist), and *The Little Shop of Horrors* (Audrey II) at Sooner Theatre; *The Color Purple* (Harpo) at Poteet Theatre; *Iolanthe* (Lord Mountararat) at Cimarron Opera. OTHER CREDITS: *The Music of Andrew Lloyd Webber* at the University of Oklahoma; *Rent*, *On The Town*, *The Wiz*, *Big River*, and *A Funny Thing Happened...Forum*. Featured Soloist with Ambassador's Concert Choir, and Cimarron Opera. Bachelor of Vocal Music Education and Master of Adult & Higher Education from University of Oklahoma.

**Sarah Anne Sillers (Woman 2)** Sarah Anne is so thrilled to return to Monumental, where she previously performed in *Urinetown* and *Girl Versus Corinth*. During COVID-19, Sarah Anne has had the great fortune to sing in Monumental's virtual brunch fundraiser "BYOB," star in her own Parking Lot Concert at NextStop Theatre Company, be featured in Olney Theatre Center's Music Monday virtual cabaret series, and record Josh Cleveland's original song "Maple Trees" on behalf of grantmaking organization Emergent Seed. Other DC area theatre credits include Olney: *Singin' in the Rain*, *Elf the Musical*; NextStop: *First Date*, *Ordinary Days*, *45 Plays for 45 Presidents*, *A Grand Night for Singing*; WSC Avant Bard: *Visible Language* (Helen Hayes nomination, Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Musical); Studio Theatre: *Vietgone*; Constellation Theatre Company: *Urinetown*; Keegan Theatre: *Dogfight*, *American Idiot*; Adventure Theatre MTC: *Big River*, *How I Became a Pirate*; Imagination Stage: *Beauty and the Beast*. Education: Princeton University. [www.sarahannesillers.com](http://www.sarahannesillers.com)

**Ryan Burke (Man 2)** Ryan is so thrilled to be making his Monumental Theatre debut! Previous credits: DC/Regional: *Ford's Theatre-Into The Woods* (Swing), *A Christmas Carol* (Solicitor), *Ragtime* (Swing-Helen Hayes Award; Best Ensemble). Kennedy Center- *An Evening with John Bucchino*. Olney Theatre Center-South Pacific (Ensemble) *Children of Eden* in Concert (Noah), *Anyone Can Whistle* in Concert (Magruder). ArtsCentric-Memphis (Huey), *The Last 5 Years* (Jamie).

# THE TEAM

**Megan Bunn (Director)** has been on the team at Monumental for over 3 years as the Associate Artistic Director & Casting Director. Directing credits include: Monumental- *Be More Chill* (Associate Dir.), *Dress Up Day*; Catholic University- *A Little Night Music* (Associate Dir.), *25th Annual...Spelling Bee*, *Urinetown*. For Luke.

**Marika Countouris (Music Director / Music Supervisor)** Some of her previous Monumental credits are: *Head Over Heels*, *Be More Chill*, *Daddy Long Legs*, *Brooklyn and Montgomery*. Other credits include: *Flying V: We're Gonna Die* (Helen Hayes Nomination for Outstanding Music Direction); *NextStop: Beehive*; *Levine Music Theatre: Matilda*; *Constellation: Little Shop of Horrors*, *Aida*; *Redhouse Theatre: Peter and the Starcatcher*; *Woodrow Wilson High School: Legally Blonde*; *Gonzaga Dramatic Association: Newsies*, *Grease*, *Beauty & The Beast*, *Curtains*, *Peter and the Starcatcher*, *Hairspray* and *Godspell*. Marika also serves as the Choral Arts Director at Georgetown Visitation, where she teaches private voice and leads both the Chorus and Madrigals.

**David Singleton (Choreographer)** is a Montgomery College alumni and Maryland based performer/choreographer, and is so thrilled to be back with Monumental working on this production! Previous Credits; *Toby's Dinner Theatre: Kinky Boots* (Co Choreographer). *Artscentric: La Cage Aux Folles* (Choreographer). *Adventure Theatre: Blueberries for Sal* (Ast Choreographer).

**Jeannette Christensen (Costume Designer)** Is delighted to be making her Monumental debut! Previous design credits include: The Kennedy Center - *Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *How to Catch a Star*, and *Earthrise*. Theater Alliance - *The Trans-Atlantic Time Traveling Co.*, *Day of Absence*, *Protest in 8*, and *City in Transition: The Quadrant Series*. Gala Hispanic Theater - *Que las Hay!*, *Picasso*, *El Perro de Hortelano*, and *Ella es Tango*. Adventure Theater MTC - *Elephant & Piggie: We are in a Play!* (Helen Hayes Nominated - Outstanding Costume Design), *Blueberries for Sal*, and *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*. 4615 Theater - *Lion in Winter*, *King John*, *Separate Rooms*, *The Infinite Tales* and *Museum 2040*. Other regional credits include *Pointless Theater*, *Olney Theater*, *Keegan Theater*, *Infinity Theater*, *Imagination Stage*, *Mosaic Theater*, *Roundhouse Theatre*, *Folger Theatre*, *Wolf Trap Opera*, and *Studio Theater*. She is a current artist in residence at 4615 Theater. Education: BA in Design & Production from Arizona State University, MFA in Design from the University of Maryland. Find more of her work at [jchristensendesign.com](http://jchristensendesign.com).

**Thomas Nagata (Production Stage Manager)** is thrilled to be able to work on *Songs for a New World* with Monumental Theatre Company. Theatre credits include: *Blood at the Root*, *This Bitter Earth* (Theater Alliance); *Measure for Measure*, *As You Like It* (Shakespeare Theatre Company ACA); *Visions of Love* (Pointless Theatre Co.). Regional Credits: *In The Heights*, *Annie*, *Aubergine* (Olney Theatre Center); *All The Way*, *The Roommate*, *Mr. Popper's Penguins* (South Coast Repertory). New Works/ World Premieres: *The Invisible Hand* (Olney Theatre Center) *Orange*, *Yoga Play* (South Coast Repertory); *Jean Anouilh's Antigone* (A Noise Within). Virtual/Digital Productions: *A Boy and His Soul* (Round House Theatre); *Junior Spacelords* (The Kennedy Center); *Protest in 8* (Theatre Alliance). Thomas has a BA in Theatre Design and Technology from Wheaton College, MA. Full resume and portfolio can be found at [thomasnagata.com](http://thomasnagata.com).

# THE BAND

**Jeff Thurston (Violin)**, a graduate of Indiana University School of Music, has been an active freelance violinist in the DC metro area since 1994. As an orchestral musician, he has performed most frequently with the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra and the National Gallery Orchestra. As a theater musician, he is most often heard (if not necessarily seen) at Signature Theater, where he has had the good fortune to work with several leading musical theater composers (including John Kander and Michael John La Chiusa), as well as many distinguished orchestrators (including Jonathan Tunick and Bruce Coughlin). He has also played for productions at several other theaters in the area, including Arena Stage, Ford's Theater, and Creative Cauldron. By day he pushes numbers around in the Finance Department at John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

**Matt Horanzy (Guitar)** is a guitarist, composer, and educator currently living in Washington DC. Matt graduated from the University of South Florida with his Masters in Jazz Composition in 2018. Since then, Matt has been a freelance guitarist and educator in the DMV. Matt is the recipient of numerous awards such as the National Band Association Award for Jazz Composition, the ASMAC Bill Conti Award for Jazz Composition, and the New York Youth Symphony Jazz Orchestra Commission. His music has been played by bands such as the Airmen of Note and the NYSS Jazz Orchestra, at venues such as Dizzy's Jazz Club at Lincoln Center. Matt was a member of the BMI Jazz Composers Workshop in NYC for two years, which resulted in a performance of his piece by the BMI Jazz Orchestra. He is on faculty at the Community College of Baltimore County. In his free time, Matt enjoys playing with his dog Charlie.

**Jonas Creason (Bass)** moved to Virginia in 2009 to attend college at the University of Virginia, where he received a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and an informal education in Southern Living\*. After graduating from UVA, Jonas was able to live out his lifelong dream of being in a rock n roll band while touring across the United States and throughout Europe with The Anatomy of Frank. Since moving to the DC Metro area in 2016, Jonas has played in the pit orchestra for several productions with MTC and other theatre companies in the area, which has allowed him to meet incredible artists and justify his growing collection of basses. When he's not playing bass you can find Jonas chugging coffee, puzzling, or searching for the motivation to exercise.

**Marty Risemberg (Percussion)** is a drummer, percussionist, composer, and educator based in the Washington, DC area. He currently teaches a wide range of students at the International School of Music and The British International School. He has recorded and toured abroad with the jazz fusion trio Swansong and performed internationally with Project Locréa at the Macau Cultural Center. An active musician in the DC scene he collaborates with artists such as Project Locréa, The Hot Lanes Big Band, The Doc Dikeman Big Band, Jonny Grave, and many other artists across a plethora of genres.

# THE BAND

**Aron Rider (Cello)** is a freelance cellist with a focus on musical theatre. Aron has performed at the Arena Stage, Shakespeare Theatre, Signature Theatre, Olney Theater, Roundhouse, National Theatre and Wolf Trap along with multiple local orchestras and ensembles. In chamber music, Aron has participated in several Levine Presents programs, and in the inaugural season of "Chamber Music for the Outer Cape" concert series, Provincetown, MA. Aron's playing has been heard on several cast recordings, as well as on "Joke on the Puppy," (Caroline Mountain Band). Aron is also a Suzuki Cello Instructor, and maintained a full studio of students for many years. She now returns to more extensive performing, retaining only a small number of home students. She received her training at Indiana University and Louisiana State University, studying with Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi and Dennis Parker, respectively.

**Sam Carolla (Drums)** is an active musician in the greater DC metro area, and a native Virginian. Initially influenced by alternative rock, he started music lessons at 12 and soon became inspired by the sounds of jazz and fusion. Sam has played locally in a variety of styles including rock, pop, indie worship, jazz, big band, and musical theatre. He has performed with many artists including Cat Janice, Oh He Dead, Cristian Perez, Wade Beach, The Peter Edelman Trio, the GMU Jazz Ensemble, GMU vocal jazz ensemble, and many many more."

**Sonia Garcia-Lee (Violin)**, a professional violinist in the DC area, completed her bachelor's degree in violin performance at The National University of her native country, Colombia. She was a member of the Colombia Symphony Orchestra before coming to the US to pursue her master's degree at Temple University in Philadelphia. She has played in numerous ensembles, especially in the Greater Philadelphia and Washington DC metropolitan areas. Over the last decade she's lived in MoCo, MD with her husband and two tweens. She enjoys travelling and trying new foods.

**Andrew Weaver (Viola)** holds a B.Mus. in viola performance and musicology from Rice University and a Ph.D. in musicology from Yale University and is currently Professor of Musicology at The Catholic University of America. He has been continuously active as a violist since graduating from Rice. He has played with orchestras and chamber ensembles at Yale, Northwestern University, and Catholic University, as well as with professional performing organizations in the DC area, including Montgomery College Summer Dinner Theatre, the Great Noise Ensemble, and the Arlington Philharmonic (for which he has served as principal viola). He has also performed opera premieres in the Capital Fringe Festival with Silver Finch Arts Collective.

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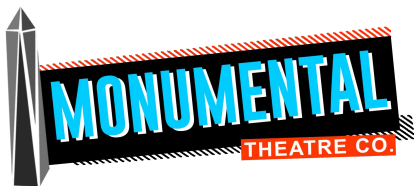
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Beth Amann via email: [beth@monumentaltheatre.org](mailto:beth@monumentaltheatre.org)



Thank you so much for supporting *Songs For A New World*.

After a year of not being in the theatre, we can't begin to tell you how excited we were to tackle the gorgeous piece of musical theatre that is *Songs For A New World*. This production was special for a lot of reasons: the amazing team creating it, a chance to imagine a musical in a new way, and the opportunity to finally come together after a year of being apart. We hope you find as much joy in this show as we did making it.

Monumental is extremely proud of our artists both on and off stage. In 2018, Theatre Washington awarded us *The John Aniello Award for Outstanding Emerging Theatre Company* at the Helen Hayes Awards. Monumental has been nominated for 17 Helen Hayes Awards since then.

We wouldn't be able to do this without you and we deeply value your support as a part of the Monumental family. To support our work and learn more about what's next, please visit [www.monumentaltheatre.org](http://www.monumentaltheatre.org).

Please enjoy *Songs For A New World*!

**JIMMY MAVRIKES**  
Co-Artistic Director

Jimmy Mavrikes is a DC native fully immersed in the Theatre Community. Jimmy is a two-time Helen Hayes nominee for Best Lead Actor and has been seen on the stages of Signature Theatre, Arena Stage, Imagination Stage, Toby's Dinner Theatre, and various others. Starting and running a theatre company has always been on his life goals list.

**MICHAEL WINDSOR**  
Co-Artistic Director

Michael Windsor is a freelance director and producer in the DMV. Michael has been involved in the DC theatre scene in a variety of ways. He has been a part of the creative teams of shows at several theaters in the area, including Signature and Adventure. Michael is excited to continue to produce, direct and share theatre from the millennial perspective with audiences of all generations throughout the DMV!

**BETH AMANN**  
Managing Director

Beth Amann is the Managing Director of Monumental Theatre Company and an actor in the D.C. area. She graduated from The Catholic University of America with honors and a degree in Musical Theatre and Business Management. She is a former stage manager, and has lead the administrative side of Monumental since its inception. This fall, she will start her MBA at the University of Maryland.



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