



Pictures of Life

The music of
Lionel Oscar Segal

Pictures of Life is a thrilling piece of music with an urgent message about environmental responsibility. The goal is to inspire people to protect the future of the Earth by witnessing a life changing musical phenomenon.





Pictures of Life speaks for the times we live in – it has found a way of informing us about ecological issues in an amusing, entertaining and moving way which can capture the imagination of young people of all ages.

Paul O'Grady

Pictures of Life is a unique work with music by Lionel Oscar Segal, arranged by Geoff Lawson and Steve Edis.

The music is in 4 parts:

1 Overture

The Beginning - solo orchestra.

This is a big piece conveying the World coming into being, focusing on natural phenomena such as volcanoes and the world bursting into life in all its forms.

2 Pictures of Life

evokes the wonderful variety of creatures on our planet.

3 Save Our World

includes four characters Eagle, Polar Bear, Bird and Gaia (the Earth). A barbershop quartet provides the voice of 'avaricious bipeds' (greedy humans), giving pace and humour to the serious message. Animals and sea creatures are performed by groups of singers.

4 Tomorrow's Child

a soaring anthem of hope that honours the achievements of the human race, and the vision that the next generation will unite to preserve the natural world.

I am happy to support Pictures of Life as an initiative that educates and stimulates young people through music and the arts.

Dame Judi Dench

This highly accessible work dips into several genres including classical, musical theatre and barbershop. It tells a lively environmental story with witty and meaningful words and melodies. The work has been arranged for adult chorus children's chorus and barbershop quartet together with orchestra and four guest soloists. There are various versions of the work available with smaller configurations.

The performance takes around 34 minutes

The piece can be performed in costume and for the production in September 2021 there will be a choreography involving a number of dancers and puppetry.

In between each of the musical parts or as a second half to the event there could be interviews on conservation and climate change given by environmentalists and public figures.



[Pictures of Life] shines a light on all the things that matter most in the world: nature, music, compassion, interconnectedness and hope. I think the flame that it will ignite in young hearts will never be extinguished as we all face the future together with courage, optimism and above all kindness.

Joanna Lumley

About the Composer

Pictures of Life composer and lyricist Lionel Oscar Segal was born in Glasgow, and has enjoyed a long and fulfilling career in a range of creative fields working with true legends of music, film and fashion.

Lionel won a nationwide song writing competition aged 17, and at 18 gained a scholarship to the Guildhall School of Music & Drama in London. In his first year he wrote a musical version of the Louisa May Alcott novel *Little Women and Good Wives*. Many years later, *Little Women: The Musical* was re-imagined as a concert performance for the Theatre Royal Drury Lane in London, where it premiered with an all-star cast, narrated by Sandi Toksvig.

Development background

Pictures of Life the concert version was first previewed at St Pancras International Station with a young amateur choir and keyboard accompaniment. Later the same day, Steven Edis conducted the choir and an 11-piece ensemble at the Camden Centre in aid of the World Land Trust (Patron: Sir David Attenborough).

Pictures of Life was launched at Kings Place, London, on 26th October 2015. The event was a choral and orchestral performance of the work featuring the Ascolta Choir, the Finchley Children's Music Group (age 9-15) and the 15-piece Pictures of Life Orchestra conducted by Peter Broadbent, with four soloists: baritone Rodney Earl Clarke, bass Richard Wiegold, soprano Eloise Irving and mezzo-soprano Hannah Poulson, plus the barbershop quartet 'A Cut Above'.

As a force for good, Pictures of Life clearly has the potential to spread a positive message amongst the youth of today and help guide them to change our world for the better.

Sir Derek Jacobi