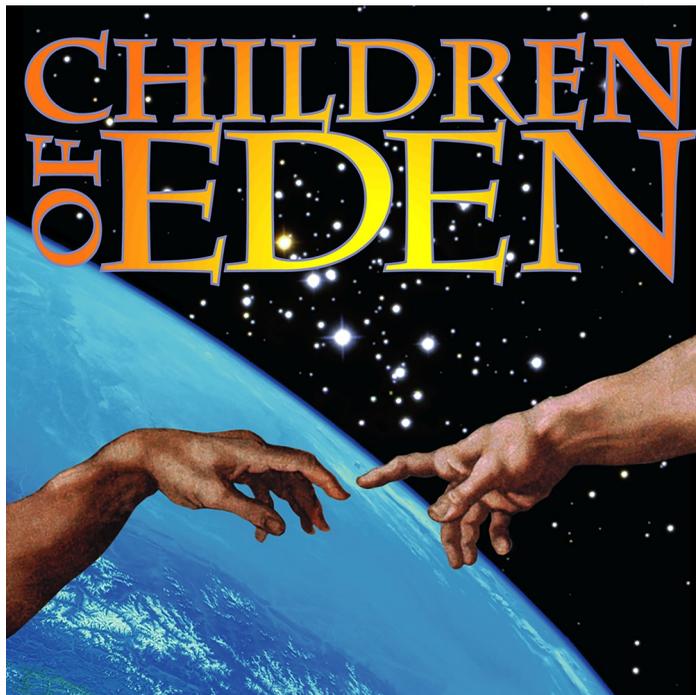


Holy Angels Presents

A Concert of



**Book by
John Caird**

**Music and Lyrics by
Stephen Schwartz**

Based on a concept by Charles Lisanby

Orchestrations by
Bruce Coughlin and Martin Erskine

CHILDREN OF EDEN

Is presented through special arrangement with Music Theater International (MTI).

All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI

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CAST

(In Order of Appearance)

FATHER Earl VanderWielen
ADAM Ben Bartos
EVE..... Lindsey VanderWielen
SNAKE.....Pam Mase
YOUNG CAIN.....Jackson Becker
YOUNG ABEL..... Josie Kletzine
CAIN/JAPHETH.....Charlie Breit
ABEL/HAMColtyn Vondeylen
NOAH.....Daniel Schneider
YONAH..... Tess Breit
MAMA NOAH..... Erica Becker
SHEM.....Cody Lindau
APHRAHannah Bergland
AYSHA Meghan Cemke

STORYTELLERS Lorna Bonertz, Emelia Guse,
Malaika Gimisi, Matthew Sadowski,
Amy Schmidt, Barb VanderWielen

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ACT ONE

Let There Be	Father, Storytellers
The Naming	Father, Adam, Eve, Storytellers
Grateful Children.....	Adam, Eve
Father's Day.....	Father, Storytellers
The Spark of Creation	Eve
In Pursuit of Excellence.....	Snake, Eve
A World Without You.....	Adam, Father, Eve
The Expulsion.....	Father, Storytellers
The Wasteland.....	Storytellers
Lost in the Wilderness.....	Cain
Close to Home	Adam, Eve, Abel, Young Cain, Young Abel
A Ring of Stones.....	Cain, Eve, Abel, Adam
The Mark of Cain	Father, Storytellers
Children of Eden.....	Eve, Storytellers

There will be a 15 minute intermission.

ACT TWO

Generations.....	Storytellers
A Piece of Eight	Storytellers, Noah, Yonah Japheth, Family
The Return of the Animals	Orchestra
Stranger To The Rain.....	Yonah
In Whatever Time We Have.....	Japheth, Yonah
The Flood	Father, Storytellers
What Is He Waiting For?	Noah, Family
Sailor Of The Skies.....	Yonah
The Hardest Part Of Love.....	Noah, Father
Ain't It Good?	Mama Noah, Family, Storytellers
In The Beginning.....	Company

Directors Note

I have been in love with *Children of Eden* for 20 years. I first saw the show when my cousin was in a Lomira Community Theater Production of it in 2001. To me the music was beautiful and transported me somewhere else. I was in the garden, I was on the ark. And I loved every minute of it. Because of the farming community of Lomira, they brought in live animals for the "Return of the Animals" in Act 2 (sorry no such luck with this show).

Then the music department of the college I attended (Catholic University of America in Washington, DC) produced *Children of Eden* while I was there so I was able to see it and fall in love with it all over again. In 2012 I had the great opportunity to play the role of Aysha at the Schauer Center in Hartford with Hartford Players. But I have always wanted to bring the show to West Bend.

January 2020 other staff members of Holy Angels and I were doing a brainstorming session about what we could do with and for the parish. Any one that knows me, knows I love theater and I told them my dream was to bring this show to HA. They all said go for it! With their support and Fr. Howard's blessing I was able to secure the rights for the show which we were going to

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Directors Note Continued

produce in June of 2020. But for obvious reason it had to get postponed. Which brings us to our decision to produce *Children of Eden* July 2021.

We made the decision to present this show as more of a staged reading/concert. This means there are no sets, very few props, only a little movement, and the actors and singers will be using their music. However that doesn't take away from the story. One of the first things it says in the script is: "The design of the show should rely as little as possible on stage machinery or elaborate technical devices, and as much as possible on simple, imaginative storytelling." And that is exactly what we have done.

This immensely talented cast, musicians, and crew is made up of not only Holy Angels parishioners (many whom are cantors), but also people from Racine, the Milwaukee area, Fond du Lac, and Mayville. For some of our cast this is the first time they have been in a musical and for some they have been involved in theater for years. No matter, what I could not be more thankful that everyone who is a part of the show agreed to help me bring *Children of Eden* to life.

Now it's time to get your imaginations ready and let us transport you to Eden, the Wasteland, and the Ark. Enjoy!

– Lindsey VanderWielen

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The logo for Schmidt Funeral Home features the name "Schmidt" in a large, elegant, white cursive script with a subtle drop shadow. Below it, the words "FUNERAL HOME" are written in a smaller, white, all-caps, sans-serif font, also with a drop shadow.

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CAST BIOGRAPHYS

Ben Bartos, Adam: Ben is delighted to be a part of the *Children of Eden* cast. Outside performing Ben enjoys spending time with family and friends and works at Kohl's, Inc. He has participated in many shows for various companies that include: Falls Patio Players, Hartford Players, Waukesha Civic Theatre, West Allis Players, and others. Favorite roles include: Tony in *Billy Elliot the Musical*, Lord Farquaad in *Shrek The Musical*, and Mortimer Brewster in *Arsenic and Old Lace*. Ben thanks his family and friends for their support and hopes you enjoy the show!

Erica Becker, Mama Noah/Storyteller: Erica is most often heard serving as Cantor for Holy Angels' 8am Sunday Mass. She started in musical theatre as a teen in Port Washington, continued vocal training at St. Norbert College, then performed with West Bend's Spotlight Theatre in *Cinderella* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. She's thrilled to return to musical theater after all these years. "Ain't it good....SO good" to be singing on stage again!

Jackson Becker, Young Cain: Jackson will be entering 4th grade at Holy Angels School this fall. He previously performed in the Musical Masquers Youth Theater production of *Aladdin, Jr.* Jackson has many interests including soccer, basketball, Pokemon and drawing. He's had fun learning this show and performing with an adult cast! He hopes you always stay curious just like his character.

Hannah Bergland, Aphra: Hannah works as the Director of Faith Formation at Holy Angels. She has not been on stage since high school but some of her favorite previous roles are, the police officer in *Sweet Charity*, and Louise in *Play On!* Besides working at Holy Angels, Hannah enjoys spending time with family and friends, hiking, longboarding, and traveling. She is excited to be involved in *Children of Eden* and hopes you enjoy the show and feel loved as a child of God!

Lorna Bonertz, Storyteller: Lorna is a Sophomore at West Bend West high school. Lorna was a member of the committee that planned - and participated in - Star Search, an annual competition between the different choirs in the high school. She also participated in Handbells and Musical Theater Club. Lorna previously attended Holy Angels School. She has been in the HA church choir for nine years and has been a Cantor for the last two. In her spare time, Lorna enjoys DC, Marvel, and Harry Potter movies. She can often be found drawing, doing people's nails, and making homemade cards with wax seals. Lorna hopes you have a great time at the show.

CAST BIOGRAPHYS

Charlie Breit, *Cain/Jaipheth*: This will be Charlie's second production this summer, following *Something Rotten* with Hartford Players. In his spare time, he likes to watch Star Wars, visit race tracks, and coach soccer. He and his wife Tess are looking forward to welcoming their first child in February.

Tess Breit, *Yonah*: Tess is excited to combine her love of musical theatre with her faith! You may have heard her cantor at mass, or you may have seen her in recent community theatre productions such as *Something Rotten* (Hartford Players), *Young Frankenstein* (Spotlight Productions) in which she played Elizabeth, or *Mamma Mia!* (Hartford Players) in which she played Sophie. During the school year, she teaches choir at West Bend High School. She and her husband Charlie are looking forward to adding a new little member to the family come February.

Meghan Cemke, *Aysa*: Meghan is going to be an incoming college freshman. This upcoming year she will be attending Belmont University in Nashville to one day become a nurse. In her free time you will find her traveling, hanging with her friends or hiking. She has been apart of several shows but her favorites include *Mary Poppins* and *Happy Days*. Music is a huge part of her life and she is so glad she got to be apart if this show. She hopes you enjoy the show.

Malaika Gimisi, *Storyteller*: Malaika is 15 and is going into sophomore year in High school at West Bend East High School; Malaika has been in Pinocchio (Rec. Department); Malaika enjoys participating in winter guard, softball, tennis, dance and of course singing. Enjoy the show

Emelia Guse, *Storyteller*: Emelia is 15 and is going to be a sophomore at West Bend East High School; She has been on and back stage in several musicals which includes, *Mamma Mia* (Hartford Players), *Young Frankenstein* (Spotlight), and *Oliver* (Musical Masquers); Her hobbies include singing, playing the ukulele, acting, swimming, and more; She won "Best Underclassman Soloist" at Star Search through the West Bend High School; She is excited to be a part of *Children of Eden*; She hopes you enjoy the show.

Josie Kletzine, *Young Abel*: Josie will be a 4th grader at Decorah Elementary School here in West Bend. Josie's love for theater has kept her involved in several musicals and plays throughout the past few years, including *Shrek Jr*, *Aladdin Jr.*, and *Lion King Jr*, through Musical Masquers. She loves to sing, dance and perform on stage! Josie is very excited to be part of *Children of Eden*, working alongside such talented adults.

CAST BIOGRAPHYS

Cody Lindau, *Storyteller/Shem*: Cody is excited to be making his debut in West Bend getting the chance to be apart of one of his favorite shows. Some of his favorite shows include: Robin/Bard Boy in *Something Rotten* (Hartford players), Ensemble in *Mamma Mia!* (Hartford Players), Rocky in *The Rocky Horror Show* (FDLCT), Charlie Brown in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown* (BDACT), and Glenn Guglia in *The Wedding Singer* (CCCT). He would like to thank Lindsey for giving him the opportunity to be apart of one of his favorite shows and hope you enjoy the show!

Pamela Mase, *Snake/Storyteller*: Pam is excited to be performing in West Bend again! She grew up here and has been involved in theatre since she was in middle school. Some of her favorite roles include Mother Abbess in *The Sound of Music*, and Sally in *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. She has also been in the ensemble of *Man of la Mancha*, *Beauty & the Beast* and *Sweeney Todd*. Now living in Fond du Lac with husband Brian and daughters Miranda & Katelyn, she is grateful for the support of family. She is also looking forward to the fun of being a villain and hopes everyone enjoys the performance!

Matthew Sadowski, *Storyteller*: *Children of Eden* is Matt's first experience as vocalist in a musical. Matt has sung multiple decades with the St. Edward's choir in Racine, WI were he has served as a cantor since 2007, and as a member of the city-wide confirmation choir. During college, Matt was a member of the concert choir, and most recently the master singers. With his trumpet, Matt has played with his brother and friends in the band Train Wreck, as a guest instrumentalist (with his sister Barb VanderWielen) with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, and with his college's jazz and concert bands. Matt is recently retired as Planning Manager for the city of Racine, were he lives with his wife Anne.

Amy Schmidt, *Storyteller*: Amy is a lifelong resident of the West Bend area. She followed in the footsteps of her grandpa and dad, and along with her brother own and operate the family business, Schmidt Funeral Home. Outside of work, she loves to spend time with her family. As a member of Holy Angels Parish, she attended Holy Angels School, and as an adult became involved in the music ministry at Holy Angels. For the past 14 years, she sang with many wonderful people in the choirs, and has been a cantor for weekend Mass for the past 11 years. This is her first time singing in a musical. She hopes everyone enjoys the show!

CAST BIOGRAPHYS

Dan Schneider, *Storyteller/Noah*: Dan is excited to be back on stage in *Children of Eden*! He has been previously seen in other local productions as Butler/Dan in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, The Hermit in *Young Frankenstein*, and Bob Cratchit in *A Christmas Carol*. He's also been a part of some Fond du Lac Community Theatre shows as Governor/Innkeeper in *Man of La Mancha*, Cogsworth in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Judge Turpin in *Sweeney Todd*. Like Noah, Dan spends a fair amount of time crafting and woodworking, but prefers to keep his projects smaller and more manageable.

Barbara VanderWielen, *Storyteller*: Barb is very excited to be in her first musical as a cast member. Previously she has played violin in the pit for *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat* and *Young Frankenstein* with Spotlight Theater. She also is a member of the Kettle Moraine Symphony. When not doing fun things like playing for musicals or the symphony you will find her at Holy Angels where she has proudly been the Office and Business Manager for twenty-three years. She is thrilled to share the stage with all the awesome cast members especially with her husband Earl, daughter Lindsey and brother Matthew.

Earl VanderWielen, *Father*: This is Earl's first foray into musical theater. He is honored to be on the same stage as the immensely talented cast. He is especially excited to share the stage with his daughter (Lindsey) and wife (Barbara). He hopes you enjoy the show.

Lindsey VanderWielen, *Eve*: Lindsey works as the Communications and Parish Life Director here at Holy Angels. Besides singing at church, you can often find her in musicals and plays throughout the area including: West Bend, Kewaskum, Hartford, Slinger and West Allis. Her most memorable roles are Marian the Librarian in *The Music Man*, Mrs. Potts in *Beauty and the Beast*, and Louise in *Fox on the Fairway*. She is very excited she has the opportunity to bring the musical *Children of Eden* to life. Lindsey hopes you enjoy the show!

Coltyn VonDeylen, *Abel/Ham*: Coltyn is a professional singer and teacher of music based in the Greater Milwaukee Area. He Attended Wisconsin Lutheran College where he studied Music Education. Coltyn has performed with numerous theatre companies in the Milwaukee area in shows such as *Godspell* (Jesus), *Stranger in the Attic* (Kendrick) *Jekyll and Hyde* (John Utterson) and *Carrie* (Freddy). Additionally, Coltyn is the frontman for a band called Mantra that performs throughout Wisconsin and Chicago and he is the worship leader at The Way Church in Greendale. Coltyn currently teaches voice at Milwaukee Montessori School, Sound Check Studios, and online.

Musicians

Pit Director

Marshall Mauney

Piano

Liana Gedemer

Clarinet

April Ferhman

Keyboard

Danielle Gedemer

Drums/Percussion

Jason Seivert

Special Percussion

Robert Ferhman

Lights and Sound

Bruce Towell

Zack Roehr

Backstage Assistant

Lydia Bollen

Technology

Brian Mase

Head Usher

Marie Joers

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SPECIAL THANKS

Holy Angels' Production of CHILDREN OF EDEN
would not have been possible without the help of a lot of amazing people.

- Thank you to the staff at Holy Angels for not only encouraging me to pursue this show but also letting me bounce ideas off of them, participating in the show and helping behind the scenes!
- Thank you to our amazingly talented pit. I have known them all for many years and they are a fantastic group of people and I am just so grateful that they agreed to help with this show. It is not an easy show to play! Without them we really would be "Lost in the Wilderness"...
- Thank you to the immensely talented cast of this show. I am truly humbled by everyone that agreed to join the cast and absolutely love sharing the stage with them. I am also thankful about what we have been able to accomplish in 12 rehearsals!
- Thank you to the amazing crew: Bruce who came in and said he could help with lights and sound just a few weeks ago. I think I almost cried in relief that it was something I didn't have to worry about. Zack for also assisting with lights and sound. Lydia for coming in and helping make sure Young Cain and Young Abel know when they need to come on and keep them entertained when they are not on stage.
- Thank you to Marie, the Head Usher, for being so willing to help out in whatever way you could. And to our high school ushers for assisting us.
- Thank you to the Sweets and Treats ministers!
- Thank you to Fr. Howard for trusting me to put on *Children of Eden*. You not only got behind the show, you were also willing to co-lead a Bible Study on the book of Genesis and give a talk before the show. Thank you for the support!
- Finally Thank YOU for coming to see the show! The audience brings it to life!

- Lindsey

INFORMATION ON HOLY ANGELS

The Congregation of Holy Angels can officially trace it's start to the year 1852.

In 1851, West Bend Catholics came together to buy two city lots for \$15. By late 1852 the first church building had been erected. They called this church Mary, Mother of Sorrows. However when Fr. Casper Rehrl built a church in Barton with the name St. Mary's Immaculate Conception the decision was made to change the West Bend Parish's name to Holy Angels to avoid any confusion.

By 1863 Holy Angels had outgrown the original building so two more lots were purchased, on the corner of 7th and Elm (currently where Trinity Lutheran stands), and in 1866 a new church was built. This new church was able to hold the parish for almost 50 years. But the congregation was again growing so in 1913 plans to build a new church started forming.

Construction began in the summer of 1914 with a cornerstone laying ceremony taking place on August 9, 1914. Construction lasted almost a year and on June 20, 1915 Archbishop Meisner formerly consecrated the new church building.

Holy Angels has stood on the same spot for over 100 years. There have been a few remodels of the church in the last 100 years but much of the Gothic feel has stayed the same.

If you are searching for a church home, we invite you to come check us out for yourselves. At Holy Angels All Are Welcome no matter what.

Mass Times

Sunday - 8:00am, 9:30am, 11:00am

Monday - 7:30am

Wednesday - 5:30pm

Thursday - 8:00am

Friday - 8:00 am

Saturday (Vigil) - 4:00pm



Holy Angels Congregation

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