



**THE LAURIE BERKNER BAND:
THE GREATEST HITS**

Saturday, September 17, 2016, at 10am
Tryon Festival Theatre

PROGRAM

THE LAURIE BERKNER BAND

Laurie Berkner
Bob Golden
Susie Lampert
Brady Rymer

Today's program will last about 80 minutes, with no intermission.

Learn more about Laurie Berkner at:
laurieberkner.com

The Laurie Berkner Band appears by arrangement with:
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PROFILES

LAURIE BERKNER has been a professional musician since 1992, but her success as a children's recording artist was a surprise to her. "It was so unexpected," says Laurie. "I'd been performing in rock bands and struggling to write original music. Writing music for kids has not been a struggle at all. The more I started working on material for children, the more I realized that it opened up creativity in me that I never knew I had."

These days critics widely acknowledge Laurie's major contribution toward launching what is now dubbed the progressive "kindie rock" movement—i.e. less saccharine, more rocking music that is not dumbed down for children. But it wasn't simply an enormous amount of talent that helped create an entire genre and skyrocketed Laurie to her current position as "the queen of children's music" (*People Magazine*). It was an ability to gain parents' enthusiasm for the songs as well. According to Laurie, "When I'm writing a song, I'm thinking about whether the kids will like it and whether I'm going to connect to them through it. I'm also thinking about whether I want to sing it over and over again, so I guess that's the part that connects with adults. *Old MacDonald Had A Farm* is a great song for kids, but I couldn't sing it 100 times!"

While Laurie never planned to be a children's performer, looking back on her career it almost seems inevitable. While growing up in Princeton, New Jersey, Laurie was always involved in music, whether singing in choirs, playing in bands, or performing in musical theatre. In high school and throughout college (at Rutgers University), she toured Europe with several choirs and orchestras as a soloist and guitarist. After graduation, Laurie

spent several years as a children's music specialist at New York area preschool and day care centers. Working with children became the perfect creative outlet for Laurie to express her talents and create something that, she says, "has turned out to be incredibly rewarding."

Laurie was the first recording artist ever to perform in music videos on Nick Jr. and appeared regularly on the network's series *Jack's Big Music Show*. She currently stars in the animated musical short-form series *Sing It, Laurie!* on the Sprout preschool channel. *Sing It, Laurie!* features Laurie's voice and her original music written for the series. Laurie has also been a frequent guest on Sprout's *Sunny Side Up* morning show. Laurie is a familiar presence on SiriusXM's *Kids Place Live*, where her *The Music in Me Minute*, featuring tips about incorporating music into family life, is heard daily.

Laurie has released ten bestselling, award-winning albums: *Whaddaya Think Of That* (1997); *Buzz Buzz* (1998); *Victor Vito* (1999); *Under A Shady Tree* (2002); *Rocketship Run* (2008); *The Best Of The Laurie Berkner Band* (2010); *A Laurie Berkner Christmas* (2012); *Laurie Berkner Lullabies* (2014); *The Ultimate Laurie Berkner Band Collection* (2014); and a two-disc album, *Laurie Berkner's Favorite Classic Kids' Songs* (2015). 2015 also saw the release of six digital collections of favorite Laurie Berkner songs: *Laurie Berkner's Food Songs*, *Laurie Berkner's Animal Songs*, *Laurie Berkner's Transportation Songs*, *Laurie Berkner's Classroom Favorites*, *Laurie Berkner's Movement Songs*, and *Laurie Berkner's Nature Songs*. Released for Valentine's Day 2016 was *Love*, a digital collection of Laurie Berkner songs

about all kinds of love. Laurie's 11th album, *Superhero*, will be released in September 2016.

Laurie's Two Tomatoes Records has co-released (with Razor & Tie Entertainment) two DVDs: *We are . . . The Laurie Berkner Band* (2006) and *Party Day!* (2011).

Laurie has authored four books based on her songs, including two Barnes & Noble NOOK Kids™ e-books. Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers, an imprint of Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing, recently announced that it will publish three picture books with Laurie. *We Are the Dinosaurs* will release in spring 2017. *Pillowland* is due out in fall 2017, and *Monster Boogie* is scheduled for Summer 2018.

Venturing into the world of the theatre, Laurie has written music and lyrics for two Off-Broadway children's musicals produced by New York City Children's Theater: *Wanda's Monster* (2013) and *The Amazing Adventures of Harvey and the Princess* (2014).

2014 saw the launch of *Laurie Berkner's The Music in Me*, a "Me and My Grown-up" style program of preschool music classes designed by Laurie Berkner, with teachers personally trained by Laurie.

Laurie continues to be inspired by her audience. "I want to create songs that matter for children," she says. "I was singing once and saw a four-year-old girl shut her eyes and start swaying to the music. I thought, 'That's the reason I got into music.' It keeps me wanting to do more."

When she's not making music, Laurie enjoys visiting the farmers' market for organic produce, knitting, biking and spending time with her husband, Brian, and their daughter, Lucy. They live in New York City.

BOB GOLDEN joined The Laurie Berkner Band as an official member in the spring of 2009. Says Laurie: "Bob Golden is the perfect fit for our band. He's a great drummer who is extremely creative with every sound that he brings to each song. His playful energy and strong musicianship is just right for our live shows and recordings. He's also a wonderful guy and a great engineer and producer. We're so happy and lucky to be working with him!" Laurie and Bob met on the set of *Jack's Big Music Show*, for which he was writing and producing songs. Laurie asked him to co-produce the 2006 DVD *We Are . . . The Laurie Berkner Band* and 2008's *Rocketship Run* CD, on which he also performed on drums, percussion, and miscellaneous instruments as well as orchestrating several songs. Bob later began performing with the band at live shows. Bob recently produced the music for Laurie's latest DVD, *Party Day!*

Bob's prolific television career has included writing and producing songs for the Nick Jr. shows *Dora The Explorer*, *Jack's Big Music Show*, and *The Wubbulous World of Dr. Seuss*; PBS' *Sesame Street*, *Gullah Gullah Island*, *Lamb Chop's Play-Along*, and *Seemore's Playhouse*; Disney's *Out of the Box* and HBO's *Jammin' Animals*. Bob collaborated with Jonathan Larson (the late Tony and Pulitzer prize-winning author of *Rent*) on the popular children's video entitled *Away We Go!*. He has scored numerous documentaries and was music director, music producer, and theme song composer for *Insomniac With Dave Attel*, *Craft Corner Deathmatch*, *Code Blue*, *Strangers with Candy*, *The Gong Show with Dave Attell*, *Martha Stewart's Home for the Holidays*, and the Sundance channel's *Festival Dailies*.

Bob also wrote and produced music for Michael Moore's television series *TV Nation* and *The Awful Truth*, as well as for the award winning films *Bowling for Columbine*, *Fahrenheit 911*

and *Capitalism: A Love Story*. He appeared as a drummer in the movies *The 10* (2007), for which he produced the closing song, and *What Happens In Vegas* (2008). Bob composed all the music for the 2010 film *Winning Time: Reggie Miller vs. The New York Knicks*. He also performed on drums for the house band on NBC's *30 Rock*.

Bob co-authored *The Jerky Boys: The Book* (1995) and *Why Didn't I Think of That?* (1997) and co-wrote AOL's first online interactive game for kids, *The Quest*.

A graduate of Brown University, Bob is an accomplished potter. He loves to surf, ski, and make candles, and is a Leo! www.savvykatmusic.com

SUSIE LAMPERT grew up in Pomona, New York, in a large family with five siblings, dogs, and cats. From an early age, she loved music and played piano. Her first live venture came at age 15, playing in a jazz group influenced by Miles Davis, Jimi Hendrix, John Coltrane, and Lee Morgan, among others.

That same year, Susie hooked up with a punk band called Ruby and the Rednecks, which became the house band for New York City's *Playhouse of the Ridiculous*. She wrote music for and played keyboards in a number of Off-Off-Broadway plays and shared stages at legendary NYC venues Max's Kansas City and CBGB's with such infamous musicians as Iggy Pop and The New York Dolls.

Susie performed in many other bands throughout the years, in genres ranging from country to

bluegrass to rock. During the early '80s, she discovered Milton Nascimento and Brazilian music and found herself "enraptured and forever changed." She learned Portuguese and traveled to Brazil frequently to buy records and become acquainted with the culture. During those years, she also became a registered nurse and worked part-time while pursuing her music.

Susie met Laurie Berkner over 20 years ago when they were both working at New York City's Rockefeller University. Laurie was a preschool music teacher, and Susie was a research nurse. Says Susie of their first meeting: "Laurie was sprawled out on the floor, lost under her headphones with her eyes closed, listening intently. An aerobics class was assembling around her and I intervened, suggesting she might want to make way for the class, and asked her what she was listening to It was her own band (adult music), and she shared the tape with me. We made a fast and deep connection, resulting in spending three years gigging with Lois Lane, an all-female cover band. When Laurie left the band to pursue her kids' music career I joined her playing schools, libraries, etc. as a duo. The rest everybody knows!"

These days, in addition to her musical life, Susie relishes time with her long-term boyfriend, family, friends, and cats. She enjoys her daily meditation practice, yoga, and samba, as well as her special time with her fairy godchild, otherwise known as Laurie's daughter, Lucy Day Mueller.

BRADY RYMER, after a decade-long career with RCA Records' jam band From Good Homes and recording and touring with acts from the Dave Matthews Band to Bob Dylan and Bob Weir's Ratdog, ventured into family music as he started his own family, releasing *Good Morning Gus* in 2000. Since then, he has released seven CDs, including 2014's Grammy-nominated *Just Say Hi!* and the 2008 Grammy-nominated *Here Comes Brady Rymer and The Little Band That Could*. His eighth album, *Press Play*, was released in 2016.

Brady's rootsy, accordion-laced pop and rock music regularly wins critical acclaim and national awards—including two Children's Grammy nominations as well as numerous Parents' Choice Gold and NAPPA (National Parenting Publications) Gold Awards—and has garnered him a growing fan base of enthusiastic families. Together with his longtime bandmates, The Little Band That Could, he performs rockin' live music for kids and families across the country.

Brady's 2011 CD *Love Me For Who I Am* was inspired by his experience performing for and working with kids with autism, Asperger's syndrome, and related disorders and celebrates kids of all abilities. Laurie joins Brady on the album's duet "Soft Things," a sweet tune about all the things kids find comforting.

A special "Let's Move" edition of his tune "Jump Up" was included on the 2013 album *Songs for a Healthier America*, a compilation of songs produced by Hip Hop Public Health for First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign

to encourage children to get active and make healthy choices. The album is available as a full-length free download on iTunes. Brady has also contributed songs to the HBO Family projects *A Family is a Family is a Family* and *Don't Divorce Me*.

Brady serves on the Education Board of the Long Island Music Hall of Fame, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and celebrating the region's musical heritage.

The stuffed lion is planted firmly on Brady's head; he has played bass with The Laurie Berkner Band since 2011. Brady loves everyone involved in Laurie's organization and feels so lucky to be part of the band. There's nothing like coming off stage with his bandmates after a great show and meeting Laurie Berkner Band fans: a wonderful community of stomping dinosaurs, moonbeams, and bumblebees!

Brady Rymer lives on the North Fork of Long Island with his wife Bridget and two children Gus and Daisy. He loves discovering new music, traveling, cooking for his family, and creating unique and silly art projects. www.bradrymer.com or www.facebook.com/bradrymer