

Biographies of Galileo's Daughters:

Recently praised with having “*a genuinely genre-busting voice, full and vivid*” (The Washington Post), soprano **Sarah Pillow** enjoys a unique career, drawing on her equal expertise in jazz, classical, and early music repertoire. Beginning her career as a jazz singer, Sarah won best vocal solo in a performance at the Montreux Jazz Festival. She went on to study classical singing at Oberlin Conservatory, earning a Bachelor of Music degree. Since moving to New York City in the early '90s, Sarah has toured the United States and Canada with her jazz quartet, her crossover project, Nuove Musiche, and Galileo's Daughters. Originally inspired by both her Collegium director at Oberlin Conservatory, Dean Neurenberg, and the book *Galileo's Daughter* by Dava Sobel, Galileo's Daughters is shaped by her variety of talents in early music, opera, jazz, drama, and scholarship. Recent dramatic performances include *The Play of Daniel*, a 12th-century liturgical drama, and two recently composed children's operas by Norwegian composer Gisle Kverndokk. Her new solo album, *Grace in Time*, is a collection of spiritual songs for organ and voice with organist Jeffrey C. Johnson. More information can be found at sarahpillow.com.

Mary Anne Ballard, viola da gamba, has, as a performer and programmer, explored a wide variety of early music from the Middle Ages through the Baroque periods. She has toured 47 states, The Netherlands, Germany, and Austria, and appeared on numerous radio programs (e.g. *St. Paul Sunday*, *Performance Today*) with The Baltimore Consort, an ensemble whose recordings of repertory from Renaissance England, Scotland, France, and Spain, as well as early traditional music have ranked in the top 10 on the Billboard “classical crossover” charts. She is also a member of the Oberlin Consort of Viols, Brio (Sephardic music), and Mr. Jefferson's Music. As a guest viol player, she has appeared with the Smithsonian Chamber Players, the Bethlehem Bach Festival, the Philadelphia Singers, the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, and the Cardinal Consort (Toronto). Ms. Ballard has taught viola da gamba and directed early music ensembles at the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton University, and the Peabody Conservatory, and she is currently on the faculty of the summer Oberlin Baroque Performance Institute. In New York City, she is Music Director of the 12th-century *Play of Daniel*, with performances at The Cloisters and Trinity Wall Street Church.

Special Guests with Galileo's Daughters:

Dava Sobel is the Joan Lieman Jacobson Nonfiction Writer at Smith College. In her 40 years as a science journalist, she has served as a staff reporter for The New York Times and contributed articles to many magazines, including *The New Yorker* and *Harvard Magazine*. She is also the author of *Longitude*, *Galileo's Daughter*, *The Planets*, and *A More Perfect Heaven*, which contains an early version of her play about Copernicus, called "And the Sun Stood Still". The play was commissioned by the Manhattan Theatre Club through its Alfred P. Sloan Initiative and supported by a grant from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. Ms. Sobel is a lifetime member of the International Dark Sky Association and a volunteer Solar System Ambassador for NASA. As a result of *The Planets*, asteroid "30935 Davasobel" was named in her honor. She is currently at work on a new book, tentatively titled *The Glass Universe*, about the women who worked as computers for the Harvard College Observatory from the 1880s into the mid-20th century.

Composer, percussionist, teacher and visual artist **Marc Wagnon** has been creating videos for Galileo's Daughters since 2005. He now performs with the group, mixing in real time video clips, animation, iconic images, and high-definition photographs of Earth and the heavens that accompany the group's performances. He also creates video accompaniment to his own and other composers' compositions. Originally from Switzerland, Marc studied music at the Geneva Conservatory of Music and the Berklee School in Boston, and has recorded over 20 albums, including 4 solo albums, of jazz and jazz-rock music. He is the author of *Drum Talk*, a teaching method for group percussion that uses a unique approach to polyrhythms and various drumming styles to teach a level of complexity that would normally demand longer preparation. For more information please visit: marcwagnon.com.

GRAMMY-nominated lutenist, **Ronn McFarlane** strives to bring the lute - the most popular instrument of the Renaissance - into today's musical mainstream and make it accessible to a wider audience. He graduated with honors from Shenandoah Conservatory and continued study on the guitar at Peabody Conservatory before turning his full attention and energy to the lute in 1978. The following year Ronn began to perform solo recitals on the lute and became a member of the Baltimore Consort. Since then, he has toured throughout the United States, Canada and Europe with the Baltimore Consort and as a soloist. In 1996, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Music from Shenandoah Conservatory for his achievements in bringing the lute and its music to the world. He has over 30 recordings on the Dorian/Sono Luminus label, including both solo albums and collaborations with other ensembles. Ronn's original compositions for the lute were the focus of his solo CD, *Indigo Road*, which received a GRAMMY Award Nomination for Best Classical Crossover Album in 2009. His latest CD release, *Barley Moon*, is with his ensemble Ayreheart, brought together to perform Ronn's new music.

Daniel Swenberg plays a wide variety of lutes and guitars: baroque, renaissance, classical/romantic, small, medium, and large. Chief among these is the theorbo-- the long lute that you are either wondering about or overhearing your neighbor discuss. He plays with myriad groups, mostly in the EZ-Pass territories, California, and Toronto.

John Mark Rozendaal is founder and director of the Viola da Gamba Dojo of New York, and performs with Trio Settecento, Repast Baroque Ensemble, and Brandywine Baroque. As founding Artistic Director of Chicago Baroque Ensemble, John Mark performed and led seven seasons of subscription concerts, educational programs, radio broadcasts, and recordings for the Cedille and Centaur labels. He served as principal 'cellist of The City Musick and Basically Bach, and has performed both solo and continuo roles with many period instrument ensembles including the Newberry Consort, Orpheus Band, The King's Noyse/Boston Early Music Festival Violin Band, Four Nations Ensemble and the Catacoustic Consort.

Cellist and viola da gamba player **James Waldo** is a voracious and devoted chamber musician, appearing regularly on concert stages around the USA as a member of acclaimed touring ensembles A.W. Duo and Spirits of the Red City, as well as frequently as a freelance musician in and around New York City. Early music collaborations include work with Uncommon Temperament and The Waits Trio, as well as many other ad-hoc configurations. James fulfills regular commitments as the principal cellist and continuo artist of the Trinity Cathedral Orchestra in Columbia, SC for seasonal productions of baroque sacred works.

David Root's tenor has been called “*fresh*” and “*mellifluous*” (The Cleveland Plain Dealer). He has performed leading roles with Nevada Opera, The NY Gilbert & Sullivan Players, Lyric Opera Cleveland, One World Symphony, The Vertical Repertory Theater, and Hudson Opera Theater. On the concert stage David has performed works ranging from Bach's *Magnificat* & many cantatas to Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*. His voice and original arrangements are also featured on three recordings of the Phoenix Quartet.

Bass-baritone **Peter Stewart** has created many roles in collaboration with composers. He has toured extensively in Europe, Australia, Asia, and North America with Philip Glass in *Einstein on the Beach*, *Monsters of Grace*, *La Belle et la Bête*, and *White Raven*. Peter has also recorded new operas for Jon Gibson, Gavin Bryars, Robert Wilson, Julius Hemphill, Anthony Braxton, Meredith Monk, Fred Ho, Allan Jaffe, Leroy Jenkins, Harry Partch and Hans Werner Henze, and was featured in Sir John Tavener's *Veil of the Temple* at The Lincoln Center Festival.