

# NEW YORK CITY CENTER

SUTTON FOSTER

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BRING ME TO LIGHT

APRIL 28 – MAY 31, 2021





SUTTON FOSTER

BRING ME TO LIGHT

APRIL 28, 2021

FEATURING  
Sutton Foster

WITH  
Raúl Esparza  
Joaquina Kalukango  
Kelli O'Hara  
Wren Rivera

LIGHTING DESIGNER  
Amith Chandrashaker

SOUND DESIGNER  
Scott Lehrer

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER  
Cody Renard Richard

PRODUCED BY  
New York City Center and Nel Shelby Productions

MUSIC DIRECTOR AND ARRANGER  
Michael Rafter

CREATIVE PRODUCER  
Jeanine Tesori

PRODUCER OF MUSICAL THEATER  
Jenny Gersten

DIRECTED BY  
Leigh Silverman











# NEW YORK CITY CENTER



**Sutton Foster | Bring Me to Light**

**“Cockeyed Optimist” / “Everybody Says Don’t” / “Yes”**

Performed by Sutton Foster

Michael Rafter, Piano

Matt Hinkley, Guitar

“Cockeyed Optimist”

Written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Richard Rodgers (ASCAP) & Oscar Hammerstein II (ASCAP)

Williamson Music Company (ASCAP) c/o Concord Music Publishing

“Everybody Says Don’t”

Written by Stephen Sondheim

Chappell & Co. Inc. (ASCAP) Burthen Music Company, Inc. (ASCAP)

“Yes” Written by John Kander and Fred Ebb

BMG Rights Management (ASCAP)

**“I’m Beginning to See the Light”**

Performed by Sutton Foster

Michael Rafter, Piano

Matt Hinkley, Ukulele

Written by Duke Ellington, Johnny Hodges,

and Harry James and lyrics by Don George

WC Music Corp. (ASCAP) Ricki Music Company (ASCAP)

Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, 424 Church Street, Suite 1200, Nashville, TN 37219

**“With So Little to Be Sure Of”**

Performed by Raúl Esparza and Sutton Foster

Michael Rafter, Piano

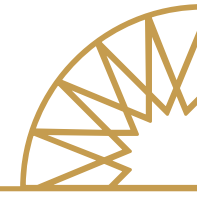
Written by Stephen Sondheim

Chappell & Co. Inc. (ASCAP) Burthen Music Company, Inc. (ASCAP)









## **“Slap That Bass”**

Performed by Sutton Foster

Michael Rafter, Piano

Matt Hinkley, Guitar

Leo Huppert, Bass

Written by George Gershwin and Ira Gershwin  
Downtown Music Publishing

## **“Lay Down Your Head”**

Performed by Sutton Foster

Jeanine Tesori, Piano

Matt Hinkley, Guitar

Written by Jeanine Tesori and Brian Crawley

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## **“The Life of the Party”**

Performed by Joaquina Kalukango

Michael Rafter, Piano

Matt Hinkley, Guitar

Written by Andrew Lippa

WC Music Corp. (ASCAP) Lippasongs (ASCAP)











# NEW YORK CITY CENTER



## **“How to Handle a Woman” / “Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin”**

Performed by Sutton Foster

Michael Rafter, Piano

“How to Handle a Woman”

Written by Frederick Loewe and Alan Jay Lerner

WC Music Corp. (ASCAP) Frederick Loewe Foundation (ASCAP),

The Alan Jay Lerner Testamentary Trust (ASCAP)

“Oh, What a Beautiful Mornin”

Written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Richard Rodgers (ASCAP) & Oscar Hammerstein II (ASCAP),

Williamson Music Company (ASCAP) c/o Concord Music Publishing

## **“Here I Am”**

Performed by Wren Rivera

Michael Rafter, Piano

Written by Jamie Houston

Walt Disney Music Company

## **“Answer Me”**

Performed by Sutton Foster

Matt Hinkley, Guitar

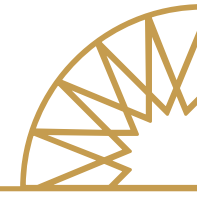
Written by David Yazbek

Kobalt Music









## **“Hey, Look Me Over”**

Performed by Sutton Foster

Michael Rafter, Piano

Matt Hinkley, Guitar

Written by Cy Coleman and Carolyn Leigh

Notable Music Co Inc (ASCAP)

Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, 424 Church Street, Suite 1200, Nashville, TN 37219

## **“Both Sides Now”**

Performed by Sutton Foster and Kelli O’Hara

Michael Rafter, Piano

Matt Hinkley, Guitar

Written by Joni Mitchell

Sony/ATV Music Publishing LLC, 424 Church Street, Suite 1200, Nashville, TN 37219

## **“Impossible Dream”**

Performed by Sutton Foster

Michael Rafter, Piano

Matt Hinkley, Guitar

Written by Mitch Leigh and Joe Darion

Mitch Leigh (ASCAP), Penny Farthing Music (ASCAP) c/o Concord Music Publishing











# NEW YORK CITY CENTER



## **“Cockeyed Optimist” / “Take Me to the World” / “Bring Me to Light”**

Performed by Sutton Foster, Raúl Esparza,  
Joaquina Kalukango, Kelli O’Hara, and Wren Rivera

Michael Rafter, Piano

Matt Hinkley, Guitar

“Cockeyed Optimist”

Written by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II

Williamson Music Company (ASCAP) c/o Concord Music Publishing

“Take Me to the World”

Written by Stephen Sondheim

Chappell & Co. Inc. (ASCAP) Burthen Music Company, Inc. (ASCAP)

“Bring Me to Light”

Written by Jeanine Tesori and Brian Crawley

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MEET THE ARTISTS

**SUTTON FOSTER** Currently leading the hit TV Land series *Younger*, returning for its seventh season in April 2021, Sutton Foster will make her highly anticipated Broadway return in the upcoming revival of *The Music Man* in 2022. The award-winning actress has appeared on Broadway in *Violet* (transfer from Encores! Off-Center), *Anything Goes* (Tony Award), *Shrek*, *Young Frankenstein*, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, *Little Women*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie* (Tony Award), *Les Misérables*, *Annie*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and *Grease*. Off-Broadway credits include in *Sweet Charity* (The Pershing Square Signature Center), *The Wild Party* (Encores! Off-Center), *Trust* (Second Stage), and *Anyone Can Whistle* (Encores!). She has also appeared on television in *Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life*, *Bunheads*, *Elementary*, *Psych*, *Royal Pains*, *Law & Order: SVU*, *Flight of the Conchords*, and *Sesame Street*. She holds an honorary doctorate from Ball State University where she also teaches.

**RAÚL ESPARZA** is a Tony-nominated stage and television actor and singer, known for his role as Rafael Barba in *Law & Order Special Victims Unit*. He made his Broadway debut in *Cabaret*, followed by the revival of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and appeared Off-Broadway in *tick, tick... BOOM!* (Drama Desk Award nomination) the following year. Additional theater credits: *Anyone Can Whistle* (Encores!), *Arcadia*, *Chess*, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*, *Company*, *The Cradle Will Rock* (Encores! Off-Center), *The Homecoming*, *Leap of Faith*, *Merrily We Roll Along*, *The Normal Heart*, *Road Show* (Encores! Off-Center), *Speed-the-Plow*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Taboo*, and *Twelfth Night*. Film credits include: *Custody*, *Ferdinand*, *My Soul to Take*, and *Trouble in the Heights*. Television credits: *Hannibal*, *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: Criminal Intent*, *Medium*, and *Pushing Daisies*.

**JOAQUINA KALUKANGO** received a Tony nomination for lead actress in a play for her incredibly layered and devastating performance in the critically acclaimed Broadway production of *Slave Play*. She also received an Outer Critics Circle award for best actress and Broadway.com listed her as one of the top 5 performers of the year, declaring that her “blistering performance is one that will shake you to your core.” Kalukango is also a 2021 SAG Awards nominee for her role as Betty X in Regina King’s directorial debut *One Night in Miami*. Additionally, she recently recurred on the HBO series *Lovecraft Country*. Other TV credits include Ava Duvernay’s Netflix series *When They See Us*. Recent

Broadway credits include *The Color Purple*, *Holler if You Hear Me*, and *Godspell*. She appeared in the Encores! Off-Center production of *The Wild Party*.

**KELLI O’HARA** has established herself as one of Broadway’s greatest leading ladies. Her portrayal of Anna Loenowens in *The King and I* garnered her the 2015 Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in a Musical, along with Grammy, Drama League, Outer Critics, and Olivier Nominations. Other Broadway credits include *Kiss Me Kate*, *The Bridges of Madison County*, *Nice Work if You Can Get It*, *South Pacific*, *The Pajama Game*, *The Light in the Piazza*, *Sweet Smell of Success*, *Follies*, *Dracula*, and *Jekyll & Hyde*. She was awarded the Drama League’s Distinguished Achievement in Musical Theatre Award in 2019. She is a frequent performer on PBS’s live telecasts, The Kennedy Center Honors, and performs often alongside The New York Philharmonic. Along with her two Grammy nominations, her solo albums are available on Ghostlight Records.

**WREN RIVERA** (*they/them/theirs*) is absolutely ecstatic to be performing in New York City Center’s *Bring Me to Light*. Hailing from Hoffman Estates, Illinois, Rivera is a rising musical theatre graduate of Ball State University. Most recently Rivera was seen in *She Kills Monsters* (Tilly), *Twelfth Night* (Viola/Cesario), *Q2: The Musical* (Kat), and *Fun Home* (Alison). A ginormous thank you to Sutton, Michael, and the folx at Ball State for making this happen. Chirp Chirp! Please follow along with them on Instagram @w.t.rivera.

**MATT HINKLEY** (*Guitar*) is a multi-instrumentalist, music director and arranger. Broadway: *SpongeBob Squarepants*, *Bandstand*, *Finding Neverland*, *Violet*, *First Date*, *Godspell*. Other NYC includes *ROOMS*, *The Burnt Part Boys*, *35mm*, *Assassins*, Joe Iconis’s *Bloodsong Of Love & Things To Ruin*. Regional includes Clint Black’s *Looking For Christmas*, *Mrs. Miller Does Her Thing* (Helen Hayes nomination for Music Direction). Film: *The Last Five Years*. Matt is also a long-time collaborator with Caissie Levy. Upcoming: Music direction for *The Outsiders*, Goodman Theatre (Chicago).

**LEO HUPPERT** (*Bass*) Broadway/Off Broadway/Touring: *Violet*, *Jersey Boys*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Book of Mormon*, *Frozen*, *In The Heights*, *Sister Act*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *The Producers*, *The Sound of Music*, *Crazy For You*. Jazz/Pop: Blood, Sweat & Tears, Bobby Caldwell. Concert/Cabaret: Sutton Foster, Stephanie J. Block, Mandy Gonzalez, Joshua Henry, Kelli O’Hara, Jarrod Spector, John Michael Coppola, Leslie Uggams. Recording: Film & Documentary soundtracks from HBO, ESPN, and PBS.

**JEANINE TESORI** (*Creative Producer*) has written a diverse catalog for Broadway, opera, film and television. Along

with Missy Mazzoli, Ms. Tesori is one of the first female composers commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera. Her musicals include: *Fun Home* (Tony Award, Pulitzer finalist); *Soft Power* (Pulitzer finalist); *Caroline, or Change* (Olivier Award); *Violet*; *Shrek*; *Thoroughly Modern Millie*; *Twelfth Night*; *A Free Man of Color*; *Mother Courage* (starring Meryl Streep). Her Operas include: *Blue* (Libretto, Tazewell Thompson); *A Blizzard on Marblehead Neck* (Tony Kushner); *The Lion, The Unicorn and Me* (J.D. McClatchy); and the upcoming *Grounded* (George Brant). In addition to her work as a composer, she is the founding artistic director of New York City Center’s Encores! Off-Center Series; the founding creative director of A BroaderWay, an arts empowerment program for young women; and a lecturer at Yale University.

**MICHAEL RAFTER** (*Music Director and Arranger*) As Music director/arranger for Sutton Foster: New York Pops, Live From Lincoln Center, and over 100 concerts world-wide-Broadway: *Violet*, *Everyday Rapture*, *Sweet Charity*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Swing!*, *The Sound of Music*, *The King and I*, *The Most Happy Fella*, *Gypsy*. Film and TV: *Marriage Story*, *Music and Lyrics*, *Did You Hear About the Morgans?*, *Gypsy* starring Bette Midler (Emmy for Music Direction). Graduate of Dartmouth College; proud father of Siena Rafter (Brown ’20).

**LEIGH SILVERMAN** (*Director*) Broadway: *Grand Horizons* (2ST; Williamstown Theater Festival); *The Lifespan of a Fact* (Studio 54); *Violet* (Roundabout; Tony nomination); *Chinglish* (Goodman Theatre; Longacre); *Well* (Public Theater; ACT; Longacre). Recent Off-Broadway: *Soft Power* (Public Theater; Ahmanson Theater/ Curran Theater; Drama Desk nom); *Tumacho* (Clubbed Thumb); *Hurricane Diane* (New York Theatre Workshop; Two River Theater); *Harry Clarke* (Vineyard Theatre/Audible, Minetta Lane; Lortel nom); *Wild Goose Dreams* (Public Theater; La Jolla Playhouse); *Sweet Charity* (New Group); *On The Exhale* (Roundabout); *All The Ways To Say I Love You* (MCC); *The Way We Get By* (2ST); *The Outer Space* (Public Theater); *Bright Half Life* (WP); *No Place To Go* (Public Theater); *American Hero* (WTF; 2ST); *Kung Fu* (Signature Theatre); *The (curious case of the) Watson Intelligence* (Playwrights Horizons). Encores: *Violet*; *The Wild Party*; *Really Rosie*. 2011 Obie Award and 2019 Obie for Sustained Excellence.

**AMITHCHANDRASHAKE** (*Lighting Design*) *The Underlying Chris* (Second Stage), *Gnit* (TFANA), *Wives* (Playwrights Horizons), *A Human Being*, *Of A Sort* (Williamstown), *The Lucky Ones* (Ars Nova), *Boesman and Lena* (DD & Hewes Award, The Signature), *A Hard Time* (Pig Iron Theater Co.), *Blue Ridge* (The Atlantic), *Cardinal* (2ST), *Twelfth Night* (The Public), *Fairview* (Soho Rep, Berkeley Rep, TFANA), *Fire in Dreamland* (The Public), *Her Requiem* (LCT3), *Seven Spots on*

*the Sun* (HH Nom., Rattlestick). Opera: *The Flying Dutchman* (Houston Grand Opera), *Falstaff* (Opera Omaha) *The Scarlet Letter* (Opera Colorado), *Abduction from the Seraglio* (Atlanta Opera). Dance: Premieres by Alexander Ekman, Aszure Barton, Kate Weare, Liz Gerring, Cedar Lake Contemporary Ballet, Rennie Harris, Aalto Ballett Theatre Essen, Staatstheater Nürnberg, The National Dance Company of Wales, and The Royal New Zealand Ballet. Designed *The UNTITLED DANCEPARTYSHOWTHING* on the inaugural Virgin Voyages cruise ship. Recipient of the Drama Desk and Henry Hewes awards.

**SCOTT LEHRER** (Sound Design) received the first Tony awarded to sound for the Lincoln Center Theater revival of *South Pacific*. Recent theatre work includes *An Evening with Audra McDonald* at City Center, *King Lear*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Richard Nelson’s *The Michaels*, *Illyria*, *Gabriel Family Plays* at the Public Theater, *Hello Dolly*, *The Front Page*, *Chicago*, *Shuffle Along*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Dames at Sea*, *The King and I*, *Living on Love*, *Honeymoon in Vegas*, *A Delicate Balance*, *A Raisin in the Sun*, *Lucky Guy*, *Chaplin* (Drama Desk Award), and Mike Nichols’ productions of *Death of a Salesman* and *Betrayal*. He has also designed over 50 City Center’s Encores!. Recording projects include the Broadway cast recording of *An American in Paris* (Grammy nom), Loudon Wainwright’s Grammy winning *High Wide and Handsome*, Bebe Neuwirth’s *Porcelain*, and Meredith Monk’s *mercy*. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College, he was faculty at Bennington College from 2001 until 2013 and now teaches at Hunter College.

**CODY RENARD RICHARD** (Production Stage Manager) Broadway: 12 shows. TV: VMAs ’20, ‘19, Tony Awards ‘19, *Jesus Christ Superstar Live!*, *Hairspray Live!*, *The Wiz Live!*. Cirque du Soleil: OVO, *Wintuk*. Selected Off-Broadway/NY: *Porgy and Bess* at the Metropolitan Opera (Stage Director), Carnegie Hall, Encores!, Public, Atlantic. Selected Regional: Lempicka at Williamstown, The Muny. Adjunct at Fordham, NYU, Columbia. Featured in Forbes, OUT100, Variety 2020 to watch, and CNN. Founder of the Cody Renard Richard Scholarship Program. AEA Delegate. BFA from Webster Conservatory. @codyrenard

**NEL SHELBY/NEL SHELBY PRODUCTIONS** documents performances, produces livestreams and virtual programs, and creates marketing videos and documentary films to support the dance community. Nel Shelby is the Producer/Director of NY Emmy-nominated documentary *PS DANCE!* and Video Producer for Jacob’s Pillow and Vail Dance Festival.

View Nel Shelby’s work at nelshelby.com and follow her on Instagram at @nelshelby.

**NEW YORK CITY CENTER** has played a defining role in the cultural life of the city since 1943 when it was founded by Mayor Fiorello La Guardia with the mission to make the best in the performing arts accessible to all. The distinctive neo-Moorish theater welcomes 300,000 visitors annually to experience internationally acclaimed artists on the same stage where legends like George Balanchine, Leonard Bernstein, Barbara Cook, José Ferrer, Martha Graham, and Paul Robeson made their mark. For over 25 years, the treasured, Tony-honored Encores! series has given new life to the American musical theater canon, complemented in recent years by the Encores! Off-Center series, which brings today’s innovative artists into contact with groundbreaking musicals from the more recent past. Dance continues to be an integral part of the institution’s mission through programs like the annual Fall for Dance Festival, which exposes new audiences to an international array of artists by offering subsidized tickets. Through its robust education and community programs, City Center brings the performing arts to over 11,000 New York City students, teachers, and families each year and activates all areas of the building with talks, master classes, art exhibitions, and intimate performances that provide audiences an up-close look at the work of the great theater and dance artists of our time.





**Aasif Mandvi** made his City Center debut in the 2017 Gala production of *Brigadoon*. He also plays Foster's friend and confidante Jay Malick on TV Land's hit series, *Younger*.



**Leigh Silverman** directed both the Encores! Off-Center and Broadway productions of *Violet*. She also directed Encores! Off-Center's *The Wild Party* and *Really Rosie*.



**Joaquina Kalukango** reunites with Foster six years after appearing together in the 2015 Encores! Off-Center *The Wild Party*.



**Michael Rafter** was the music director for both the Encores! Off-Center and the 2014 Broadway productions of *Violet*, and now reunites with Foster for *Bring Me to Light*.



**Wren Rivera**, Foster's student at Ball State University makes their New York City Center debut in *Bring Me to Light*.



**Jeanine Tesori** is a creative advisor for City Center and the founding artistic director for Encores! Off-Center. Foster starred in Tesori's *Violet* in the 2013 Encores! Off-Center production and later the 2014 Broadway production.



**Raúl Esparza** appeared alongside Foster in Encores! *Anyone Can Whistle* in 2010. Among his other appearances, he was last seen at City Center in 2019 in Encores! Off-Center *Roadshow*.



**Sutton Foster** returns to the City Center stage with *Bring Me to Light*, marking her fifth appearance at the historic theater since 2010.



**Kelli O'Hara** starred as Fiona in *Brigadoon*, with Aasif Mandvi, and in the 2010 Encores! *Bells Are Ringing*. She joins Foster on the City Center stage for the first time in *Bring Me to Light*.

## SIX DEGREES OF SUTTON FOSTER

Which City Center alum has also appeared alongside Sutton Foster on TV Land's *Younger*?



A) Christian Borle



B) Renée Elise Goldsberry



C) Miriam Shor



D) Laura Benanti

E) All of the above!





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