Business as usual cannot go on. Faced with a planetary crisis, we’re failing to respond. If science can’t get the message across, perhaps music can.

Studies show that we won’t truly engage with the climate crisis until we feel it on an emotional level. When composer Geoffrey Hudson read that, a light went on in his head. Music excels at building emotional connections — perhaps it can foster meaningful progress in fighting climate change.

A Passion for the Planet is an hour-long oratorio scored for chorus of mixed voices, soprano and baritone soloists, a 12-person instrumental ensemble, and optional children’s chorus. The libretto blends scientific prose, poetry, and sacred texts, tracing a musical journey from gratitude, through the darker truths of the climate crisis, before emerging into hope. In the finale, performers and audience join together to sing a simple chorale tune.

Emerging from the silence of a pandemic, we have the opportunity to stand up and make our voices heard. A Passion for the Planet shines the power of music on one of the central issues of our time. Meet the current moment and perform this timely masterpiece in your community.

Read more. Listen to excerpts. Peruse the score. www.apassionfortheplanet.com

“A desperately needed and crucial artistic response...We are lucky to have this immensely moving piece in our lives.” —Dashon Burton

Audience response:

“What a powerful and beautiful evening of music! It was magic, beauty, urgency, and hope.”

“Deeply moving—in so many ways... it made the emotional and intellectual connection, time after time.”

“One of the most moving concert experiences of my life. When it came time for the audience to join in, I found it hard to sing, I was so overwhelmed—and looking around, I realized that many audience members were in the same boat.”

“What have you done with what was given you, what have you done with the blue, beautiful world?”

—Theo Dorgan

Illuminati Vocal Arts Ensemble premiered A Passion for the Planet June 15, 2019 at Smith College. Tony Thornton conducted, soloists Dashon Burton and Alisa Pearson