

# The Hidden Sky

Music & Lyrics by Peter Foley

Book by Kate Chisholm

Based upon the short story, "The Masters,"

by Ursula K. Le Guin

Full-length musical | Drama



Richard  
Rodgers  
Award  
Winner

The world as we know it is no more. An apocalypse, brought on by the misuse of technology, has ravaged the earth. A society has arisen where science, mathematics, and the pursuit of knowledge have been forbidden by the ruling priests and forgotten by the people.

Based on a short story by acclaimed author Ursula K. Le Guin, this award-winning musical tells the story of Ganiil, a young woman whose longing for knowledge leads her on a passionate journey of discovery. As she risks her life in pursuit of truth, a series of devastating events forces her to make a profound leap into the unknown. With a soaring, eclectic score featuring lush choral singing, *The Hidden Sky* is a mythical tale of aspiration, awakening, and the indomitable human spirit.

## REQUIREMENTS

**Cast:** 13 (6 women, 7 men)

Strong role for a leading woman; diverse cast. Ensemble show. All must be strong singers.

**Band:** 8 players

Keyboard/conductor | keyboard/violin | flute/alto flute/clarinet/bass clarinet | French horn | guitar | cello | acoustic & electric bass | drums/percussion

## PERUSALS & LICENSING

Complete script and demo recordings are available for perusal. *The Hidden Sky* may be licensed for performance by arrangement with the Peter Foley Music Project. Please direct inquiries to:



Kate Chisholm, Executive Director

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## AWARDS

**Richard Rodgers Award**

**6 Barrymore Nominations**

including Best New Play & Best Original Score

**Spirit Award for Best New Score**

12 nominations, including  
Best New Play & Best New Work

*For Peter Foley's score:*

**NEA New American Works Grant**

**Stephen Sondheim Award**

**Jonathan Larson Foundation Award**

## PERFORMANCES

Prospect Theater Company, NYC, 2010

Joe's Pub (concert version), NYC, 2007

Ars Nova (concert version), NYC, 2006

Spirit of Broadway Theater, Norwich, CT, 2003

Prince Music Theater / American Music Theater  
Festival (world premiere), Philadelphia, 2000

*THE HIDDEN SKY was developed with support from the  
National Endowment for the Arts, the Eugene O'Neill  
Theater Center National Music Theater Conference, the  
Richard Rodgers Award, and Prospect Theater Company.*

## PRAISE FOR *THE HIDDEN SKY*

**"I am absolutely wowed by the music and by the theatrical brilliance and passion of the book.** Terrific pacing, but it's also very complex—intellectually, morally, and aesthetically. The music is magnificent. Powerful and urgent but never blatant; melodic but never simplistic; wonderfully various yet seamless in its narrative flow. I am very deeply impressed.... The libretto is very fine. In some ways it is miraculously fine. And the courage of it—to sing love songs to learning, to knowledge! What a joy!"

— *Ursula K. Le Guin*

**"The choral writing is thrilling, and the sudden surprises...are spectacularly theatrical."**

—*Stephen Sondheim*

"Peter Foley's intricately thematic, deeply impassioned, evocative score with its haunting melodies, sweeping choral moments and driving undercurrents, captures the heart in an instant. But its most compelling quality is how precisely it captures the complex spirit of the story, from its poetic lyrics right down to the details in the orchestrations. What makes this musical adaptation of this somewhat esoteric story stand out is its delicately balanced approach. It is **fearlessly intelligent and intellectual** without being cumbersome or inaccessible. Though dark, challenging and spiritual, *The Hidden Sky* is never alienating.... **a beautiful, provocative musical.**"

— *Curtain Up*

**"Joyful, engaging and intelligent."**

— *Broadway World*

"From the time the overture began until the final note was played, the reviewer was riveted by a story of good and evil, ignorance and arrogance, of frustration and triumph compellingly told.... *The Hidden Sky* is different, provocative, a tad unusual, but **musical theater to be thoroughly enjoyed.**"

— *The Daily Pennsylvanian*

"The show effectively communicates the exhilaration of intellectual discovery.... The power of Foley's score... the **melodic urgency, rhythmic variety, harmonic invention** and orchestral sophistication of his music compel the attention.... In a program note, Foley acknowledges a range of influences from Sufi plainsong to the rock band U2, yet what he has made of them is **something uniquely his own.**"

— *The Philadelphia Inquirer*