

PLAY EVERY TOWN: 252 Community Concerts for a Cooler Climate
as featured in the Wall St Journal and NBC Nightly News

CONCERT #72: Sunday, Dec. 15, 3:30 pm
Sandgate Town Hall, 3266 Sandgate Rd, Sandgate

featuring pianist David Feurzeig

FREE Admission; donations accepted to benefit the Batten Kill Watershed Alliance

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“Like so much of our everyday life, routine jet travel is unsustainable—which means something it’s literally not possible to keep doing. I want to model a performance culture that doesn’t require hopping on a plane and flying all over the world.”

In May 2022 composer-pianist David Feurzeig embarked on *Play Every Town: 252 free concerts* in each of Vermont’s 252 towns to confront climate change through the power of community and music. With this project David will become the first musician to perform in every Vermont municipality. He is traveling in his solar-charged electric vehicle throughout the state, offering free concerts to bring attention to the interrelated issues of climate and community, and to call into question the normality of long-distance touring and travel, while bringing the joy of music to his audiences.

“I want to support Vermont’s local communities with live performance in village centers and downtowns, while fulfilling UVM’s mission to serve as a resource for the whole state.”

Feurzeig, a professor of music at UVM, specializes in genre-defying recitals that bring together music of an astonishing variety of musical styles, from ancient and classical to jazz, avant-garde, and popular traditions. These striking juxtapositions, peppered with informative and humorous commentary, create eye- and ear-opening programs that will change how you hear all kinds of music.

Each program is locally tailored. In Sandgate, David will play some of Mozart’s earliest pieces from 1761, the year the town was founded, and his Sonata in C K.545 from 1788, the year the Town Hall (originally the first Methodist Church north of NYC) was erected in Ashgrove NY; selection of Chopin mazurkas from 1832 will mark the year it was moved to Sandgate. This building burned down the day before Town Meeting in 1967 and the present Town Hall built on site; to celebrate its rise from the ashes, there will be a singalong of 1967’s “All You Need is Love”. The concert is on a recently donated Knabe grand; the program will include Chopin’s beloved “Raindrop” prelude, one of the first pieces he composed while living with George Sand, written in 1839, the year the Knabe company was founded, as well as the “Ragtime Nightingale” by Joseph Lamb—who also played a Knabe piano. Equinox Mountain, the tallest of the Taconic peaks, which rises east of Sandgate Center, will be recognized with a rendition of John Coltrane’s “Equinox”. Like every concert in the project, this one will include its own unique sonata by Domenico Scarlatti: Sonata no. 72 for this seventy-second concert in the project. Admission is free, with voluntary donations accepted to benefit the [Batten Kill Watershed Alliance](http://www.BattenKillWatershedAlliance.com).

Feurzeig finds his approach attracts new audiences to so-called “classical” concerts and brings new insight to existing fans. “Classical music culture puts the ‘Great Composers’ on an almost religious pedestal. Once this was an indication of the audience’s love and respect, but now it just distances people from the music. It turns away new listeners, who feel like they’re in a stuffy museum instead of a live concert. If I don’t get a laugh from the audience in the first two minutes, I get worried!”

Follow David on his journey on Instagram, find up-to-date events for your town via Facebook, or visit the website at [PlayEveryTown.com](http://www.PlayEveryTown.com).

“Not just for stars, but in academia as well there are pressures on musicians to travel far and wide, to maintain an international presence. We take this and a thousand similar practices for granted—but they’re simply not compatible with a livable world.”