



EVERY SMALL STONE

*EDEN Engagement: Arnhem
Seed City Curriculum
Annemiek Harreman*

FEBRUARY 2022



International Teaching Artists Collaborative (ITAC)
and
Joyce DiDonato's

EDEN ENGAGEMENT

ABOUT

Three-time Grammy Award winning opera superstar Joyce DiDonato has created the global tour of EDEN, her major concert hall performance about environmentalism. Her personal commitment and partnership with ITAC has launched a re-imagining of the impact of a concert experience through teaching artist-led workshops in every city. The International Teaching Artists Collaborative (ITAC) is the world-wide network of artists who work in community and educational settings, who have the skills to bring change to communities. Together ITAC and EDEN Engagement will pilot a new approach to prove that touring can be a legitimate and powerful tool for change in communities.

Cities on the tour are designated either "Root Cities" or "Seed Cities". Seed Cities are a 1-4 day(s) event that engages the youth with one of three specific environmental issues; Urban Gardens, Urban Trees, Food Choices:

1. Urban Gardens: They are youth-friendly. Among many social benefits, they bring these environmental benefits: reduce carbon use (reduced food transport); reduce water runoff; help pollinators; plants absorb CO₂ and pollutants and produce oxygen; health benefits in the food and the community building (reduced stress and blood pressure).
2. Urban Trees: Trees are omnipresent and overlooked in cities—kid friendly. They can plant them, and the EDEN performance encourages that. Trees are powerful answers to heat mitigation (reduce temperatures by 8 to 10 degrees and need for air conditioning), carbon and pollution sequestration and oxygen production, water flow pollution reduction, biodiversity, and food insecurity. Health benefits include healthier air, psychological benefits, lowering blood pressure and stress.
3. Food Choices: Scientists have proven that small choices make a big difference. Because many foods with a high health burden, including processed meats or red meats, also have high environmental costs, switching out 10 percent of a person's daily caloric intake can cut a person's food-based environmental footprint by over 30 percent. Between growing it, packaging it, moving it around, cooking it, and often wasting it, food production makes up about one-fifth to one-third of all annual greenhouse gas emissions globally. Eat less red and processed meats, eat more veggies and fruits, reduce food waste, and if you have a way...compost.

Teaching Artist: Annemiek Harreman

Duration: One 2.5-hour workshop

Goals: This workshop aims to activate two things in the young participants:

- Their sense of personal connection to and grasp of the specific environmental issue
- Their ability to make a difference regarding that issue—their sense of agency

Curriculum by Annemiek Harreman

Design by Katie Rainey



Workshop: Everybody Contributes in Their Own Way

The title of the workshop is "Everybody contributes in their own way". In Dutch it's called *iedereen draagt zijn steentje bij*. This expression means that every small stone that anyone contributes, can make an important difference. And all small stones together will make a big difference.

The workshop has two goals:

1. Make the singers aware that they have a responsibility in how they treat nature. This will be emphasized in a joyful and positive way so that the children will be motivated to come up with their own ideas about what they can do in everyday life. What stone can they contribute?
2. Create a vocal soundscape for the song Seeds of Hope.

Since the song already has lyrics and the theme is to give nature a voice, the children will be invited to make nature sounds. These can be animal sounds, but also the sound of rain or rustling leaves. This will result in a nature soundscape in the measures between Joyce DiDonato's solo and the part the children sing (and maybe at the end of the song).

The method of teaching is introducing the theme, stimulate curiosity by asking questions and giving vivid examples. The goal is to stimulate the creativity of the children, so the products of the workshop (card and soundscape) will be their accomplishment.

Introduction (15 minutes)

- Up above my head (echo song)
- Introduction to the theme of nature and sustainability
- We live on a giant stone and a lot of things come out of stones. It contains nutrients for plants and crops. Animals lick stones for calcium and salts. So stones are an important basis in nature.
- Inventory of problems in nature that are caused by human beings
- Exploring ideas to contribute to solving these problems. What stones can the children contribute?

Stone Search (20 minutes)

- Walk in the park in foursomes (we start in silence with the assignment to be aware what the senses notice in the park, this is important input for the soundscape)
- Collecting stone or other element from nature (branch for example)

Make Wishing Card (25 minutes)

- Paint, write or draw on carton what you can contribute to sustainability
- Attach card with ribbon to stone/branch
- Making exhibition (maybe we will do this on the day of the show)





BREAK (30 minutes)

- Tour Musis Theatre

Make Soundscape (30 minutes)

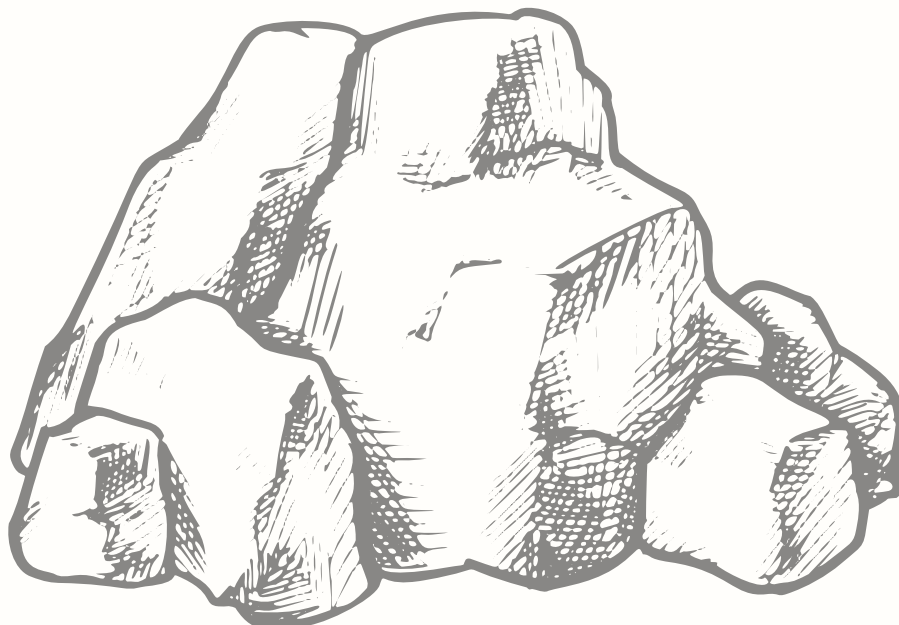
- Oceandrum for inspiration
- Warming up with baking paper (also suitable for making nature sounds)
- Exploring nature sounds (what did you notice in the park?)
- Exploring animal sounds
- Composing soundscape

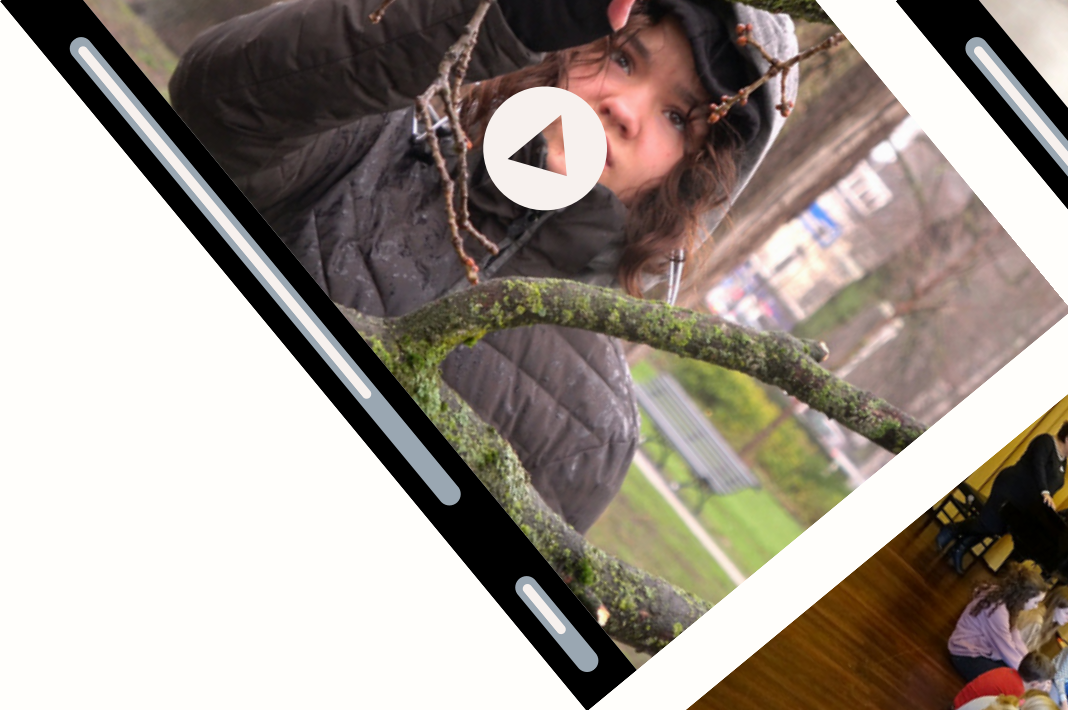
Work on *Seeds of Hope* Song (30 minutes)

- Working on the song *Seeds of Hope*: practicing the soundscape, the song/lyrics/harmony
- and working on the performance (position on stage)

Materials:

- sheet music
- baking paper
- carton
- paint
- brushes
- markers
- ribbons





Watch
the
Video!



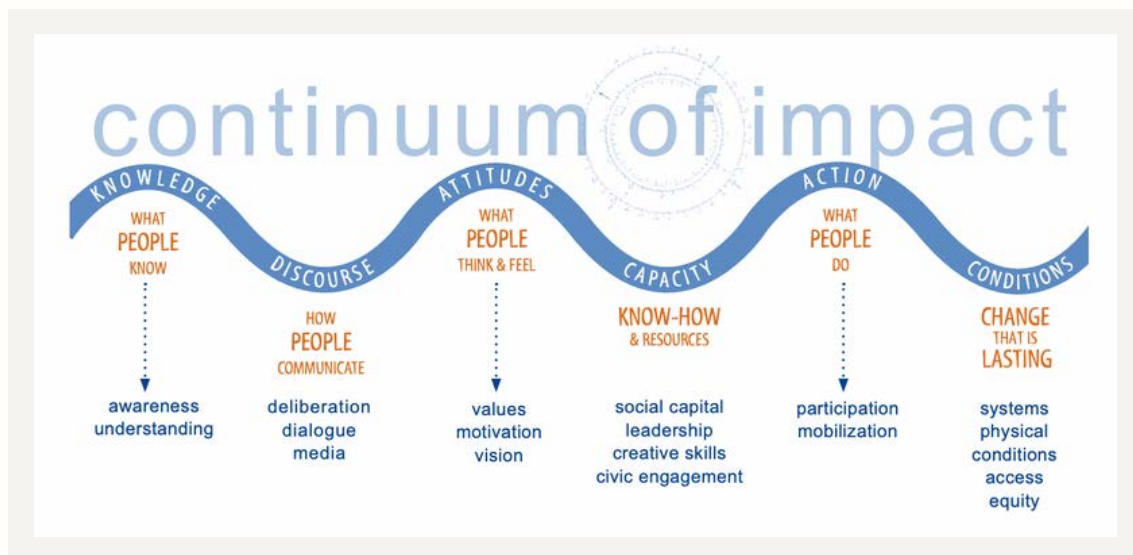
REFLECTIONS FROM THE TEACHING ARTIST

In what ways did you observe change in your participants understanding and engagement of the environmental issue you chose?

"The children were already aware of problems in nature and didn't have any difficulty making up ideas for their own contributions to improve our environment. When we went outside and we observed nature with our senses, they discovered some new things. Especially the older children, who aren't used to being aware of their senses (very cognitive). It was an eye opener to touch the moss on a branch for example. So they really connected with nature."

The goal of this effort is to learn about the impact that the activities have on participants. We are especially curious to learn if there is any evidence that they have the impulse to take action and/or feel they can make a difference—this is the high goal of the arts-for-climate field, and we believe teaching artists have a particularly strong contribution to the field.

Teaching artists were encouraged to use the Continuum of Impact Guide as a model when thinking about impact and assessment in their workshops.



Teaching Artist Annemiek Harreman reported that she found the greatest change in the students was in their attitude and motivation. While the students were interested in environmentalism before the workshop, their motivation increased exponentially after the workshop. Students were motivated to go out into the world and effect change with what they had learned, understanding that just one person can have a huge impact.

"It was nice to work in an international team on the other side of the world. I really like that connection with all people who care about music and nature. Furthermore it was good practice for my English skills. And after two lock down years it was really nice to create this workshop in a short period and be so creative. So there was a lot of action. I've missed that and it made me feel very much alive!"

—Annemiek Harreman



ABOUT THE TEACHING ARTIST

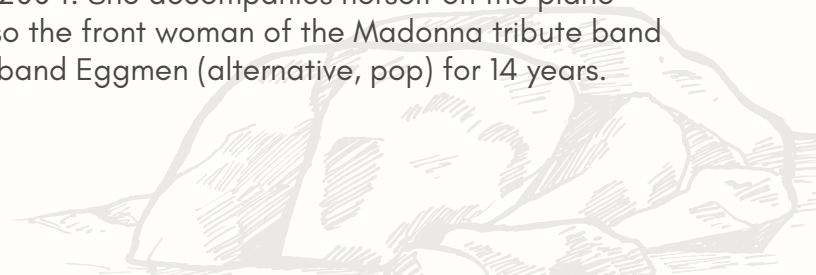
ANNEMIEK HARREMAN

Annemiek Harreman (1976) is a singing teacher, singer and songwriter. She gives private lessons to (young) adults in her studio at home and in Kunstcircuit Deventer. In October 2019 she completed the Applied Voice Physiology course at the Lichtenberger® Institute in Germany. In the singing lessons, the senses are used in order to be able to make a sound as freely as possible. This approach to the voice gives Annemiek the pleasure of singing again as she experienced it as a child: spontaneous, free and without judgment.

In 2014, Annemiek founded ZingDing Children's Choir together with children's choir director Jim Gilloffo. This choir is for primary school children from Deventer and the surrounding area. Children's choir ZingDing is now well known in Deventer and is regularly asked to perform. Annemiek regularly gives workshops in the Lichtenberger® method to (children's) choirs, but also to the conductors of these children's choirs. She has also been a jury member of the Limburgs Kinderkorenfestival for two years now.

Since a few years Annemiek and Bart v.d. Lisdonk the duo The Undercover lovers. They sing and play all kinds of covers that they like themselves, accompanied by guitar. From Prince to Dolly Parton and from Pearl Jam to Dionne Warrick. Annemiek and Bart previously worked together as a children's pop act Annemiek & Bart, performing for children at schools and festivals. The songs that Annemiek and Bart wrote together are recorded on the CD Music is not a competition. Their first song 'Mama, may I have a candy' appeared in 2010 on the Children for Children's CD 'He Jouw!'

After her studies in Law, Policy and Management (2000), Annemiek worked as an organizational and communication advisor and teacher at the University of Utrecht (USBO). In addition to her studies and work, she was always engaged in singing and dancing. She had speech therapy due to voice problems, took private singing lessons (classical, CVT and EVTS) and completed the Academy of Light Music in 2004. She accompanies herself on the piano and loves to dance (jazz, modern). She was also the front woman of the Madonna tribute band Lucky Star for a few years and she sang in the band Eggmen (alternative, pop) for 14 years.



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