



**PAST,
PRESENT,
FUTURE**



Trapped in the 19th-century Romantic era by guitars carved from spacetime wood, a 1st-century Galilean lyre maker and a lonely 21st-century Midwesterner must blend ancient hymns with hip hop to survive a tyrannical cosmic orchestra and find their way home.

WHY (THEN) NOW (LATER)?

Instruments are History's Greatest Anchors

Music is a physical, living essence. By centering the musical on what's tangible like ancient ouds and modern guitars, it explores craftsmanship and how it carved history, culture, and memory.

A Celebration of Cultural Roots

By blending ancient hymns with modern music like hip hop and rock, the musical honors the global ancestry of music. It acts as a universal reminder that our past artistic roots are essential to shaping our collective future. The story values memory.

The Power of Shared Sound

At its heart, this show explores how music transcends generational rifts to create swift community. When characters from vastly different millennia unite through song, it reminds audiences that communal harmony is our greatest tool to survive our fractured world.



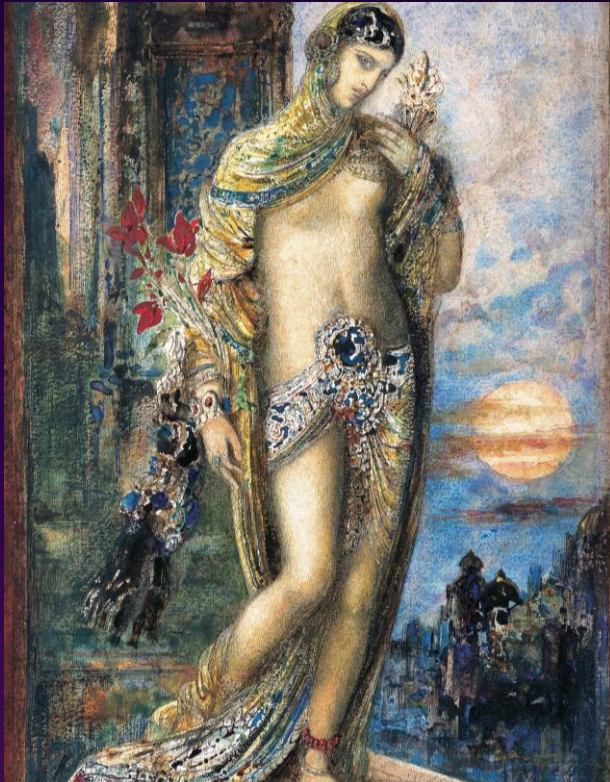
MEET ¡TAB & CODA!

The sci-fi adventure romance musical follows two lonely musicians: Tabitha, a 1st-century Galilean lyre maker, and Dakota, a 21st-century Midwestern guitar maker. When given magical instruments carved from spacetime wood, they accidentally trap themselves in the 19th-century Romantic era. Blending ancient hymns with modern music, they form the duo ¡Tab & Coda! to survive the wrath of the cosmic Timeharmonic Orchestra and find a way home.

It explores bittersweet themes like mortality, appreciation for wisdom, everlasting search for freshness, and the value of nature in music.



TABITHA



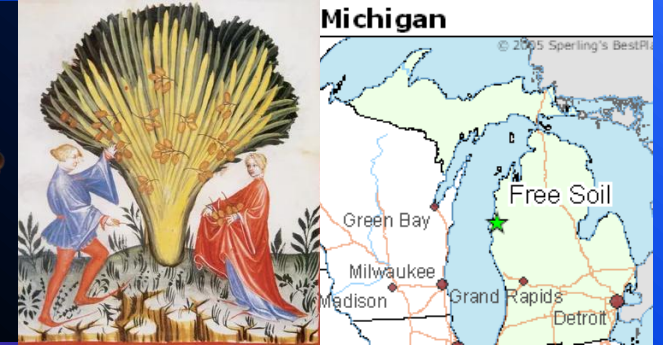
TABITHA BAT JESSE is a lyre maker from 1st Century Galilee way ahead of her time and in over her head. She seeks that “new sound.” Destiny, the Timepiper of the Future, gifts her American basswood which she uses to build her oud that sends her into the future. Tab finds home in alternative hip hop. As a singer, she is a breath of fresh air to what music could be.

Gender: W

Ethnicity: Middle Eastern

Age: 20s/30s

DAKOTA



DAKOTA F. CHÉRY is a guitar maker from 21st Century Free Soil, Michigan behind the times. They honor the “oldies.” Frailty, the Timepiper of the Past, gifts them Judean date palm seeds for their guitar, which sends them back in time. Kota finds home in psalmody. As a guitarist, they are an old soul showing what music once was, never staying up to date on the mainstream.

Gender: Any Ethnicity: Any

Age: 20s/30s

ETERNITY LINGER

The omnipotent bandleader who leads the Timepipers to control time. Playing zithers and flutes, they are based on Ling Lun, the legendary founder of music in China.

TIMEPIPERS (Time Chorus)

Birdlike deities based on the Norse Norns.

FRAILTY

past

REALITY

present

DESTINY

future

TIMEHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The orchestra pit where the CONDUCTOR is integral to keeping the timeline running smoothly. If they die, everyone dies.



MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

1. Overture / Prologue: The Seeds of Fate
2. Born in the Wrong Generation
3. The Right Person
4. The Wrong Time
5. Must Be Nice (Times Like These)
6. Out of Tune
7. אֶפְשָׁרִי (Efshari, Anything's Possible)
8. Band Together
9. Start from the Conclusion
10. Life is Short (You Must Be This Old to Die)
11. Future Plans
12. Right Person, Wrong Time

GENRE

Ancient, Pop, Rock, Hip Hop, Folk-Opera

ACT II

13. Passing By, Running Behind
14. Keep Tabs (on Your Heart)
15. אֶפְשָׁרִי – Reprise
16. The Songs Linger (Long Enough)
17. Seconds Can't Count
18. Out of Wack
19. Paradox
20. In Loving Destiny
21. From the End
22. In Loving Destiny – Reprise

LEGEND

Signature

"I Want" Song

Comedic

Ballad
Insanity

אֶפְשָׁרִי (EFSHARI, ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE)

DAVID'S MUSIC SAMPLES

"Photosynthesis" – *TURNOVER: A NEW LEAF* (0:45)

A fun song that may inspire "Life is Short (You Must Be This Old to Die)."

"Crunch" – *ELLIPSES* (4:30)

Eternity and the Timepipers embody pentatonic Asian sensibilities. This may inspire the sound of the feature love song, "In Loving Destiny."

"Airborne" – *CHEMICALS IN THE WATER* (5:40)

An encouraging song that may inspire "Keep Tabs (on Your Heart)."

"Cutting Edge" – *ELLIPSES* (6:29)

A fun song that may inspire "Life is Short (You Must Be This Old to Die)."

"Big Bang" – *ELLIPSES* (linked here)

A crazy score that may inspire "The Wrong Time", "Future Plans", and "Paradox."

DavidQuang.com/Reel



Who made time... ~~time~~ Memory... ~~memory~~ What makes music... ~~music~~ music? Love... love?

David's intention for *Past, Present, Future* is to express the value of **music** and **instruments** on **time** and **community**; how they shaped history.

The idea of time-traveling guitars came upon observing the makings of guitar phím lõm in Vietnam and fado guitar in Portugal. Watching birds drop objects inspired spacetime botany.





(HEALTHY) OBSESSION WITH OL' INSTRUMENTS



SCENIC DESIGN & CHOREOGRAPHY

Spacetime Split (1st-19th-21st Century)

The stage contain multitudes of contrast. 1st-century Galilee and 21st-century Michigan are defined by rustic and organic materials (American basswood, Judean date palm seeds, raw timber). These dissolve into the lavish and structured architecture of the 19th-century Romantic era.

1st Century Galilee



21st Century Free Soil, Michigan



19th Century Romantic Era



The Orchestra Pit

The theatrical world treats the actual orchestra pit as a physical setting in the story. The Conductor is always visible and in survival mode to the audience.

Spoilers: ~~Towards the climax, Eternity takes the Conductor's baton and stabs the Conductor to death. Then, the Timepipers murder the members of the orchestra, causing time to cease to exist.~~



CHOREOGRAPHY/PUPPETRY



The Timepipers require choreography or stylized puppetry to mimic the shorebirds' twitchy moves. Their spirit blends historical realism and absurdism.

COMPS

Back to the Future comedy | *Hadestown* mythology | *The Great Comet* romance





2003 Space Camp,
Huntsville, Alabama



Michigan State Uni.
Astrophysics, 2014-18



Andrea M. Ghez,
Nobel Prize, Physics



David Built an
Astronaut Costume



VP of ΣΠΣ, physics
honor society



King Arthur, his knights
conquered England!

~AND SPEAKING OF COMETS~

DAVID QUANG PHAM

דָּוִד קוֹוֶאֶנְג פֶּאָרְם

$9X - 7I > 3(3X - 7U)$,
SCIENCE!



David managed
a greenhouse
at MSU,
2015-16

An award-winning songwriter, filmmaker, and science educator. His work engages the public in scientific and cultural literacy and are within fantasy, adventure, sci-fi, and queer genres. He created the series *Photosynthesis*; *Star Zoos*; *The Sugarcoats*; and *Solid, Liquid, and Gas*; and the stage musicals *Chemicals in the Water*, *Ellipses*, and *Turnover: A New Leaf*. His musicals have been staged regionally, Off-Broadway, and internationally. He is the 2026 Cinephilia fellow, Kellogg's Foundation film fellow, 2024 Great Performances fellow, 2022 Harriet Tubman Effect Institute composer, 2021 Playwrights Foundation fellow, and 2020 Working Title Playwrights apprentice. Pham received a BS with honors in astrophysics and theatre from Michigan State University. Be up to lightspeed at www.science.studio or @ScienceTheatre.

www.Science.Studio

An illustration on a light blue background. On the left, a yellow and black bee with white wings is flying towards the right. In the center, a girl with brown skin, wearing a green leaf on her head and a green dress, has her arms crossed and is smiling. On the right, a boy with brown skin and curly hair, wearing a green tank top with a yellow flower, is holding a small yellow flower in his right hand and looking at it. The text 'Photosynthesis, the works!' is written in a playful, rounded font at the bottom.