



Something Wonderful in My Back Yard (SWIMBY)

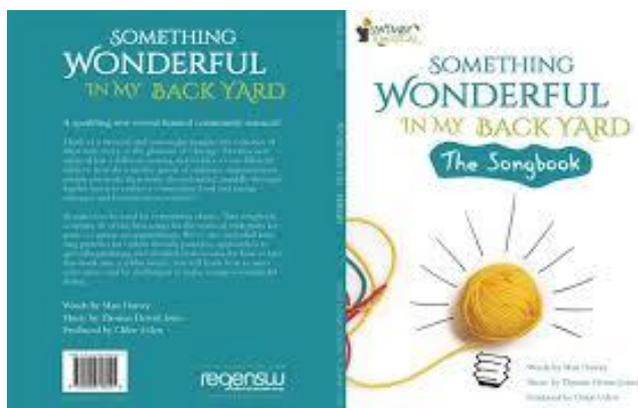
SWIMBY is a sparkling new crowd-funded community musical written by Matt Harvey and Thomas Hewitt Jones.

Think of a musical and you might imagine the romance of West Side Story or the razzle dazzle of Chicago. But this new musical [currently being written] has a different setting and tackles a very different subject: how do a motley group of ordinary, argumentative people persuade their make-do-and-mend, muddle-through market town to embrace community food and energy schemes and become more resilient?

Writer Matt Harvey and composer Thomas Hewitt Jones are well known in their fields – and their allotments – and have previously collaborated on The Same Flame (published by Boosey & Hawkes) and the musical Rumpelstiltskin, produced at the egg, Theatre Royal Bath, last Christmas and set to be revived this year at the MAC Belfast.

Matt and Thomas have been talking to people involved in community energy groups and the Transition network about to develop this heartening new story for our times.

Designed to be used by community choirs, The SWIMBY Songbook is available for you to [download free of charge](#). This is only possible because of the invaluable help we received from NatureSave Trust



In it, you will find 12 songs with piano and guitar accompaniment, a knitting pattern for carbon dioxide particles and a recipe for Gullible Stew....yes, I'm serious!

Each of the songs, is about one of the multitude of social challenges we face in our struggles to create a better world for future generations. (If you can't read music, you can hear a demo of all the songs on youtube or soundcloud too!)

"In our back Yard' might be the most beautiful song about Transition yet created" Rob Hopkins, co-founder of The Transition Movement

SWIMBY was crowd-funded with help from 135 people and also had funds from Regen SW, The Arts Council and Big Lottery. The early material show was performed in The Ariel Centre in Totnes as we saw performances from the talented KEVICC Performing Arts Company and Year 9 students, As well as Hannah Waterfield from Exeter, Kate Van Dyke from Newton Abbot, Billy Bottle and Martine from Ipplepen and Sue from Totnes and the Heavenly Voices choir.

"We've done a lot of work over the past year, and there's lots more to do before we've finished! There are one or two more songs, Matt is scribbling away to write all the interlinking scenes and Thomas will have a whole lot of orchestrating to do!

"Over the past 10 years of working in the sustainable energy sector and thinking about how we engage people in questions around energy and climate change, I've become increasingly aware of the limits of the usual methods of sharing facts and figures and arguing over which technological solutions are best. I think that the arts provide one of the few avenues for exploring these issues, creating a sense of shared or personal meaning and active collaboration and a space to deal with the inevitable emotional and human side of the story." Chloe Uden, SWIMBY Musical Producer

Vist www.SWIMBYmusical.com for more information