

For immediate release

High res photos of the performers can be downloaded here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/fymyc5js8b3332a/AADN-L403o6uxpLhot2zC1DKa?dl=0>

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### **River of Song concert to benefit California river conservation**

On Thursday, June 7, 2018, award-winning Bay Area musicians will join forces for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “River of Song: A Musical Celebration of California’s Life-Giving Waters,” a gala concert to benefit California river conservation. It will be held at the Freight and Salvage Coffeehouse, 2020 Addison Street, Berkeley at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$35 in advance (see [www.thefreight.org](http://www.thefreight.org)) and \$39 at the door.

California rivers have long been an integral part of Grammy-winning bluegrass musician Laurie Lewis’ world: “Our bodies are composed of about 60% water. And 90% of our Bay Area water comes from the high Sierra Nevada Mountains. For me, it has become a calling to try and do what I can to protect these free-flowing rivers and help insure that all beings, human and otherwise, have access to good drinking water.” For over 25 years, she has been sharing her love of rivers with others through her music and rafting trips. Lately, she has upped her involvement with rivers by attending the River Advocacy Training School, through Friends of the River.

River of Song performers include Laurie Lewis & Tom Rozum, Blame Sally, Thompsonia (Suzy, Eric & Allegra Thompson) and Jenner Fox, all of whom will feature songs about water and rivers, in styles ranging from bluegrass to folk-rock to blues.

The “River of Song” benefit concert was initiated in 2017 by Suzy Thompson, who teamed up with long-time friend Laurie Lewis. Suzy shares her personal river water story: “In the Sierras, there’s a spring-fed pond where Eric and I have gone every summer for over 40 years, to make music with friends and commune with nature. The way that pond changes from year to year always drives home to me how precious our California water is. With Laurie’s passion for California’s rivers, it was a natural to get her involved with putting together this benefit show.”

Proceeds from “River of Song” will benefit Friends of the River, which works to protect and restore rivers across the state, and the Foothill Conservancy, a grassroots, nonprofit organization (based in Jackson) with a special focus on the Sierra Nevada’s upper Mokelumne River. The Mokelumne provides 90 percent of the water for the East Bay Municipal Utility District. Both organizations will have representatives at the event to provide information about current threats to our state’s rivers as well as efforts to protect them.

“We were thrilled with the success of last year’s River of Song concert, and are excited to have this become a yearly event” said Foothill Conservancy Executive

Director Amanda Nelson. “Our organization has worked for the Mokelumne River for more than 28 years, and our efforts to protect the river help protect the East Bay’s water quality. We’re excited to have the opportunity to meet East Bay water consumers and talk about the wild and scenic river that sustains East Bay communities.”

Friends of the River Engagement Coordinator Toby Briggs adds, “River of Song is an exceptional evening that builds our community and awareness about the issues our state and federal rivers face in the coming year. Thank you to the musicians who are amplifying the message about protecting our rivers by sharing their talent!”

For ticket information, contact the Freight & Salvage: (510) 644-2020 or visit the Freight’s website: [thefreight.org](http://thefreight.org)

Friends of the River website: <http://www.friendsoftheriver.org/>

Foothill Conservancy website: <http://www.foothillconservancy.org/>