

articulate

with Jim Cotter

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American Public Television



SEASON 6 PRESSKIT



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Who's Who IN SEASON 6

1.

GUESTS

Dan Harmon, TV creator
Liz Lerman, choreographer
Ellen Reid, composer
Vikram Paralkar, physician-scientist & author
Gish Jen, author
Thomas Newman, film composer
Daniel Hope, classical violinist
Jason Robert Brown, Broadway composer
Angel Blue, operatic soprano
Leif Ove Andsnes, classical pianist
Royce Vavrek, librettist
Zenos Frudakis, sculptor
Marin Alsop, conductor
Ian Bostridge, operatic tenor
Stephen Costello, operatic tenor
Rufus Wainwright, singer-songwriter
David Serkin Ludwig, composer

FEATURES

FROM THE MOUTHS OF POETS

Shihan Van Clief, poet
Alysha Wise, poet
Tracy K. Smith, poet
Javon Johnson, poet
STS, rapper & poet

DRAWING MEANING FROM LIFE

Scott McCloud, cartoonist
Gene Yang, cartoonist
Lauren Weinstein, comic book artist
Josh O'Neill, comics publisher

JETS VS. SHARKS

Doug DeMuro, automotive columnist
Paul Snyder, automotive designer
Henrik Fisker, automotive designer

CAST & CREW

Jim Cotter, host & managing editor

Tom Contarino, senior producer
Mark Miller, senior editor
Christine Walden, producer
Ryan Savage, producer & colorist
John Avarese, audio supervisor
Emily Davis, line producer
Nikki Mogar, production coordinator
EJ Marcus, editorial assistant

Written by **Jim Cotter**, **Tori Marchiony**,
Matthew Hoisch & **Charlotte Albright**

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#ArticulateShow

This season, creativity talks. Join the conversation.





About ARTICULATE

LOGLINE

Articulate explores how creative thinking shapes our world.



SYNOPSIS

Articulate connects audiences to the human stories behind art, offering a trustworthy, visually stimulating, never ordinary take on classical, contemporary, and popular art forms. From acclaimed musicians and best-selling authors to designers changing the way we live, each episode explores what great creative thinkers and doers can tell us about who we are, who we've been, and who we might become.



***Articulate* in the news!**

Articulate won the 2020 Daytime Emmy® for Outstanding Sound Mixing.



Season Six:

THE LONGER STORY

ACROSS FIVE SEASONS, *Articulate with Jim Cotter* has informed and uplifted audiences with stories of how creative thinking shapes our world. Through interviews, live performances, and distinctive storytelling, the Emmy® Award-winning magazine series has earned its reputation as a one-of-a-kind window into the ideas and experiences of diverse artists, from authors and architects to musicians and dancers.

IN 2015, WITH THE SUPPORT OF *Articulate* founding sponsor The Neubauer Family Foundation, veteran radio journalist and broadcaster Jim Cotter and an upstart production team began work on a new public television program that would investigate the universal and useful truths that drive great creativity. The team envisioned—and realized, first in Philadelphia, then nationwide—a program that would serve as a trustworthy, never-ordinary link to the full spectrum of classical, contemporary, and popular art forms.

ARTICULATE'S HOME BASE IS A high-tech warren of fourth-story rooms in a 19th-century townhouse built by the financier and industrialist Edward T. Stotesbury on Philadelphia's iconic Rittenhouse Square; the television studio occupies a refurbished squash court added atop the building in the early 20th-century. In 2018, production expanded into the Stotesbury ballroom, a space in which no fewer than three sitting US presidents have dined. The gilded, high-ceilinged room now plays singular host to *Articulate's* full-episode concert shows, intimate performances paired with Cotter's signature interviews. The Andrew Bird concert show, [Whistling While He Works](#), received two 2020 Daytime Emmy® Award nominations and the award for Outstanding Sound Mixing—with Bird releasing the performance as a limited-edition vinyl EP.

IN MARCH 2020, ANTICIPATING THE pandemic lockdown, the *Articulate* production team began planning and implementing new strategies to ensure that work on the program would continue uninterrupted. They developed protocols for high-quality remote interviews, as well as COVID-safe, in-person interviews in outdoor spaces. This fall, a custom mobile studio featuring separate UV-sterilized chambers for producers and guests hits the road.

A NEW ARTICULATE WEBSITE LAUNCHING in November 2020 includes a searchable directory of lesson plans based on *Articulate* segments. Created for use in physical and virtual classrooms, the plans integrate the arts and creative problem-solving into STEM, ELA, and social studies instruction. Additionally, since April 2020 *Articulate* has partnered with [ArtistYear](#), an Americorps program committed to addressing the national arts education funding gap by placing recent higher ed arts graduates in low-income schools as teaching fellows. *Articulate* producers have so far leveraged their storytelling and media expertise to help transition two 60-person cohorts of ArtistYear fellows to online instruction, ultimately serving thousands of students nationwide.

ARTICULATE HAS EMBRACED THE LIMITATIONS of this moment to serve others living through it. Whether by using broadcasting tools and techniques to deliver educational programs to students who cannot gather in classrooms, or by producing a television program that keeps viewers rooted in our shared culture, *Articulate* continues to shed light on who we are and look ahead to who we can become.

A production of Panavista, Inc. for The Articulate Foundation, Articulate with Jim Cotter is presented by Lehigh Valley Public Media, home of [PBS39](#). Articulate Season 6 feeds from [American Public Television](#) on November 20, 2020.



The Making of **SEASON 6**

By using broadcasting tools and techniques to deliver educational programs to students who cannot gather in classrooms, or by producing a television program that keeps viewers rooted in our shared culture, *Articulate* has embraced the limitations of this moment to serve others living through it.



[Click to learn more.](#)





Episode **GUIDES**



Click here to explore our entire image & video library. Each episode page links to content for that episode.



Episode One: **THE MIRROR OF TIME**



DAN HARMON

Dan Harmon is the creator of seminal television shows *Rick and Morty* and *Community*. He's found success on his own terms, but now, as he approaches middle age, he's reflecting on how he's gotten here.

Dan Harmon is a screenwriter, producer, actor, and comedian best known for creating the hit television series *Community* and *Rick and Morty*. Harmon hosted the popular *Harmontown* podcast from 2012–19.



LIZ LERMAN

Liz Lerman creates dance with purpose that fosters engagement; but, like many great creative thinkers, doubt has always been part of the process.

Choreographer Liz Lerman founded the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange in 1976. A recipient of the MacArthur "Genius Grant," Lerman has been recognized for her work with dancers ranging in age from 20 to 80 and from all walks of life.



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Episode Two: **LARGER THAN LIFE**



ELLEN REID

Ellen Reid has a lot to say. The music of this softly spoken Pulitzer Prize-winning composer speaks volumes, even when it means confronting her own worst experiences.

Ellen Reid is a composer and sound artist whose breadth of work spans opera, sound design, film scoring, and choral writing. She was awarded the the 2019 Pulitzer Prize in Music for her opera, *p r i s m*.



VIKRAM PARALKAR

Vikram Paralkar would appear to be a mass of contradictions: a novelist whose work confronts mortality, a cancer physician who constantly helps others deal with death, an atheist who is married to a minister. Yet his joy for life is palpable.

Vikram Paralkar was born and raised in Mumbai. The author of two works of fiction, *The Afflictions* and *Night Theatre*, he is a physician-scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, where he treats patients with leukemia and researches the disease.



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Episode Three: FINDING



GISH JEN

Gish Jen has spent a lifetime navigating internal cultural conflicts, yet the best-selling novelist has found peace with a personal East/West divide that could serve as a model for all.

Gish Jen has published short work in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, and dozens of other periodicals, anthologies, and textbooks, earning her a nomination for the prestigious National Book Critics' Circle Award and four appearances in *The Best American Short Stories*.



THOMAS NEWMAN

Thomas Newman is among the most highly respected and successful film composers. Though part of a Hollywood musical dynasty, he has created a unique musical voice.

Thomas Newman is a composer best known for his many film scores, including *The Shawshank Redemption*, *American Beauty*, *Finding Nemo*, *Skyfall*, *Spectre*, and *1917*. He is the recipient of two BAFTAs, six Grammys, an Emmy Award, and the 2000 Richard Kirk Award.



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Episode Four:

DANIEL HOPE'S LANDS OF GLORY



Being declared stateless at just six months old did not predict greatness for the celebrated musician Daniel Hope, but the course of his life was changed when his mother began working for the legendary violinist Yehudi Menuhin.

Daniel Hope is a British-Irish classical violinist. He serves as the music director of both the Zurich Chamber Orchestra and the New Century Chamber Orchestra (San Francisco), the artistic director of the Frauenkirche Cathedral in Dresden, and the president of the Beethoven House in Bonn. Hope, who has released more than two-dozen albums, is a recipient of the European Cultural Prize for Music.



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Episode Five: **THEIR WAY**



JASON ROBERT BROWN

Jason Robert Brown lives and breathes musical theater. From his early days as a fledgling composer through multiple Tony awards, he's had to do it his way or not at all.

Jason Robert Brown is a Broadway composer, lyricist, and playwright. Among his most celebrated musical compositions are *Parade*, *The Last Five Years*, *13*, and *The Bridges of Madison County*. Brown has won three Tony Awards and six Drama Desk Awards.



ANGEL BLUE

Fate almost conspired to take music away from Angel Blue. She refused to surrender to such a dark destiny and came out on the other side a better woman and a singer on some of the world's biggest stages.

Angel Blue is an operatic soprano and classical crossover artist. A former Miss Hollywood, Blue won the Zarzuela Prize and Second Prize in Operalia in 2009. She has since performed with the world's leading opera companies, including the Metropolitan Opera, Vienna State Opera, and La Scala, Milan.



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Episode Six:

FROM THE MOUTHS OF POETS



Also in this episode...
YOUNG SPIRITS TAKING FLIGHT

When the pandemic put a halt to groups performing together, dancers from the American Ballet Theatre Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis School found a way to create—and perform—new work.

Poetry, as a literary form, is a relatively recent idea, yet weaving stories and thoughts into a concise structure that uses rhythm and sometimes rhyme is as old as time. Today spoken word is a popular, more democratic way for poets to get their work and words out.

SHIHAN VAN CLIEF

Shinan Van Clief is a poet and co-founder of Da Poetry Lounge.



ALYESHA WISE

Alyesha Wise is a poet, teaching artist, and co-founder of the Spoken Literature Art Movement (S.L.A.M).



TRACY K. SMITH

Tracy K. Smith is a poet and educator. She served as the 22nd Poet Laureate of the United States from 2017-19.



JAVON JOHNSON

Javon Johnson is a spoken word poet, author, and professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.



STS

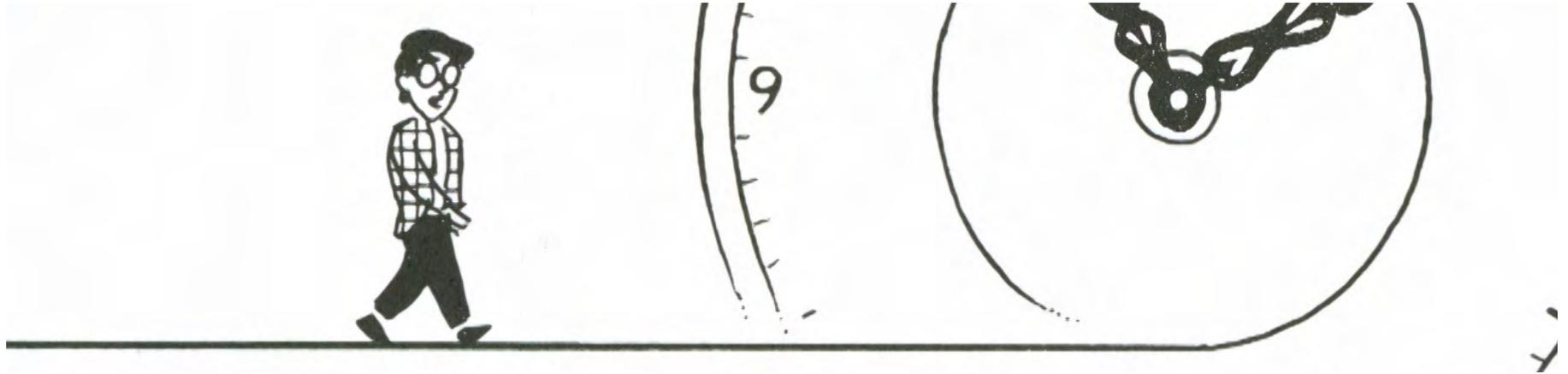
Sugar Tongue Slim (STS) is a poet and rapper who has collaborated with Ciara, Jill Scott, and The Roots.





Episode Seven:

DRAWING MEANING FROM LIFE



Comics are nothing new. For at least 8,000 years, we've been using pictures to tell stories and communicate new ideas. Today, graphic novels have a lot to say. And so do the creators behind them.

SCOTT MCCLLOUD

Scott McCloud is a cartoonist and comics theorist best known for his guides to the world of comics.



GENE LUEN YANG

Gene Luen Yang is a cartoonist, teacher, and a 2016 recipient of the MacArthur "Genius Grant."



LAUREN WEINSTEIN

Lauren Weinstein is a cartoonist and artist whose work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, and *The Guardian*.



JOSH O'NEILL

Josh O'Neill is co-founder of the Eisner Award-winning creative collective Locust Moon and the small art book imprint Beehive Books.



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Episode Eight:

FROM ISOLATION TO OVATION



LEIF OVE ANDSNES

Leif Ove Andsnes has awesome musical powers, yet in person he is quiet and contemplative. Because, he says, the piano is his true voice.

Leif Ove Andsnes is a Norwegian classical pianist who regularly performs in the world's leading concert halls. A prolific recording artist, Andsnes has been nominated for eleven Grammys and awarded many international prizes, including six Gramophone Awards.



ROYCE VAVREK

Royce Vavrek doesn't court controversy, but it seems to follow in his shadow. The celebrated opera librettist and lyricist says if his work provokes, it's not to advance any personal agenda.

Royce Vavrek is a Canadian-born librettist and playwright known for his award-winning collaborations. His opera *Angel's Bone*, created with composer Du Yun, won the 2017 Pulitzer Prize for Music.



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Episode Nine: **THE MONUMENT MAN**



Zenos Frudakis has spent the last fifty years sculpting life out of bronze, aiming to capture the likeness and spirit of his subjects and to shine a light on those who have helped foster change in the world.

Zenos Frudakis is known for his public monuments, portrait statues, busts, and figurative sculptures. Notable works include sculptures for Arlington National Cemetery, the National Academy of Design, the Imperial War Museum in England, and the US Embassy in Pretoria, South Africa.



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Episode Ten: **PAYING IT FORWARD**



MARIN ALSOP

Marin Alsop is one of the world's foremost conductors. She got there by helping change the classical world.

In 2005, Marin Alsop became the first conductor to receive a MacArthur Fellowship. She is the chief conductor of the Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, conductor of honour of the São Paulo Symphony Orchestra, and music director for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.



IAN BOSTRIDGE

For decades, Ian Bostridge has been enraptured by Franz Schubert's *Winterreise*. The British tenor found the song cycle to be as effervescent and relevant as it was when it was first composed two centuries ago.

Ian Bostridge is an English tenor known for his work as an opera singer and song recitalist. The 15-time Grammy Award nominee and three-time winner began his singing career while studying and teaching at Oxford, and has combined his lifelong interests in two acclaimed books on the history and performance of music.



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Episode Eleven: **MARIO LANZA AT 100**



On this *Articulate* exclusive concert show celebrating Mario Lanza's centenary, tenor Stephen Costello reflects on the life and work of the beloved singer and Hollywood star.

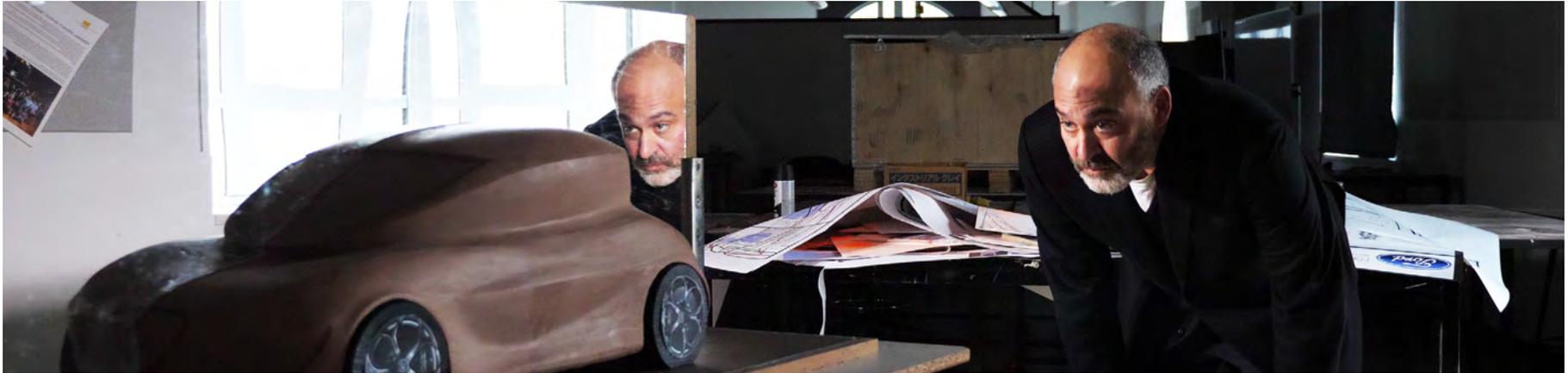
Operatic tenor Stephen Costello has appeared at many of the world's most important opera houses and music festivals, including the Metropolitan Opera, London's Royal Opera House, Vienna State Opera, and the Salzburg Festival. He is a recipient of the prestigious Richard Tucker Award for promising American singers.



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Episode Twelve: JETS VS. SHARKS



In the late 1800s, the first automobile was invented for its function: to improve human transportation. In the decades following, style and substance have been competing factors in the longevity of the automotive industry. Today, cars are part of our larger identity, as a group and as individuals.

DOUG DEMURO

Doug DeMuro is an automotive YouTuber; his car review-focussed channel has over three million subscribers. DeMuro has also written articles for *The Truth About Cars*, *Jalopnik*, and the Autotrader blog *Oversteer*.

PAUL SNYDER (pictured)

Paul Snyder is an automotive designer who has designed for a number of automotive brands, including Ford, Lincoln, Renault, Honda, and Acura. He teaches transportation design at the College for Creative Studies.

HENRIK FISKER

Henrik Fisker is an automotive designer and the founder, chairman, and CEO of Fisker, Inc. He is responsible for the Fisker Karma, the world's first plug-in hybrid, which won numerous awards in 2011.



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Episode Thirteen: **WRITTEN FROM LIFE, ITSELF**



RUFUS WAINWRIGHT

The singer-songwriter Rufus Wainwright has done things his way, struggling, at times, with himself and with the world. Yet, he says, these rough periods haven't made him tough.

Rufus Wainwright has established himself as one of the great vocalists and songwriters of his generation. In addition to releasing several Juno Award-winning and Grammy-nominated albums, he has written operas and created a star-studded musical adaptation of nine Shakespeare sonnets.



DAVID SERKIN LUDWIG

With the backdrop of a global pandemic, composer David Serkin Ludwig created a new work about life in forced isolation.

Award-winning composer David Serkin Ludwig is chair of composition at The Curtis Institute of Music and holds positions and residencies with nearly two dozen orchestras and music festivals in the US and abroad. His choral work, *The New Colossus*, was performed at the 2013 presidential inauguration of Barack Obama.



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Questions?
CONTACT US.

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