

## **Little Blue**

***Music by Jon Wakefield***

***Words by Dave Quick***

As you approach the sun from the outer edge of the solar system your eye is caught by an intensely bright, small blue planet, close in. The blue colour tells of water and oxygen. It means that this shining place, alone in our sector of the galaxy, carries the burden of life.

Little Blue tells the story of our planet from its birth three and a half billion years in the past, to its death about the same distance in the future.

It is performed by:

The Chamber Choir 'In Accord'  
The Sandra Taylor School of Dance  
Pupils and staff of Arnold Hill School

Little Blue is supported by The Millennium Festival Fund

**Silent Circles**      Soprano: Pip      Dancer: Carly (STSD)

3,500 million ago. The earth is shrouded in deep clouds; clouds made of oceans for the earth is far, far too hot for any water to approach the ground.

**Volcanic Fires**      Dancers: Modems (STSD)

You would be able to see by the light of erupting volcanoes and the continuous crack of huge lightening across the toxic sky. Your feet would burn as they touched the ground and you would choke on your first breath.

**The Rains**      Dancers: Little Modems (STSD)

Under its blanket of cloud the earth cooled slowly. For millions of years the oceans tried to fall. The heat threw every drop that tried straight back to the clouds. One long forgotten day the first raindrop at last made it all the way down, followed by another and another. Then the oceans fell from the sky to fill the seas. It took a hundred years. As the rain stopped something happened for the first time. The sun shone.

**Kick-start Life**      Dancers: Carly, Kylie, Rachel and Lucie (STSD)

There are four ingredients in the recipe for life: Water, lots of it. A choking atmosphere with absolutely **no** oxygen. The energy of a young and vigorous sun and pulses of high voltage lightning. Stir for a few million years and you've cooked yourself the first plants.

**Making Air**      Dancers: Junior Jazz (STSD)

You can't imagine two thousand million years. The plants didn't even try, they just got on with the job of turning the air into the sort of mixture that we take for granted. The job took all of that two billion years, but they did it, and finally we had a unique atmosphere; one with oxygen in it.

**All across the Waters**

Dancer Jenny C. (AHS)

A world of plants only. All food came from carbon dioxide and sunshine. Nobody had to eat in order to be well-fed. All was calm and quiet and peaceful. It couldn't last.

**Herbivore Sounds** Dancers 15+ (AHS)

Eventually, though, there was enough oxygen for animals to breathe. The first animals were plant-eaters, herbivores. The plants had met nothing like them before. They were terrified.

**Thanks** Dancers 15+ (AHS)

It seems only polite that the herbivores should thank the plants for all that work to make the toxic air sweet to breathe. But a problem still remains:

**Lunch?** Dancers 15+ (AHS)

Life at this point discovered just how unfair life was going to be.

**Arrival of the Carnivores** Dancer Kelly-Anne (AHS)

An animal is, by definition, a creature that kills in order to live. For a hungry animal there is no better meal in another animal. Once herbivores had been invented, carnivores were hard on their heels.

**Carnivore Samba** Dancers; Kelly, Tina, Jenny C~ & Vicky (AHS)

We are carnivores. Some of our closest friends are carnivores. Plants must get a buzz when an approaching grazer suddenly gets a dose of his own medicine.

**Evolution** Danced by Natalie & Alex (AHS) sung by Catherine

A mystery still. Founded on struggle and blood, it moves with blind purpose on a scale too vast for us to gauge its direction. By sixty five million years ago it had shaped the dinosaur.

**Rule this Place for Ever** Danced by; Stage Dance (STSD)  
**(Dinosaur & Mammal)**

Perfectly adapted and totally dominant there seemed no way that the tiny warm-blooded mammals who scurried around the huge reptile feet could ever overtake them. But

**Rock in Space**

Way, way out, beyond Pluto, in the darkness of the marches between outer space and the solar system, lies the Oort Cloud. It is a circling mass of comets and asteroids. Every now and then a body is tweaked; perhaps by a nearby collision of comets, perhaps by a small wobble in Jupiter's orbit. The long journey to the inner solar system begins.

**Song of the Rock**

Danced by Kylie (STSD) Sung by Don

For a rock in space the only experience that matters is called gravity. For this rock at this time that gravity was ours and like a shepherd's whistle it brought it straight home.

**Running rock**

Danced by Senior Jazz (STSD)

The asteroid traveled at over 100,000 mph. Its base struck the ocean while its upper edge was still in the high atmosphere. Much of it, and the Atlantic Ocean, was vapourised. Total energy released was around twenty million megatons. (A full on nuclear war would involve around a thousand megatons.) Within three hours the crust of the whole planet had cracked and world-wide volcanoes erupted. Firestorms, earthquakes and tidal waves were commonplace.

**Act II****Frost & Fire**

Danced by Senior Ballet (STSD)

As the fires died the sun disappeared behind the soot, dust, smoke and toxic smog. The plants perished and the planet froze. A year later the sun reappeared to shine on a planet totally changed in climate and in population. The tropical swamps and with them the dinosaurs, were gone, along with everything that couldn't hide underground.

**March of the Mammals**

Danced by Yr7 &amp; 17+ (AHS)

The few wretched survivors were small shrew-like mammals, warm blooded and adaptable. Evolution took them and turned them into a new and dominant force on the recovering planet. Their march was unstoppable.

**Emergence of Man**

Danced by Lauren (ANS)

Intelligence and adaptability meant survival in this world. Man and chimpanzees share almost 99% of their genes, but that 1% difference was to change the face of the planet for ever

**My Buddy Jack** Sung by Helen & Anthony. Danced by Jenny<sup>2</sup>, Alex, Vicky, Tina & Natalie.

In those early, Old Stone-Age days the larder was filled, when it was filled at all, with meat which the men hunted *some* of the time, and nuts, berries, roots and grains which the women gathered *most* of the time.

**Jericho**

Danced by Senior Ballet (STSD)

Somebody worked out that it was better to grow food plants where *you* wanted them to be rather than spend your time looking for them where *they* wanted to be. It caught on. Soon there were fields and there were cities. Cities like Jericho. No need to spend all your time looking for lunch. Not only was there time to hang around, there were street corners to hang around on.

**Why?**

Danced by Little Stagers (STSD)

Spare time means you get to asking question, starting with the sort of questions that kids everywhere love to ask.

**Wondering**

Danced by Rachel (STSD)

Sung by Helen, Charlie, Catherine and Clare

The questions get harder. The mystery deepens. We can see the purpose in some things, some times. Many things, though, seem to have a purpose that we can't see.

**Vikings**

Danced &amp; sung by Lauren.

Danced by Kelly, Robyn and Carly (AHS)

The answer was a set of mega-parents, called 'The Gods'. Not only were the deeper questions answered, but also the Gods could be set up to approve of whatever we wanted to do. Take the Vikings for instance.

**Kyrie, Agnus Dei & Miserere**

Tenor: Tim

Danced by Susan, Alex, Rowena and Stephanie (STSD)

There have been many religions, and many Gods, since mankind began its struggle to glimpse the big picture. Christianity arrived two thousand years ago and for most of the time since then the language and centre of the church has been that of the dominant culture of those days: Rome.

**No Surrender:**

Danced by Senior Tap (STSD)

It brought along some really wild ideas, like forgiveness and compassion. These ideas did, sometimes, heal divisions. Sadly, Christianity itself split, and so added a sense of righteousness to the conflicts it fired up.

**The Volunteer:**

Danced by Carly, sung by Laura (AHS)

When religious division bolsters political struggle, brave people can do terrible things for noble reasons. Everyone is diminished. Courage and sacrifice lose their burnish.

**Future Lights:** All sound and light from Yr7 + Natalie and Alex  
Our little blue planet has an enormously long future stretching out ahead. Its lifespan is barely half through. The sorts of things that have happened in the past will happen again. There will be lights we cannot imagine in a darkness we cannot comprehend.

**Drum Dance:** Yr7, Natalie and Alex  
The rhythms of life will change. The sounds will change.

### **Riding through Time**

A long, long way to go. Mankind will be long finished, perhaps long forgotten, before the point is reached where our planet can no longer sustain life. The sun expands, the land becomes dry, the blue of the sky deepens. The sea lies still and retreats a little more each year. The people of that far off time have left for better homes on younger planets. Not everyone has left.

**High up in Your Heaven** Danced by Senior Ballet (STSD) Sung by Melanie (AHS)  
Is she flesh and blood? Is she machine? She has had a good life, a long life. Her children have left for the new worlds. Her mate, her friends and her good times lie in the earth of this planet. She belongs where her memories remain.

**Little Blue** Danced by Kayley, Sheryl and The Company  
Even further off is the day when all our descendants will gather on the planets they now call home. The planet of their origin, no longer blue, will pass into oblivion in the embrace of the dying sun. On that last day the view from the planet will show the sun filling the sky. The tidal forces of its gigantic gravity will tear Little Blue into fragments to stream down force lines back into the star from which it came so long ago.  
Goodbye Little Blue.

*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away. (Revelation 22 v1)*