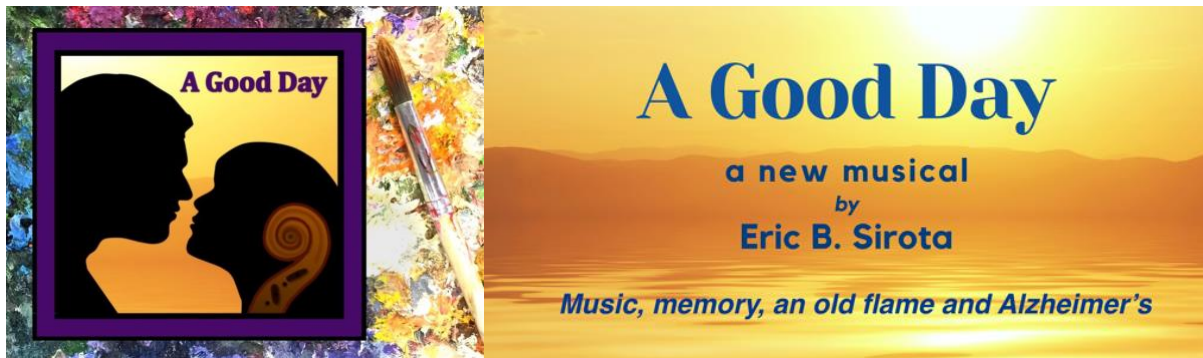


# A Good Day

music, book & lyrics  
by  
Eric B. Sirota\*

(\*creator of *Frankenstein* which played Off-Broadway for 3 years.)

***A Good Day* is an uplifting musical about a widowed artist who is thrust back into the life of his childhood girlfriend, his first love, his muse, a musician who spurned him over 50 years ago, and who now suffers from Alzheimer's.**



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Cast: 3 women, 3 men  
Currently scored for piano (and optional cello).  
Can be performed with a unit set.

Trailer link with musical excerpts, photos and video: [Trailer on YouTube](#)  
Website: [AGoodDayMusical.com](http://AGoodDayMusical.com)  
Dropbox with song demos and script: [Dropbox Link](#)  
Script (including detailed synopsis): [Link to script](#)

Video recordings of the Shawnee Playhouse production and/or the staged reading at the Actor's Temple Theatre are available on request. [Eric@EricSirota.com](mailto:Eric@EricSirota.com)

**Winner of Shawnee Playhouse's new work competition.  
Received developmental full-production.**



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# *A Good Day* by Eric B. Sirota

## Synopsis

*A widowed artist is thrust back into the life of his childhood girlfriend, his first love, his muse, a musician who spurned him over 50 years ago, and who now suffers from Alzheimer's.*

**Setting:** Suburbs near major city (current day)

Sam (74) an artist, is a widower after losing his wife of 50 years. After a year, Sam still has not regained his will to paint, or do much of anything, much to his children's dismay.

As a child, Suzanna (now 72), instilled the love of music in her friend (Sam). But she gave up the cello and music, and gave up that young man who loved her. She moved on with her life and eventually he did too.

Now, 50 years later, Suzanna has Alzheimer's, and her children would do anything to hear their mother speak their names. (Meanwhile, Suzanna's daughter, whose marriage is falling apart, is also in conflict with her brother about their mother's care.)

Suzanna is beginning to deteriorate rapidly. Looking for anything to spur their mother's memory, Suzanna's children find a portrait of Suzanna painted by Sam when they were very young, and they locate Sam.

Upon seeing the portrait Sam asks himself, "is she a ghost or an angel?". He realizes he must go to her; But with trepidation, since it could lift him from his darkness or open old wounds.

Sam begins to visit Suzanna. Sam plays cello music from his iPhone and reminds her how she would play the cello as he painted. She begins to remember, and her arms and fingers move, like she played the cello. In a short moment of lucidity, she remembers the night they spent together; but moments later doesn't know who Sam is.

At one point imagining her healthy again, Sam questions whether he is betraying the memory of his departed wife. Realizing that Suzanna will never again be whole and with "Is she a ghost or an angel?" repeating terrifyingly in his head, he cries out that he dare not love again, cannot paint again, and rushes out. (*Intermission*)

When Sam reads an un-mailed letter that Suzanna wrote 50 years ago, he decides to return to her. Sam had needed to forget her to move on; but she never forgot him. In Suzanna's room, with music playing, Sam begins to paint again, as Suzanna's memories begin to flow.

(The conflicts between Suzanna's children are resolved; and through her interaction with Sam and learning about her mother's past, Suzanna's daughter is reunited with her husband.)

Sam recognizes Suzanna is not a "ghost" from his past, but his living angel, inspiring him once again as she once did. On Mother's Day, Sam paints a portrait of Suzanna, with her children added beside her. She has moments of greater lucidity as he repeats their names over and over. When her children arrive, she greets them by name. While they know that it is only a moment, not always to be repeated, they also realize that deep inside she still remembers them, and are overjoyed. Her children present Suzanna with a cello and Suzanna begins to play it. Realizing that there will be good days and bad days, and we hope for the best, Sam notes that "Today . . . was a good day."

**[Trailer with music excerpts - click here](https://youtu.be/rRVNZwIUfdk)**

**<https://youtu.be/rRVNZwIUfdk>**

# ***A Good Day* – by Eric B. Sirota**

**Instrumentation:** Currently scored for piano and cello

The score alternates between classically-inspired and contemporary musical theatre styles, as it serves the characters and the story.

**Setting:** Suburbs near major city (current day)

Can be performed with a unit set.

3 main locations: Suzanna's house, nursing home & Sam's home.

Artwork plays an important role in the plot, and should be part of the set design in a production.\*

(\*My wife, artist Cara London, provided the paintings for the developmental work, and could do so for future productions at the discretion of the director. Productions could also be collaborations between the theatre and the local fine arts community or galleries.)

## **List of Characters**

3 women; 3 men (2 actors double: David/Michael\* Margaret/Anne\*)

Sam: Age 74; Artist; Recent widower with grown son and daughter

Suzanna: Age 72; Lives in Alzheimer's section of nursing home.

Sophie: Age 53; Suzanna and Phil's daughter; married with grown children; accountant; somewhat estranged from her husband.

David: Age 45; Suzanna and Phil's son. Married with children. Lives locally.

Paul: Age 55; Sophie's husband. Actuary who recently started playing in a band.

Margaret: Takes care of Alzheimer's patients including Suzanna at the nursing home.

Anne:\* Age 40; Sam's daughter (married with children)

Michael:\* Age 38; Sam's son (married with a child); lives out of town

(2 optional dancers representing young Sam and Suzanna can be added)

## **Development History**

\*\*Developmental production by The Shawnee Playhouse (community theatre). (September 2023)

\*\*Staged Reading, Actors Temple Theatre, NYC, Write Act Repertory (December, 2022)

\*\* Reading, Shawnee Playhouse (public table reading on stage), August, 2022

\*\*1st Place Winner of the Shawnee Playhouse's 2020 Original Playwrights Award.\*\*

Dramaturgy with Write Act Rep (Tamra Pica) (2022).

Workshop: TRU Beginnings Part 3: "Reckoning and Resolution." February. 27, 2022

Dramaturgy with NMI (Elise Dewberry) 2022.

Workshop: TRU Beginnings Part 2: "Conflict and Obstacles", Oct. 17, 2021.

Dramaturgy with Create Theatre (Cate Cammarata) 2021.

Concert: Write Act Repertory / Park Theatre; 9 songs from A Good Day were performed in an outdoor concert featuring songs from 4 of my musicals, in Union City, NJ. July 24, 2021.

Workshop: TRU Beginnings Part 1: "World and the Want", June 13, 2021.

5 Zoom readings: Write Act Rep, Shawnee Playhouse Create Theatre (2020-2021)

Demos recorded remotely in the Spring of 2020.

Written (in large part) at Chateau Orquevaux Residency – when I was awarded the Denis Diderot Artists-in-Residence grant, June 2019. First draft completed in the following months.

# *A Good Day - by Eric B. Sirota*

## *Scenes and songs with [links to demos](#)*

### Act-I

- 1 [Sundown – Prologue \(Ensemble\)](#)
- Scene 1 – Suzanna’s house (Sophie, David & Paul)
- Scene 2 – Sam’s home
- 2 [Empty House \(Sam\)](#)
- Scene 3 – Nursing home
- 3 [Sundown \(Margaret & Ensemble\)](#)
- Scene 4 – Sam’s home
- 4 [A Ghost or an Angel \(Sam\)](#)
- Scene 5 – Nursing home
- 5 [Oh, Mama! \(Sophie & David\)](#)
- 6 [That’s Me \(Suzanna\)](#)
- 7 [Feelings of My Youth \(Sam\)](#)
- Scene 6 – Suzanna’s house
- Scene 7 – Nursing home
- 8 [The Swan \(Sam & Suzanna\)](#)
- Scene 8 – Rest stop on turnpike
- 9 [I Don’t Get Him \(Sophie\)](#)
- Scene 9 – Sam’s home
- 10 [Feel \(Sam & Sophie\)](#)
- Scene 10 – Nursing home
- 11 [Act-I Finale \(Sam, Suzanna and ensemble\)](#)

Photos from Shawnee Playhouse’s developmental production, Sept.



### Act-II

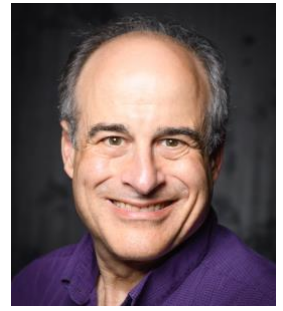
- Scene 1 – Paul’s and Sophie’s bedrooms
- 12 [Sundown-reprise \(Sam, Sophie & Paul & ensemble\)](#)
- Scene 2 – Nursing home, Suzanna’s room
- 13 [Suzanna’s Night \(Suzanna & ensemble\)](#)
- Scene 3 – Sam’s home
- 14 [You Can’t Just Walk Away \(Anne, Michael, Sam\)](#)
- 15 [Dear Sam \(Suzanna\)](#)
- 16 [True Art - reprise \(Sam\)](#)
- Scene 4 – Nursing home, Suzanna’s room
- 17 [Dreams We Left Behind \(Sam & Suzanna\)](#)
- Scene 5 – Nursing home lobby
- Scene 6 – Concert hall lobby
- Scene 7 - Suzanna’s house
- 18 [Dearest Sophie \(Paul\)](#)
- 19 [Love Renewed \(Sophie & Paul\)](#)
- Scene 8 – Nursing home, Suzanna’s room
- 20 [Evening Star \(Sam\)](#)
- Scene 9 – Nursing home lobby
- 21 [Mother’s Day is Coming \(Margaret, David & Ensemble\)](#)
- Scene 10 – Nursing home, Suzanna’s room
- 22 [Remember \(Sam & Suzanna\)](#)
- [Finale Scene \(Ensemble\)](#)
- 23 [A Good Day \(Ensemble\)](#)







*A Good Day (musical)*



**RESUME**  
**Eric B. Sirota**

**COMPOSER**

**WRITER**

**PHYSICIST**

- 2023 *"A Good Day"* (book, music & lyrics) Shawnee Playhouse production (Sept. 2023)
- 2023 *"Frankenstein"* (book, music & lyrics); Adapted for screen as a movie musical
- 2022 *"A Good Day"* (book, music & lyrics) Staged reading (Actor's Temple Theatre)
- 2022 *"A Good Day"* Winner of the 2022 Shawnee Playhouse Original Playwright Series.
- 2017-2020 *"Frankenstein"* (book, music & lyrics); Off-Broadway production; St. Luke's Theatre.
- 2021 *"A Good Day – A Concert of Musical Theatre Songs by Eric B. Sirota"*, presented by the City of Union City, and the Park Theatre; Ellsworth Park, Union City, NJ, (July 24 2021)
- 2022 *"A Day at the White House"* (music). (Book and lyrics by Vin Morreale Jr.)  
Recorded as a podcast (2020); Staged Reading (Louisville, KY) (2022)
- 2020 *"A Good Day"* (book, music & lyrics) virtual readings (2020-2021)
- 2019 *"Go, My Child"* (book, music & lyrics) Staged Readings, NYC (March & Sept. 2019)
- 2017 *"Your Name on My Lips"* Developmental showcase; Theater for the New City; (2017)
- 2016 *"Day of Wrath"*; Finalist in the 2016 Shawnee Playhouse Original Playwright Series.
- 2015 *"Your Name on My Lips"* Dream-Up Festival at Theater for the New City, (Sept. 2015)
- 2015 *"Day of Wrath"* (book, music & lyrics) performed as Official Selection of the New York Musical Theatre Festival's (NYMF) Reading Series. 3 performances; July 2015.
- 2015 *"Your Name on My Lips"*; Finalist in the 2015 Shawnee Playhouse Original Playwright Series. Staged Reading, March 2015
- 2014 *"Your Name on My Lips"* Staged readings: Emerging Artists Theatre's New Work Series (October 2013 & March 2014); "N.E.W. Musicals" at the West End Lounge (July, 2014); Midtown International Theatre Festival; (July 2014)
- 2014 *"At the Well"* a vignette from *"Go, My Child"* (book, music and lyrics), produced in the Players Theatre's Short Play and Musical Festival; 4 performances (Feb. 2014).
- 2012 Composed the music for, and participated in the production of *"A Day at the White House"* in the West Village Musical Theatre Festival in NYC (2012)

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- 1976 Stuyvesant High School, New York, NY
- 1980 Brown University, ScB; Studied musical composition with Ron Nelson and Gerald "Shep" Shapiro.
- 1986 Harvard University, PhD, Physics
- 2001 Elected Fellow of the American Physical Society
- 2008 -2017 & 1992 -1993 Attended the ASCAP Musical Theatre Workshop as an auditor.
- 2012 - present Member of Theatre Resources Unlimited (TRU).  
Attended writing, writer-director and writer-producer workshops . . . etc.
- 2019 Recipient of the Denis Diderot Artists-in-Residence Grant; Attended the Chateau Orquevaux Residency. (June 2019)

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