

Creators



Ruth Andrews, playwright, loves Quest stories with clues to a riddle that must be solved.

- CLICK, play, performed at the National Conference for Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution, Cleveland, 1996
- Rough Bark, musical in collaboration with Bev Smith, performed at Barn Swallow Theatre, Edwardsburg, MI, 2004
- Patty and the Ogres, musical, South Bend Fringe Festival, South Bend, IN, 2021
- Mister Man's Daughter, play, South Bend Fringe Festival, South Bend, IN 2022



Bev Smith, composer My heroic musical quest was to meld together the powerful, well known Beethoven masterpieces with other themes suggested by Ruth's script. Broadway musicals were also an inspiration, as I have experienced the way Sondheim, Rogers, and Hammerstein laid out their fine music. Beethoven may roll over, but it all makes a fine musical adventure.

- Music Educator for 32 years
- Critically acclaimed composer, director and performer
- Member of Kalamazoo Choral Arts Society



Dr. Hilary-Joy Virtanen, Arts and Humanities Consultant

Fascinated with mythology from an early age, Hilary dove into the Kalevala epic as a graduate student, making it an important part of her work and life. She taught a class in Kalevala at Finlandia University in the Upper Peninsula, also adapting it as an online class and opening it up for the public to share with her students, attracting learners from Maine to California in a variety of age groups. From 2019-2023, she hosted a public Kalevala reading event, the Kalevalathon, which attracted an international audience over Zoom and YouTube.

- Assistant Director, Humanities Center, Wayne State University
- PhD, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- <https://hilaryvirtanen.wordpress.com>