

The truths of our time are deeply challenging – the on-rushing extinctions, the coming storms, and the moral necessity of safeguarding Earth’s abundance of lives. Words alone cannot express the urgency of action. And so we turn to music.

## **Kathleen Dean Moore and Rachelle McCabe**

Present a program of words and music, with an interpretation of  
**Sergei Rachmaninoff’s “Variations on a Theme of Corelli,” Op. 42 (1931)**



## **A Call to Life: Variations on a Theme of Extinction**

<i>Theme</i>	<i>A world half as wonderful.</i>
<i>Part I</i>	<i>The fire of Earth’s life, five times almost extinguished, five times rekindled – and now, the Sixth Extinction.</i>
<i>Part II</i>	<i>Rage against the dying.</i>
<i>Intermezzo</i>	<i>Wondering love.</i>
<i>Part III</i>	<i>The call.</i>

Kathleen Dean Moore is a philosopher, environmental advocate, and award-winning writer whose most recent books are *Great Tide Rising* and *Piano Tide*, winner of the WILLA Award for Contemporary Fiction. Distinguished Professor of Philosophy Emerita at Oregon State University, she speaks around the country about the moral urgency of stopping a global carbon catastrophe.

Rachelle McCabe, concert pianist and Professor of Music at Oregon State University, enjoys an international career as an artist-teacher and as a solo recitalist and highly respected chamber musician. She has performed extensively in the United States, Canada, Southeast Asia and England, and has been heard on NPR’s *Performance Today*, the CBC, and PBS television.

Go to [www.riverwalking.com](http://www.riverwalking.com) for “A Call to Life” video and a lively discussion guide.

## What Can I Do to Stop the Dying?

### 1. I can stop making it worse.

\_\_\_ I can stand in the way of practices that cause habitat destruction, like mining, fracking, subdividing, clear-cutting, poisoning roadsides and fencerows, bulldozing meadows. Stand. On my feet. In the way. Singing.

\_\_\_ I can eat from the honorable harvest, refusing beef and pork raised in ways that trash the high deserts and rainforests, refusing farmed salmon, refusing genetically modified crops, turning away in noisy disgust from food raised in poisoned fields.

\_\_\_ I can refuse to buy any product that poisons land or water (or children), and refuse to allow it in my home.

\_\_\_ I can refuse to be a mindless consumer of products that rip apart land and human decency.

\_\_\_ I can keep my cat inside and badger my friends to do the same, given that cats are the leading cause of death of birds and mammals in the US.

\_\_\_ I can push, PUSH my elected representatives at all levels of government to pass powerful legislation that will stop greenhouse gas emissions. No more infrastructure for fossil fuels. A true price on carbon. Support for renewables.

\_\_\_ I can be responsible about reproduction, planning ahead to bear exactly the number of children I choose and no more.

\_\_\_ I can renounce air travel or I can tithe, donating ten percent of my travel costs to organizations that are effectively protecting habitat and advocating for species diversity. This includes eco-travel; air-miles don't know their destination.

\_\_\_ I can understand that just because I can afford it, doesn't mean I have to buy it. I can refuse to be a foot soldier in the consumer culture's war against the world.

\_\_\_ I can stop pretending that a person can be an upright citizen who kills wild creatures in the course of his business, or causes them to be killed, or profits from the destruction of their habitat. The time has passed for that.

### 2. I can protect, create, and restore habitats.

\_\_\_ I can lead a true sanctuary movement – in my yard, in my churchyard, in the school grounds, in my neighborhood – ripping out the unholy lawns and planting homelands for species of all kinds.

\_\_\_ I can give my time, money, and sweat to restoration projects -- planting trees, slowing rivers, monitoring air quality, turning a vacant lot into a patch of prairie.

\_\_\_ I can sell off my investments in companies that profit from death and deceit. Then I can use the money to invest in unspoiled land and keep it safe.

\_\_\_ I can give my money, votes, and time to those who create natural reserves – marine reserves, wildfowl reserves, wilderness reserves, public land trusts, urban wilderness parks, and other places where plants and animals can thrive.

### 3. I can imagine new human life-ways.

\_\_\_ I can decide not to take more than I need from nature's bounty, understanding that what I take is taken from some other creature who has an equal right to the conditions for life.

\_\_\_ I can celebrate and I can grieve, taking children by the hand to show them a nestling, crying with my neighbors in the silence of a morning that once was graced with birdsong.

\_\_\_ I can radically transform my life, reclaiming the right to live simply and joyously.

\_\_\_ I can push, PUSH for real democracy (not oligarchy, not plutocracy), but a government of all the people, by all the people, and for the planet that sustains us all.

\_\_\_ I can stop asking what *one person* can do, and join with others to save the blessed world.