

RAINBOW CITY PERFORMING ARTS presents

ACTION!



ENERGIZE, EMPOWER, EMBRACE

FRIDAY, **JUNE 6, 2025**TAPER AUDITORIUM | **BENAROYA HALL**

UPCOMING EVENTS

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON UPCOMING PERFORMANCES, VISIT RAINBOWCITY.ORG/EVENTS



DRUMLINE



PRIDE IN THE PARK JUNE 7, 1:30 PM

See the season debut of our marching contingent at their first appearance at this big event.



JAZZ & PRIDE @ THE ROYAL ROOM JUNE 24, 7PM \$20 ADVANCE, \$25 AT THE DOOR

Join us for some jazzy jams to celebrate pride in style at this classic venue.







ORCHESTRA

SEATTLE PRIDE JUNE 29, 12PM

We're representing in the parade as usual with our orchestra now debuting a second contingent.



SWING DANCE @ THIRD PLACE COMMONS (RCJB)JULY 5, 7PM

Come dance up in Lake Forest Park in one of our annual haunts at Third Place Commons!



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



DAMIEN HALLPronouns: He/Him

Executive DirectorRainbow City Performing Arts

Trans Lives Matter

We live in trying times when the solidarity of our community is being tested. The demonization, the attacks, and the open hateful rhetoric against the trans and nonbinary members of our community has been impossible to stomach or ignore. It seems there is no end to the degradation that is leveled upon folk just because of how they correctly identify themselves. So many areas of federal

policy have been locked away from our community, and worse in states where there is an emboldened permission structure to discriminate against gender diversity. It feels dejecting to see so much progress ripped away when it seems there is no power to stop it.

We don't have the power to change federal policy, broader religious and sociological trends, or generational acceptance. But we do have the power to create a community that is just, equitable, and strives for a humanistic balance. The power of music is the thread that binds us all from instrument to listener, and continues a solidarity of purpose, no matter how distracting our life challenges may be. The expression of music via dancing, spinning, or simple delight is what salves the raw wounds in our community. We exist to be a space where people of all identities will feel empowered to be compatriots in a common cause for solidarity.

Our mission to promote the equity of LGBTQIA+ people means it is our imperative to shine a light on the trans and nonbinary members of our community who bring us so much power and purpose. Rainbow City has been strengthened by empowering our trans members to grow into trans leaders. From our board to our artistic leadership, to our central volunteer staff, we are all empowered by the fierce strength and love that our trans members share with us and they are a key part of the rainbow that drives us forward every day. We absolutely have not been perfect partners in our past or even present, but we have strived to be ahead of the curve on equitably recognizing the challenges trans folx face and to vow to always improve so we can reach true equity in our community and the world.

Every member of our community is essential and an attack on any identity in our midst is an attack on the nature of why we exist to perform. Therefore, we cannot rest, and we cannot wait. We must get loud, be proud, and boldly chart our path forward. The solidarity of our community will carry us forward and we will see that a new dawn comes to welcome us again.

If you support a rainbow of diversity and the power that can bring, we invite you to engage with us as we continue to grow and gain more expertise. We are a highly underfunded and a volunteer-operated organization and your support in any form matters so much. We can't thank you enough for joining us!

Damien Hall Executive Director

ACTION!

PROGRAM ORDER



Christopher T. F. Hanson, Artistic Director Roz Owen, Ensemble Manager

Finlandia.. .Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) Text by Llyod Stone and Georgia Harkness Edited by Christopher T. F. Hanson in collaboration with STANCE Regeneration....Jordan Jinosko (1994 –)*+^ June 2020 in the Chaz......Sarah Bassingthwaighte (1967 -)*+ "To Sit and Dream"music by Rosephanye Powell (1962 –) $^{+}$ arranged by Johnnie Vinson text by Langston Hughes featuring STANCE Conducted by Dr. Cee Adamson Executive Orders Christopher T. F. Hanson (1985 –)*



ACTION!

PROGRAM ORDER

Artistic Director, Timothy V. Norris Jr. Assistant Conductor, Ethan Powell

"Tonight's program is a reminder that it is never too late to take action the future is happening now!"

[Serve] Symphony No. III: No Finer Calling Mvmt. I: Integrity March and Fanfare	Julie Giroux*+ (b. 1961)
{Change} March of the WomenE	Ethel Smyth+ (1858-1944) arr. Jeremy Cororan
in collaboration with Outreach Ensemble fro	m STANCE
{Rest and Care} Be Still and Still Moving	Nicole Piunno*+ (b. 1985)
{Challenge} Fanfare for JusticeRicl	hard Saucedo*^ (b. 1955)
[Resist] American Labor Songs	nce Reece+ (1900-1986)
{Hope and Remembrance} Over the Rainbowh	Harold Arlen (1905-1986) arr. By Warren Barker
Fluegelhorn Soloist: Shelly Siegfrie	d
[Rise-Up] Soundtrack Highlights from Les MisérablesClaude-M Assistant Conductor, Ethan Powel	arr. by Jay Bocook
	t.
{Unite} We March (Stronger Together)	Ryan Cassata* (b. 1993) arr. Timothy V. Norris Jr.
in collaboration with Ryan Cassata, STANCE, and Raink	oow City Color Guard

ORCHESTRA



This season has presented an impressive and extremely diverse collection of pieces representing "Light" (works that inspire and illuminate our lives), "Camera" (music from television and films), and now "Action" (sounds of protest, resistance, and resilience). For this concert, the Rainbow City Orchestra wanted to reflect the truly alarming times we are living through, particularly for those that identify as queer (members of the LGBTQIA2S++ community). The works we have programmed represent the literal and conceptual spirit of "protest" across more than a century of music.

We begin with Sibelius' "Finlandia," written at a time when the Finnish people where under threat of Russification, and the intentional erasure of their national identity (please read the program notes below for more information). Building on the theme of identity, we celebrate the concept of "Regeneration" with a work of the same name by Jordan Jinosko. We recognize, in both works, the ember of hope that fuels the action of protest. The inherent need to realize change in times of discomfort and distress.

The program continues with the premiere of Sarah Bassingthwaighte's "June 2020 in the Chaz." This work was originally written for and premiered at the Common Tone's Music Festival for a small chamber ensemble of winds, strings, and percussion. We are extremely honored to premiere the fully orchestrated version at this evenings concert, which was specifically arranged for Rainbow City Orchestra.

With intentionality, the program then features the Seattle Trans and Non-Binary Choral Ensemble (STANCE) in collaboration with the Rainbow City Orchestra in a performance of Rosephanye Powell's "To Sit and Dream," conducted by STANCE's Artistic Director, Dr. Cee Adamson. This work, inspired by Langston Hughes' poem of the same name, carries a profound and sobering message: the world we desire may only exist in our dreams. When writing the work, Powell imagined Hughes in his apartment, in solitude, reading the paper, overwhelmed by the realities of America's present state, yet daring to dream of a better day. Almost in a state of trance, he makes his way to the busy streets of New York, reaching out his hand to passersby-those of like mind who will join him in

being a catalyst for positive change. Many respond positively and joyfully to his invitation and begin to reach out to others. This idea is expressed in the last section of the song as parts enter successively singing, "I reach out my hand to you," then join in one voice. For a few moments, everyone reaches out to everyone else in love and peace. In the final phrase of the song "to sit and dream," Hughes awakens— the newspaper headlines still before him—and resolves that he may never see such a day, except when he sits and dreams.

The first half of the concert ends with the world premiere of Christopher T. F. Hanson's "Executive Orders." This piece was written specifically for this evening's concert and is meant to serve as a musical protest to the executive orders signed by presidents which challenge and perpetuate reductionist understandings of gender and sexuality. Hanson hopes, with their unique style of composing, to challenge both the listeners and performers in their understandings of beauty, harmony, and dissonance. The piece serves as a musical allegory, in which everything and nothing can be heard, depending on the intentions of the listener.



Finlandia by Jean Sibelius

Finlandia, Op. 26, is a tone poem by the Finnish composer Jean Sibelius. It was written in 1899 and revised in 1900. The piece was composed

for the Press Celebrations of 1899, a covert protest against increasing censorship from the Russian Empire, and was the last of seven pieces performed as an accompaniment to a tableau depicting episodes from Finnish history. The premiere was on 2 July 1900 in Helsinki with the Helsinki Philharmonic Society conducted by Robert Kajanus.

In order to avoid Russian censorship, Finlandia had to be performed under alternative names at various musical concerts. Titles under which the piece masqueraded were numerous and often confusing—famous examples include "Happy Feelings at the awakening of Finnish Spring," and "A Scandinavian Choral March." According to Finland's tourism website, "While Finland was still a Grand Duchy under Russia performances within the empire had to take place under the covert title of 'Impromptu."

Most of the piece is taken up with rousing and turbulent music, evoking the national struggle of the Finnish people. Towards the end, a calm comes over the orchestra, and the serene and melodic Finlandia Hymn is heard. Often incorrectly cited as a traditional folk melody, the Hymn section is Sibelius' own creation.

Although he initially composed it for orchestra, in 1900 Sibelius arranged the work for solo piano. Sibelius later reworked the Finlandia Hymn into a stand-alone piece. This hymn, with words written in 1941 by Veikko Antero Koskenniemi, is one of the most important national songs of Finland. It has been repeatedly suggested to be the official national anthem of Finland. Today, during modern performances of the full-length Finlandia, a choir is sometimes involved, singing the Finnish lyrics within the hymn section.

For this evening's performance, lyrics originally written by Lloyd Stone were edited by RCO Artistic Director Christopher T. F. Hanson (seen below), and will be sung by the Seattle Trans and Non-Binary Choral Ensemble.

Lyrics::

This is my song, I share it with all nations.
A song of peace, for land afar and mine.
This is my home, the country where my heart is;
Here are my dreams, my hope for equal rights.
But other hearts, in other lands are beating,
With hopes and dreams as pure and
high as mine.

My country's skies are bluer than the ocean,

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And sun light beams on clover leaf and pine. But other lands have sunlight too and clover, And skies are everywhere as blue as mine. So hear my song, across all skies and oceans. A song of peace, for their land and for mine.

This is our song, we sing for equal rights! This is our song!

Jean Sibelius (1865 - 1957)

Jean Sibelius was a Finnish composer of the late Romantic and early modern periods. He is widely regarded as his country's greatest composer, and his music is often credited with having helped Finland develop a stronger national identity when the country was struggling from several attempts at Russification in the late 19th century.

Sibelius composed prolifically until the mid-1920s, but after completing his Seventh Symphony (1924), the incidental music for The Tempest (1926), and the tone poem Tapiola (1926), he stopped producing major works in his last 30 years—a retirement commonly referred to as the "silence of Järvenpää" (the location of his home). Although he is reputed to have stopped composing, he attempted to continue writing, including abortive efforts on an eighth symphony. In later life, he wrote Masonic music and re-edited some earlier works, while retaining an active but not always favorable interest in new developments in music. Although this 'silence' has often perplexed scholars, in reality, Sibelius was clear: he felt he had written enough.



Regeneration by Jordan Jinosko

Regeneration
was written
during a complex time in my
life. It grapples
with new circumstances
and transition.
Haunted by ach-

ing remembrances, the piece explores themes of disrepair, aftermath, reconstruction, and the desire to change into something truer, stronger, and, altogether, more beautiful.

Jordan Jinosko (1994 –)

Drawing inspiration from history, mythology, and nature, Jordan Jinosko is a celebrated, multi-awardwinning composer in both the concert and media music industries. Jinosko's compositions, praised for their "subtle and powerful" qualities and "cinematic scope" (Wisconsin Public Radio) have been performed in renowned concert halls including Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Kimmel Center. Her music has been featured on the radio, on streaming platforms, and at major music events such as the Midwest Clinic, ASTA National Orchestra Festival, and the Interlochen Arts Festival. Jinosko's music has also been highlighted in various newspapers and magazines. For example, Avid Technology featured Jinosko as a composer and user of Avid software.

Jinosko's Three Sketches of Unblended Earth, as recorded on the album Advent of the Symphonia (featuring the London Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic, and Budapest Scoring Orchestra), topped Billboard's chart of Best-selling Classical Albums in August 2024. Jinosko's music has also been performed by the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra (Grammy-winning ensemble), Péter Illényi (conductor, "Squid Game," "M3GAN,"), various Grammy-winning conductors (Ronnie Sanders, Ward Stare, Jonathan Glawe), Jory Herman (LA Phil, double bassist), David Halen (Saint Louis Symphony, concertmaster), Yibin Li (The Juilliard School, violin faculty), the Ann Arbor Camerata, and others.

Jinosko scored Trajectories (2022), a film by Japanese filmmaker Shun Shigeta, which won the Grand Prix of SONY's Xperia U25 Film Competition. She also composed the score for UNFOUND (2023), a film directed by Australian filmmaker Poom Ariyakusonsuthi, which was nominated for Best International Thriller at Toronto's Alternative Film Festival. Jinosko's haunting score for UNFOUND also won the Afterlife Best Film Score Award in 2023.

Jordan Jinosko's work has garnered various prestigious accolades. Besides topping Billboard's chart of Best-selling Classical Albums, she was named the winner of the 2025 Best Symphonina of the Year Competition, the Vanguard Composer Competition, the New Conductors Orchestra Composer Competition, the Green Dot Composers Competition, the Brazosport Symphony Orchestra Composition Competition, and the Arts Midwest GIG Fund

Grant. Additionally, her music has been honored in the awards ceremonies of The American Prize, the Global Music Awards, the Music International Grand Prix, and the Howard Hanson Young Composers Competition. Jinosko also received the Molly Mulligan Award and the John A. Wollaver Award during her time at the Eastman Community Music School.

Jinosko studied music composition and music theory at the University of Michigan and the Eastman School of Music's pre-collegiate division (ECMS). Her composition mentors have included Michael Daugherty (two-time Grammy winner), Bright Sheng (MacArthur Genius), Evan Chambers, Kristen Kuster, Margaret Henry, and others. She has attended masterclasses with Grammy-winning composers (Gabrielle Lena Frank, William Bolcom, Christopher Rouse), Pulitzer Prize-winning composers (John Luther Adams and Shulamit Ran) and renowned film composers Paul Chihara ("The Karate Kid 2," "The Green Berets," "The Killing Fields") and Conrad Pope ("Star Wars," "Harry Potter," "Jurassic Park," "Pirates of the Caribbean"). Jinosko also has participated in symposia led by faculty at Juilliard, Princeton, Eastman, and Yale.

Jinosko's music draws inspiration from her experiences around gender. Her piece, Regeneration, chronicles the struggle of her own transition, ultimately presenting a triumphant celebration of queer identity. With the generous support of the Arts Midwest GIG Fund Grant, Jinosko has been working to providing free music lessons to trans youth at Trinity Haven, a 501(c)(3) LGBTQ non-profit organization in Indianapolis. A member of her local chapter of Citizens Climate Lobby, Jordan volunteers her time to fight climate change and, through works like Three Sketches of Unblemished Earth and Tales from the Aviary, highlights the importance of preserving the natural world for future generations.



June 2020 in the Chaz by Sarah Bassingthwaighte

CHAZ is the Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone in Seattle, which came into being in May and June of 2020.

Its creation evolved from the Black Lives Matter protests following the death of George Floyd. It's location in and near Cal Anderson park is close to my own home, and I do my grocery shopping, go to the gym, and walk my dog right here. Having a tiny friendly poodle is a good way to strike up conversations, so Tessa and I would walk through the CHAZ and talk to people about why they're here, what are their experiences, what are their hopes, what do they need. Tessa, my son Izzy, and I also participated in several Black Lives Matter marches.

The focus of the Common Tones Music Festival [in 2021, when the piece was premiered, was! "Resistance and Dance." I thought for awhile about what experience I had most related to both of these activities, and realized that CHAZ was the perfect inspiration for my piece. CHAZ was, above all, a happy and inspired place - people were excited, filled with positive energy, with hope for change and for justice, and supported by community. They had speakers come every day to educate and inspire the crowd, poets recited, musicians played, documentaries and educational films were played in the evenings, and when no organized events were happening, people danced. People helped each other, offered free food, free clothing, free cell phone charging. They planted a large community garden, which is the only thing in the park left to commemorate this resistance movement. In my own personal experience, it was a very vibrant, positive, community-oriented movement to resist systemic racism and to seek equality and justice. After a couple of months, the protest became more organized, and the area changed its name to the Capitol Hill Organized Protest (CHOP). This signaled a different era of the movement and this piece is not about the CHOP. The photos on the front and back covers are ones I took on my phone as I walked through the CHAZ, and my memories there always make me smile.

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There are a few musical threads that run through this piece. The snare at the opening is a call to action, and the strings enter one-byone, following each other in ascending 4-note groups, like the beginnings of a protest march. The energy has a couple of false starts at the beginning, with the strings doing a slow glissando downward. The bowed cymbal creates a feeling of discomfort and tension, and the strings again feed off of each other's energy, sometimes following in an organized way, other times almost seeming to trip over each other. The woodblocks join the strings, contributing a dancy, fun timbre. Throughout the piece, there is a back-and-forth between the tension, anger, and determination of the resistance movement, and the joyful energy of community and of positive partnership. As the strings continue their energetic conversation, at a mini-climax, the clarinet joins in with a fresh voice. The clarinet and strings work together, like the marchers and speakers of the CHAZ. Just as the energy starts to wind down, (perhaps in the wee hours of the morning), at an upward-winding anti-climax, the trumpet finally makes its appearance, with a Perfect 4th motive that reappears many times in the piece - this motive is reminiscent of a bugle call, a call to action. The section that follows is more contemplative and introspective, and many smaller conversations happen here, a sort of evolution or development of ideas. This gradually builds again for a third time, and the climax of this section ends in the Perfect 4th motive presented bi-tonally by the trumpet and clarinet together. This bold statement is responded to with dance and joyous self-expression, with consecutive vibraphone, then clarinet, then trumpet solos. Finally, everyone comes together in a bright, dancy, fun, yet determined final shout.

Sarah Bassingthwaighte (1967 -)

With a career spanning four decades, Dr. Sarah Bassingthwaighte is a Canadian-American composer and flutist who loves to play, teach and create music. She has received accolades in each of these roles in Iceland, England, Europe, Russia, Mexico, and the United States. The London Symphony Orchestra recorded Dr. Bassingthwaighte's Concerto for Double Bass and Orchestra in 2023, and a full album is in progress for 2025. Other notable performers include members of the Scottish Royal Orchestra, the Seattle Symphony, the Port Angeles Symphony, and the Beaverton Symphony, and soloists including Megan Lanz, Jill Felber, Clau-

dia Anderson, and Steve Schermer. In fall of 2022, Sarah performed the US Premiere of Marquez' Danzon #3 with guitarist Alejandra Reyes Zamarano and the Northwest Symphony Orchestra. She will be Composer-in-Residence in Sweden, at the Visby International Centre for Composers (VICC) as well as at the Uncool Residency in Switzerland.

Bassingthwaighte is the winner of many competitions, including the 2025 International Couperin Competition in Orchestral Music, the 2024 European Classical Music Awards in Orchestral Music, the Erik Satie International Competition in both Orchestral and Chamber Music, the International Saint-Saëns Competition in Composition in both Orchestral and Chamber Music, and a 2024 and 2025 Finalist for the American Prize. Her compositions also won the Newly Published Music Competition of the National Flute Association in 2013, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021. She is the flutist for The Sound Ensemble, the Ecco Chamber Ensemble, and Windsong Classical Trio. She has served on the faculties of University of Washington, Seattle University, the Rachmaninov Institute in Tambov, Russia, the Seattle Youth Symphony, Music Center of the Northwest, and was Founding Director of Affinity Chamber Players during its 13-year lifespan. At the age of 18, she performed Jacques Ibert's Concerto with the Seattle Symphony, and has since received numerous awards. Her solo CDs include Songs from the Caucasus, Stalks in the Breeze and Flute Meets Machine, and she and Mark Wilson recorded Around the World and Through Time as the ensemble Sirocco.

The British journal Pan Magazine acclaims her "hypnotic and rich sound" and goes on to say "The tone quality is full of depth and power. Bassingthwaighte seems to have a particular talent for communicating the message of contemporary pieces," which are "performed with polish and virtuosity." A past president of the Seattle Flute Society, Sarah has been a featured lecturer and performer for the National Flute Association, and a presenter at College Music Society conferences. She actively commissions new pieces for solo flute or chamber ensembles, and has been responsible for the commission, performance, and recording of more than 36 new pieces.

She has a DMA in flute performance and an MM in composition from the University of Washington, an MM in theory and pedagogy from Central Washington University, and a BM Honors in performance

from Indiana University, Bloomington. Her flute teachers include Carol Wincenc, Julius Baker, Peter Lloyd, James Pellerite, Felix Skowronek, Bonnie Blanchard and Hal Ott and her composition teachers include Richard Karpen, Diane Thome, John Mickel and Margaret Brouwer. Bassingthwaighte is Head of Composition at Seattle Pacific University. Besides playing music, Sarah loves to hike and travel, especially with her son Izzy and her dog Bibi. They've gone to Kenya, Uganda, Ecuador, Peru, Norway, Italy, Russia, Iceland, and more, in a spirit of adventure and broadening perspective.



"To Sit and Dream" music by Rosaphyne Powell, arranged by Johnnie Vinson

Setting the poetry of the same title by Langston Hughes, this text

addresses "our problem world" with the hope that those who dare to dream can "make our world anew". The composer sought to capture, in concert form, the jazz influences harmonically that were such a part of Hughes' world. She sought to utilize harmonic colors that could be both "dark" (representing "our problem world") and "bright" ("our world anew") dependent upon the listener's perspective.

In her mind, the composer imagined Hughes, in his apartment, in solitude, reading the paper, overwhelmed by the realities of America's present state, yet daring to dream of a better day. Almost in a state of trance, he makes his way to the busy streets of New York, reaching out his hand to passersby-those of like mind who will join him in being a catalyst for positive change. Many respond positively and joyfully to his invitation and begin to reach out to others. This idea is expressed in the last section of the song as parts enter successively singing, "I reach out my hand to you," then join in one voice. For a few moments, everyone one reaches out to everyone else in love and peace. In the final phrase of the song "to sit and dream," Hughes awakens- the newspaper headlines still

before him-and resolves that he may never see such a day, except when he sits and dreams.

Rosephanye Powell (1962 -)

Rosephanye Powell has been hailed as one of America's premier women composers of solo vocal and choral music. She has an impressive catalogue of works published by some of the nation's leading publishers, including the Hal Leonard Corporation, the Fred Bock Music Companies, Gentry Publications, Oxford University Press, Alliance Music Publications, and Shawnee Press. Dr. Powell's works have been conducted and premiered by nationally and internationally renowned conductors and have been premiered at distinguished halls around the country, including Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, and Spivey Hall, to name a few. Dr. Powell's works have been commissioned by professional choral ensembles, including Cantus and the Grammy award-winning men's vocal ensemble Chanticleer.

Dr. Powell is commissioned yearly to compose for university choruses, professional, community and church choirs, as well as secondary school choruses. Her work has been auctioned by Chorus America and her compositions are in great demand at choral festivals around the country, frequently appearing on the regional and national conventions of the American Choral Directors Association, as well as Honor Choir festivals. Dr. Powell's compositions include sacred and secular works for mixed chorus, women's chorus, men's chorus, and children's voices.

Recent commission and premiere highlights include: Quiet Revolutionary, a three-movement work for SATB chorus and piano commissioned by Harvard University choirs; Love Will Make A Way (SATB) premiered by the Metropolitan Youth Chorale of New York at Lincoln Center, NY; Get Busy (SATB) premiered and conducted by the composer at Carnegie Hall, NY; A Christmas Medley (SATB), commissioned by Chanticleer; I Want to Die While You Love Me (SSAA), composed for the ACDA Women's Choirs Commission Consortium; Gospel Trinity (SATB), a four-movement work for narrator, chorus, piano and orchestra, commissioned by the Brehm Center for Worship, Theology and the Arts/Fuller Theological Seminary (CA) and premiered at the Lincoln Center, NY; With What Shall I Come (SATB), composed for the St. Olaf Choir and premiered at

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Carnegie Hall; The Cry of Jeremiah, a four-movement sacred work for narrator, SATB chorus, organ and orchestra, commissioned by the American Guild of Organists, premiered at the Lincoln Center, NY; and Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit, an SSAA spiritual arranged for The Sofia Chamber Choir "Vassil Arnaudov" - Bulgaria, Southeastern Europe.

Dr. Powell serves as Professor of Voice at Auburn University. She holds degrees from The Florida State University (D.M. in vocal performance, University Fellow), Westminster Choir College (M.M. in vocal performance and pedagogy, with distinction), and Alabama State University (B.M.E., summa cum laude). Dr. Powell served on the faculties of Philander Smith College (AR) and Georgia Southern University prior to her arrival at Auburn University in 2001. An accomplished singer and voice professor, Dr. Powell's research focuses on the art of the African-American spiritual and voice care concerns for voice professionals (specifically, music educators, choral directors, and choral singers). She travels the country and internationally presenting lectures, song demonstrations, and serving as a workshop clinician, conductor, and adjudicator for solo vocal competitions/auditions, honor choirs, choral workshops and festivals. Recent commitments include Melbourne International Singers Festival (AUS); the New York State School Music Association (Rochester); the Georgia Music Educators Association Conference (Savannah); Middle Tennessee Vocal Association Treble Honor Choir (Nashville); the World Choir Games (Cincinnati, OH); the Italian Feder Gospel Choirs Workshop (Milan, Italy); Alabama Music Educators Association High School Honor Choir (Montgomery); Samford University (Lilly Fellows Program in Humanities and the Arts) (Birmingham, AL); South Carolina Music Educators Association State Conference (Charleston); AGO National Conference (Nashville, TN); Summer Sing Choral Workshop and Tuning at Tahoe Music Directors Workshop (Lake Tahoe, NV); and Capital Area Music Association (Harrisburg, PA).

Dr. Powell has received numerous awards including the "Luise Vosgerchian Teaching Award," presented by Harvard University Office for the Arts in 2022. Additionally, she was honored with the "Living Legend Award" presented by California State University African Diaspora Sacred Music Festival in Los Angeles; and was a recent recipient of the Marguis Who's Who "Lifetime Achievement Award." She was listed in the first edition of the

international publication Who Is Who in Choral Music. And, she has been included in Who's Who Among America's Teachers and Outstanding Young Women in America.

Dr. Powell is a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), Chorus America, the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) and the National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO).



Executive Orders by Christopher T. F. Hanson

This piece was composed in protest to the Executive Orders that have been written by **United States**

presidents over the past thirty years, which specifically pertain to gender and sexuality. Since 1998, when President Bill Clinton signed Executive Order 13087 to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation in the competitive service of the federal civilian workforce, presidents and politicians have attempted to control and overly politicize gender identity and sexuality under the guise of "protecting" narrowly defined identities. In spite of so called "progress" made over the past ten years with Executive Orders 13672 (Obama, 2014) and 13988 (Biden, 2021), the country has suffered a devastating set back in terms of gender-based antidiscrimination policies and practices when President Trump signed Executive Order 14168.

Trump's Executive Order was written to specifically undue all of the work of previous administrations. Removing policies, practices, and even language from the federal government that was related to entitled "Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government" reaches far beyond the scope of what Executive Orders were designed to accomplish, dictating specific (and incorrect) definitions of gender and villainizing any person who

The first section of Trump's Executive Order articulates the purpose as follows:

"Across the country, ideologues who deny the biological reality of sex have increasingly used legal and other socially coercive means to permit men to self-identify as women and gain access to intimate single-sex spaces and activities designed for women, from women's domestic abuse shelters to women's workplace showers. This is wrong. Efforts to eradicate the biological reality of sex fundamentally attack women by depriving them of their dignity, safety, and well-being. The erasure of sex in language and policy has a corrosive impact not just on women but on the validity of the entire American system. Basing Federal policy on truth is critical to scientific inquiry, public safety, morale, and trust in government itself.

This unhealthy road is paved by an ongoing and purposeful attack against the ordinary and longstanding use and understanding of biological and scientific terms, replacing the immutable biological reality of sex with an internal, fluid, and subjective sense of self unmoored from biological facts. *Invalidating the true and biological category of* "woman" improperly transforms laws and policies designed to protect sex-based opportunities into laws and policies that undermine them, replacing longstanding, cherished legal rights and values with an identity-based, inchoate social concept.

Accordingly, my Administration [Trump] will defend women's rights and protect freedom of conscience by using clear and accurate language and policies that recognize women are biologically female, and men are biologically male..."

As someone who identifies as Gender Queer (denoting or relating to a person whose gender identity does not correspond to conventional binary gender), I felt an overwhelming need to respond to Trump's Executive Order in whatever ways I could. I have worked, to the best of my ability and capacity as an educator, conductor, and performer, to fight atively impact the lives of countless citizens in the ties to simply do more, I decided to compose.

plished anything particular by composing it, other than documenting my opinions, beliefs, and emotions through music. I sincerely hope what I have written connects with listeners and performers and challenges them to question what is happening in our country.

The piece is through composed and utilizes the numbers of the executive orders listed above to generate melodic and harmonic material through a musical cipher. I utilized a simple numerical cipher to translate the number of each executive order into musical notes:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
С	D	D	Е	Е	F	F	G	Α	Α	В	В
	b		b			#		b		b	

Clinton, 1998 (EO:13087) = Db Eb C Ab G Obama, 2014 (EO:13672) = Db Eb F# G D Biden, 2021 (EO: 13988) = Db Eb A Ab Ab Trump, 2025 (EO: 14168) = Db E Db Gb Ab

After collecting these notes, which I treat as tone sets, I determined the aggregate compliment for each executive order to exhaust all twelve chromatic pitches when referencing each of the executive orders:

EO:13087 = Db Eb C Ab G Aggregate compliment = D E F F# A Bb B EO:13672 = Db Eb F# G D Aggregate compliment = E F Ab A Bb B C EO: 13988 = Db Eb A Ab Ab Aggregate compliment = C D E F F# G Bb B EO: 14168 = Db E Db Gb Ab Aggregate compliment = C D Eb F G A Bb B

I then used this musical information to compose. I borrow from a wide range of compositional techniques that reach beyond serialism and other dodecaphonic methods, including but not limited to polytonality, minimalism, set theory, and pandiatonicism. I call my method of composing "omnitonality." Omni is a Latin prefix meaning "all" or "every." I consider my method of composing unique, as it employs all twelve chromatic pitches equally, but without abandoning constructs of tonality, particularly tendency tones that are revealed through specific harmonies and/or melodic intervals. My goal is to not simply write in "a key" but "all keys;" musical expression.

against the malicious and tyrannical aspects of this gender identity and sexuality. The Executive Order, Executive Order (and others) that directly and neg-United States of America. Searching for opportuni-It is extremely challenging to articulate the difficulappreciating and benefitting from centuries of tonal ty I experienced writing this piece (personally and does not align with and/or uphold those definitions. professionally). I make no claim to have accom-



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At many points in the piece (particularly at the beginning and end) you will hear all twelve chromatic pitches simultaneously. What is perceived (and intended) is not something that is "atonal" (without reference to tonality), but rather "omnitonal" embracing all tonalities at the same time. The significance of voicing in these large harmonic moments cannot be understated. I intentionally play with perceptions of stability, instability, harmony, dissonance, and movement. It is my philosophy that these large harmonic moments represent the beauty and complexity of our lives as human beings.

If one were to pull back and attempt to consider all of human existence, not limited by time or space, what would you see and hear? I like to imagine, within the confines of Western tonality, you would experience something similar to what I have written. A wildly complex moment in which everything and nothing are represented at the same time. The more focused your listening, the more you will discover. One may hear both any chord and no chord, depending solely on your unique ability to listen and discern musical pitches. Likewise, as human beings, I believe we are capable of perceiving beauty, even in the cacophony of lived experiences, if we simply listen for it. Life does not have to be simple to be beautiful. In my opinion, the exact opposite is true. The more complex we realize our existence is, the more wondrous it becomes. I appreciate that what I have written is not "easy to listen to." In fact, I hope that listeners (and performers) feel uniquely challenged to develop their own appreciation (or disdain) for my work. Regardless of their individual experience and opinion, I am simply grateful to have engaged their curiosity and welcome their considerations.

This piece is dedicated to the life and work of composer Henry Cowell, who challenged me to simply write, without the fear of acceptance. To be, as I have come to understand it, a queer artist.

Christopher T. F. Hanson (1985 -)

As a conductor, violinist, composer, pedagogue, philosopher, and musicologist, Dr. Christopher T. F. Hanson enjoys working across a number of disciplines to promote the transformative power of the arts. Dr. Hanson holds three master's degrees from Texas State University: in music history, music theory, and music composition. He also holds a PhD in school improvement from Texas State University, as well as a certificate of professional ethics from the Texas State Philosophy program.

Dr. Hanson teaches as performing arts faculty at The Northwest School in Seattle, WA. He has developed and facilitated a number of courses that explore creativity, imagination, and interdisciplinary pedagogy. His research focuses on the transformative power of the arts, student and teacher agency, and the significance of diversity, equity, inclusion, access, and belonging (DEIAB) in education. As a queer scholar, Dr. Hanson uses research platforms to challenge and "queer" professional spaces of teaching and learning, particularly within and through the arts.



Dr. Christopher T. F. Hanson, Artistic Director Roz Owen, Ensemble Manager

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JP Manabat Lyra LaPlante Victor Fernandez

OBOE

Maya Rowland Eric Crawford

CLARINET

Elizabeth Juntunen Antonio Perez+

BASS CLARINET

Katie Gotshall

BASSOON

Malia Schram Syd Thayer Obrien

HORN

David Johnson Stephen Plotz Christian Blakely Chantelle Krause

TRUMPET

Michael Pitts Kelley Hodge Max Deibel

TROMBONE

Brendan Byron Madeleine Fries Gary Kleynen

TUBA

Matt Urban

PERCUSSION

Pamela Bezona Nathan Booco Ben Broyles Suzanne Krause+ Abel Lifschutz (Piano) Jodie Purcell Gigi Shannon MB Velasquez

HARP

Christina Luizzi

VIOLIN I

Madison Abshire Joseph Farrell Katie Krainc* Paula Lee Caitlin Olive Bryan Raganot Caleb Tizon

VIOLIN II

Ava Boswell

Trinity Fuller Cloe Grechis Christina Luizzi Ricardo Sanchez Love Sieling Chris Verzosa Theo Williams Luojun (LJ) Yang Charles Zhang*

VIOLA

Juliana Chaumette Wendy Devaney Quinn Fuggini Katie Gotshall Lili Jammes Lynell Skewis

CELLO

Rachel Andeen Natasha Dietzler Basil Freeling Jared Grubb Jon Ort Roz Owen Erin Pollack Kay Regovich* Kyle Salley Anya Wallace

BASS

Henry Moe Brian Hodgson



^{*}Section Leader +Section Coordinator



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SAXOPHONE:

Catherine Hildebrand

Cindy Braunheim

Daniel Purtha

(he/they)

Michael Gorzelsky

Parker Schroeder

TRUMPET:

Alex Fucso

Max Poehler (he/him)

Meier Eagan

Shelly Siegfried

TROMBONE:

Brendan Byron

Gary Kleynen

Kathleen Grauman (she/her)

Trudy Lundgren

RHYTHM:

Chris Hewett - bass

KJ Lysen - keys

Reuben Greenspun

- drums (he/him)

Sienna Araya

Winquist - guitar



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DRIVE4PRIDE

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Welcome to Action! - The Grand Finale of Our Lights, Camera, Action! Season. This evening marks the final chapter of our Lights, Camera, Action! Journey, a season in which we've explored how art, sound, and story reflect the human experience. Tonight, we turn to Action: a celebration of the bold steps, quiet acts, and collective movements that have shaped history and continue to shape our future.

We gather in music not only to remember, but to honor the resilient people who've come before us, those who marched, who organized, who spoke out, who dreamed big. Their courage lives in the melodies we play and the harmonies we share. And while we reflect on their struggles, tonight is not about despair, it's about hope. It's about joy. It's about the extraordinary power we hold when we move together.

Each piece in tonight's program is a tribute, to justice, to dignity, to the belief that a better world is possible. And each one carries a message: that action doesn't always mean marching in the streets. Sometimes it means lifting your voice in song, choosing community over division, or showing up with love when it's hardest. These moments of action, big and small, are what preserve our freedoms and fuel our future.

As an inclusive non-audition group, we strive to create a diverse environment for our members by programming music by composers representing the full rich tapestry of our community, especially including living, women, and BIPOC composers.

So as you read through these program notes and listen to this music, we invite you to join us, not just as an audience, but as part of the movement. Let this evening recharge your spirit, remind you of your power, and call you gently but clearly: Keep going. Keep showing up. Keep making noise, and joy, and change.

Because when we act with courage, and when we act together—there is no finer calling.



Symphony No. III: No Finer Calling by Julie Gioroux (b. 1961)

Mvmt. I: **Integrity March** and Fanfare [Serve]

Julie Giroux is a

celebrated American composer whose work spans film, television, and concert band. As one of the few women to break into Hollywood orchestration in the 1980s, she has scored for major productions, including The Karate Kid II, and has since become a prominent voice in wind ensemble repertoire. Giroux is known not just for her musical craftsmanship but for her deeply held belief that music should elevate the human spirit and reflect the best of who we can be. Through her compositions, she has become a champion for underrepresented voices, educational outreach, and ensemble equity.

The first movement of Symphony: No Finer Calling, subtitled *Integrity March and Fanfare*, opens with the kind of ceremonial grandeur we expect from a fanfare, but with a twist. The piece is not about military might or blind patriotism; it's about moral leadership. The title, and the larger work, was originally written to honor music educators, who Giroux sees as embodying service, discipline, and inspiration. In this concert, the work sets the tone for an evening rooted in values: a community stepping forward not with arrogance, but with resolve and integrity.

Musically, this piece is packed with bold brass declarations, crisp percussion, and thematic development that unfolds like a pledge. The energy is forward-moving but controlled; every note feels deliberate. Listen for how Giroux balances strength with restraint, and how the textures evolve from traditional march into something more symphonic. This is music that honors public service, not through spectacle, but through purpose. Let it center you, ground you, and remind you of the nobility in doing the right thing, especially when it's hard.



March of the Women by Ethel Smyth (1858-1944 {Change}

Dame Ethel Smyth was a pioneering English composer and suffragette who defied expectations in every sphere she entered. At a time when women were discouraged from serious music composition, Smyth studied at the Leipzig Conservatory and built a career in orchestral, choral, and operatic composition. She also became a committed activist for women's rights in the early 20th century, joining the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) in 1910. Her legacy is not only musical but revolutionary; She was imprisoned for her advocacy, famously conducting fellow inmates singing this very piece with a toothbrush from her prison cell window.

March of the Women, composed in 1910, quickly became the unofficial anthem of the British suffragette movement. Its lyrics, originally by Cicely Hamilton, rally women to unite and fight for their rights, and Smyth's bold, rhythmic setting turns the piece into more than just a song, it's a battle hymn. Jeremy Corcoran's wind band arrangement gives it new life, transforming the voices of suffragettes into the unified sound of modern wind players. In the context of *Action!*, this piece reminds us that political change begins with people, often women, marching arm in arm toward equality.

Shout, shout, up with your song! Cry with the wind for the dawn is breaking;

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March, march, swing you along, Wide blows our banner and hope is waking. Song with its story, dreams with their glory, Lo! they call, and glad is their word! Loud and louder it swells, Thunder of freedom, the voice of the Lord!

Long, long, we in the past, Cowered in dread from the light of heaven. Strong, strong, stand we at last, Fearless in faith and with sight new-given. Strength with its beauty, Life with its duty, (Hear the voice, oh hear and obey!) These, these, beckon us on, open your eyes to the blaze of day.

Comrades, ye who have dared, First in the battle to strive and sorrow, Scorned, spurned, nought have ye cared. Raisng your eyes to a wider morrow. Ways that are weary, days that are dreary, Toil and pain by faith ye have borne; Hail, hail, victors ye stand, Wearing the wreath that the brave have worn!

Life, strife, these two are one, Nought can ye win but by faith and daring: On, on that ye have done, But for the work of today preparing. Firm in reliance, laugh a defiance, (Laugh in hope, for sure is the end) March, march, many as one. Shoulder to Shoulder and friend to friend.



Be Still and Still Moving by Nicole Piunno (b. 1985) [Rest and Care]

Nicole Piunno is an emerging voice in American composition, celebrated for music that balances vulnerability with strength. A former trumpet player whose performance career was challenged by jaw surgery, Piunno's work often explores ideas of resilience, reflection, and transformation. She draws upon her own lived experiences, crafting music that feels both deeply personal and universally human. Her presence in the band world also contributes to broadening the perspectives and identities represented in contemporary concert music.

In Be Still and Still Moving, Piunno captures the quiet power of perseverance. The title itself is a contradiction, an invitation to consider how progress often begins in stillness. Composed during a period of personal healing, the music is contemplative yet subtly dynamic. As you listen, you recognize a familiar tune, Be Still My Soul, a hymn that serves as the backbone of this piece. The opening is calm, yet mysterious. This leads to a more dramatic middle section that is full of continuous motion. The music eventually leads to a bold chorale of the hymn with fanfare-like motives above it, which harkens to the line from the hymn "all now mysterious shall be bright at last". In this concert, the piece acts as a counterbalance to more overt protest music, reminding us that action also happens in internal moments of courage, care, and emotional work. It's a tribute to those who move forward without fanfare, who do the labor of healing, listening, and rebuilding.



Fanfare for Justice by Richard Saucedo (b. 1955) {Challenge}

Richard Saucedo is a composer, conductor, and long-time music educator known for his accessible, high-impact works for concert band. A proud Mexican-American musician, Saucedo brings both pedagogical insight and personal identity into his compositions. He is deeply respected for his work in public education and has shaped generations of young musicians with his emphasis on excellence, equity, and creativity.

Fanfare for Justice is short in duration but wide in scope. It delivers a message of moral clarity through music—bold, direct, and unafraid. The piece opens with high-energy flourishes in the woodwinds and brass lines that sound like declarations, followed by light rhythmic interplay and powerful full ensemble statements. In the context of *Action!*, this fanfare functions as a rally horn: justice doesn't whisper, it calls. Saucedo's work speaks to the importance of civic responsibility and the belief that music can ignite energy and focus toward equity and systemic change.



American Labor Songs by Kim Archer (b. 1973) [Resist]

Mvmt. III: "Which Side are You On" by Florence Reece (1900-1986)

Florence Reece was not a professional musician, but she wrote one of the most enduring protest songs in American labor history. In 1931, while her husband was being pursued by company-backed

deputies during a coal miners' strike in Kentucky, Reece scribbled down the lyrics to Which Side Are You On? on a piece of calendar paper. That question, posed not just to bosses and workers, but to everyone who witnessed the injustice, has echoed through labor picket lines, civil rights marches, and protest rallies ever since.

Kim Archer's wind band arrangement of this powerful folk song preserves its raw emotional clarity while expanding its musical scope. The original tune's simplicity remains, but it's layered with atmospheric textures and harmonic weight that deepen its impact. In the context of this concert, Which Side Are You On? is a reminder that neutrality in times of oppression is a choice, and not a neutral one. It challenges listeners and performers alike to consider their position, their responsibility, and their voice.

Pete Seeger in an introduction to "Which Side Are You On?" on his record "Cant You See This System's Rotten Through And Through" says:

"Maybe the most famous song it was ever my privilege to know was the one written by Mrs Florence Reece. Her husband Sam was an organiser in that "bloody" strike in Harlan County, Kentucky in 1932.

They got word that the company gun-thugs were out to kill him, and he got out of his house, I think out the back door, just before they arrived. And Mrs Reece said they stuck their guns into the closets, into the beds, even into the piles of dirty linen. One of her two little girls started crying and one of the men said "What are you crying for? We're not after you we're after your old man"

After they had gone she felt so outraged she tore a calendar off the wall and on the back of it wrote the words and put them to the tune of an old hard-shelled Baptist hymn tune, although come to think of it the hymn tune used an old English ballad melody ... And her two little girls used to go singing it in the union halls."

Lyrics:

Come all of you good workers Good news to you I'll tell Of how that good old union Has come in here to dwell

Which side are you on? Which side are you on?

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Which side are you on? Which side are you on?

My daddy was a miner And I'm a miner's son And I'll stick with the union Till every battle's won

They say in Harlan County There are no neutrals there You'll either be a union man Or a thug for J.H. Blair

Oh, workers can you stand it? Oh, tell me how you can Will you be a lousy scab Or will you be a man?

Don't scab for the bosses Don't listen to their lies Us poor folks haven't got a chance Unless we organize



Mvmt. IV: "Union Maid" by Woody Guthrie (1912-1967)

Woody Guthrie was the voice of America's working class—writing songs during the Great Depression that gave dignity to those displaced by poverty, drought, and corporate exploitation. With his guitar labeled "This machine kills fascists," Guthrie's music blended storytelling and resistance. *Union Maid*, written in 1940 with the Almanac Singers, was a rare moment of spotlighting a woman as a protagonist in the labor movement—bold, unflinching, and proud

In Kim Archer's arrangement, *Union Maid* becomes a full-ensemble celebration of collective strength and joyful resistance. It pairs perfectly with the more somber *Which Side Are You On?*—offering a folk-tune counterpoint that says: not only will we resist, but we'll do it with humor, sass, and community spirit. This piece reminds us that human rights movements are often held together by music that lifts spirits as well as voices. Joy can be a political act—and so can dancing.

Lyrics:

There once was a union maid, she never was afraid

Of the goons and the ginks and the company finks

And the deputy sheriffs that made the raid She went to the union hall when a meeting, it was called

And when the company boys come around She always stood her ground

Oh, you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union I'm sticking to the union, I'm sticking to the union Oh, you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union I'm sticking to the union till the day I die

This union maid was wise to the tricks of the company spies

She'd never be fooled by a company stool She'd always organize the guys She'd always get her way when she asked for

better pay
She'd show her card to the company guard

And this is what she'd say

Oh, you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union I'm sticking to the union, I'm sticking to the union Oh, you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union

Now, you gals who want to be free, You gotta take a little tip from me Get you a man who's a union man and fight together for liberty

I'm sticking to the union till the day I die

'Cause married life ain't hard if you got a union card

And a union man has a happy life if he's got a union wife

Oh, you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union I'm sticking to the union, I'm sticking to the union Oh, you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union I'm sticking to the union till the day I die



Over the
Rainbow by
Harold Arlen
(1905-1986)
IHope and
Remembrance

Harold Arlen, born Hyman Arluck, was the son of a Jewish cantor and a master of blending jazz, blues, and theatrical songwriting. His collaborations with lyricist Yip Harburg produced some of the most enduring standards of the 20th century—but none more iconic than *Over the Rainbow*. Though originally written for *The Wizard of Oz*, this song took on greater cultural significance as a symbol of hope, longing, and liberation—especially for marginalized communities, including LGBTQIA+ people.

In this arrangement by Warren Barker, Arlen's soaring melody is given space to shine with lush harmonies and sensitive orchestration. It's placed here in *Action!* not as a moment of fantasy, but of radical imagining: a better world, just out of reach, but never out of sight. For many, this song has come to symbolize the dream of safety, love, and freedom—values at the heart of all civil rights movements. It asks the question: if we can dream it, can we march toward it?



Soundtrack
Highlights from
Les Misérables
by Claude-Michel Schönberg
(b. 1944)
[Rise-Up]

Claude-Michel Schönberg, the composer behind Les Misérables, crafted a score that carries the emotional weight of revolution, redemption, and solidarity. Born in France to Hungarian-Jewish parents, Schönberg's music reflects a deep understanding of political struggle and human resilience. His collaboration with Alain Boublil created one of the most beloved musicals of the modern era, with songs that resonate far beyond the stage.

This medley, arranged by Jay Bocook, condenses Les Misérables into a sweeping musical journey, from the quiet anguish of "I Dreamed a Dream" to the rousing final chorus of "Do You Hear the People Sing?" In Action!, this arrangement serves as a mirror: reflecting the humanity, complexity, and courage of those who rise against injustice. The music is theatrical, yes—but it's also truthful. It reminds us that revolutions are built not only by the brave but also by the broken, and that both have a place in the story.



We March (Stronger Together) by Ryan Cassata (b. 1993) (Unite)

Ryan Cassata's music has long been intertwined with activism; he is an award-winning singer-songwriter, actor, performer, published writer, LGBTQ+ activist, and transgender motivational speaker. With over 650 performances nationwide and internationally and seven original and critically-acclaimed musical albums, Cassata is proud to be recognized as the first openly-trans performer at the Vans Warped Tour, in addition to featured performances at Jazz at Lincoln Center, The Oregon Shakespeare Festival's Green Show, Global Pride, and SXSW, He has been praised by *The Advocate Magazine* as a "Transgender singing sensation." Paper Magazine included Cassata on their "50 LGBTQ Musicians You Should Prioritize" list, and LOGO's New Now Next included him on the "9 Trans Musicians You Need To Get Into" list. Billboard Magazine has referred to him as a "true force in the industry," honoring him as one of the esteemed "11 Transgender & Non-Binary Musicians You Need to Know".

We March – Stronger Together is a rallying cry.
Arranged for wind band, voice, and choir by Tim
Norris, the piece invites all of us to move together

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in rhythm and solidarity. It's catchy, immediate, and deeply heartfelt. The final message of the concert is clear: resistance is strongest when it's collective. Music has always moved people to action, not just with its sound, but with its togetherness and unity for our common needs and the common good.

Lyrics::

They want to rip off my identity Make It an image That you can put on and take off when it's convenient But I've been living this way for years It's not something that I think of much Except when it's thrown in my face In the form of a sucker punch And you would sing a sad song too

So we go around, we preach and preach Wishing that the world would catch on To the messages that we teach But it seems they're stuck in 1943 Is it 'cause of how they were raised? Maybe their mamas told them to fear Those who are authentic and brave Cause that's who's gonna change the world

So we're taking the streets we march Brothers, sisters, siblings in arms And we're raising our voices we march To be heard, near and far

We're stronger together than we are apart We're raisin' our voices, we speak from the art And we will keep marching til freedom is ours We're stronger together than we are apart stronger together than we are apart stronger together than we are apart

They want to plaster our look in the media Call it edgy, it's trendy, But we're not your commodity

We've been struggling for safety for all this time We're the hot topic selling' magazines

But we're still picked last, and we're kicked to the streets and our youth need relief and we all need a home to run to

They say we're the soldiers unfit to serve And the parents, they don't deserve love but every human desires to be loved It's not something that I think of much Except when it's thrown in my face in the form of a sucker punch And you would need to march too

So we're taking the streets we march Brothers, sisters, siblings in arms And we're raising our voices we march To be heard, near and far

We're stronger together than we are apart We're raisin' our voices, we speak from the art And we will keep marching til freedom is ours We're stronger together than we are apart stronger together than we are apart stronger together than we are apart



Artistic Director, Timothy V. Norris Jr. Assistant Conductor, Ethan Powell

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