

THE BOB COLE CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC AT
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH AND THE COLLEGE OF THE ARTS PROUDLY PRESENT:



CRAIG HELLA JOHNSON'S

CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD

THE BOB COLE CHAMBER CHOIR

JONATHAN TALBERG - CONDUCTOR

GUKHUI HAN - COLLABORATIVE KEYBOARD ARTIST

ALEXANDER ELLIOT MILLER - GUITARS

MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY ORCHESTRA

FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2022 7:30PM

CARPENTER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

PLEASE SILENCE ALL ELECTRONIC MOBILE DEVICES.

CONDUCTOR'S NOTE

Dear Friends,

What a joy it is to be back in the Carpenter Center after a two-year hiatus to present the Long Beach premiere of Craig Hella Johnson's extraordinary work *Considering Matthew Shepard*. The Chamber Choir, instrumentalists and I have loved preparing this oratorio for you. The following description is from matthewshepard.org:

"Approaching the eve of the 20th anniversary of Matt's murder, composer Craig Hella Johnson responded with his first concert-length work, *Considering Matthew Shepard*. This three-part fusion oratorio speaks with a fresh and bold voice, incorporating a variety of musical styles seamlessly woven into a unified whole. Johnson sets a wide range of poetic and soulful texts by poets including Hildegard of Bingen, Lesléa Newman, Michael Dennis Browne, and Rumi. Passages from Matt's personal journal, interviews and writings from his parents Judy and Dennis Shepard, newspaper reports, and additional texts by Johnson and Browne are poignantly appointed throughout the work."

In a lifetime of teaching choir, I have never encountered a full-evening choral piece that creates such an immediate emotional response—in singer, player, conductor and audience member alike. I promise that unless you've seen *Considering Matthew Shepard* before, you have never experienced anything like this work. I hope you will leave feeling grateful—to be alive, to be a part of a better world, and to have the experience of living another day as a member of the human race. It's a lot to ask of a choral piece, but I believe this work delivers.

Thank you for coming, and thank you for your support as we come out of this difficult, isolating, unprecedented pandemic.

Jonathan

Dr. Jonathan Talberg
Frank Pooler Professor of Choral Music

PROLOGUE

Cattle, Horses, Sky and Grass Craig Hella Johnson

Kyle McDonald—tenor

Ordinary Boy Johnson

Anneka Remp—soprano, Brianna Estrada—alto
Isaiah Chacon—tenor, Fadley Iriantony—baritone

We Tell Each Other Stories

Emma Holm—soprano

PASSION

The Fence (before)

Joshua Valdes—bass

The Fence (that night).....

Steven Leyton—bass

A Protestor

Keep It Away From Me (The Wound of Love).....

Aria Gittelson—alto

Fire of the Ancient Heart.....

Charles Egger—baritone

We Are All Sons

I Am Like You/We Are All Sons

Anna Crumley, Emma Holm—soprano, Melanie Athans, Alice Brutskaya—alto
Isaiah Chacon, Max Smith—tenor, Ian Luna, Nathan Diaz—bass

The Innocence

Max Smith—tenor

The Fence (one week later)

Lauryn Jessup—soprano

Stars

In Need of Breath

Vincent Loza—tenor

The Fence (after)/The Wind

Pilgrimage

Natalie Gissel, Alice Brutskaya, Melanie Athans, Lora Bashmakian—soprano
Alondra Ramirez, Alyssa Mesa, Alexis Saldaña—alto
Chester Roi Perez Bingham—tenor, Myles Mineer—bass, Jakob Hesse—baritone

EPILOGUE

Meet Me Here

Anna Crumley—soprano

All of Us

Nina Bashmakian, Clara Kelly, Lora Bashmakian—soprano
Alyssa Mesa, Alexis Saldaña, Tyler Serrano—alto

Reprise:

This Chant of Life (Cattle, Horses, Sky and Grass)

Kyle McDonald—tenor

Today's program uses depictions of violence and homophobic language. It also discusses death and dying. This material is heavy and has the potential to be triggering to audience members.

Your safety and wellbeing are very important to us. You may leave the auditorium at any point during our performance. Trauma responses and triggers look different for every person and they can sometimes take us by surprise. Following this evening's concert, we encourage you to honor what you need to recover, speak to a trusted friend about how you are feeling, and give yourself space to process.

The following resources are available to you:

Mental Health America PTSD Hotline: 800-273-8255
Crisis Text Line: Text 'HOME' to 741741
Trevor Project Support Lines: Text 'START' to 678-678 or call 866-488-7386
Open Path's Therapy Collective (openpathcollective.org) offers sliding scale therapy to all.

A NOTE FROM THE CONSERVATORY

We would love for you to support our program if you are able by opening the QR code and giving to CSULB Choral Studies at the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music. Your donations directly benefit our students and help us continue providing great music to you and the community. Thank you for your consideration and appreciation for the talented BCCM students and of our program.



PERSONNEL LIST

Dr. Jonathan Talberg: Frank Pooler Professor of Choral Music and Director of Choral Activities
Dr. Gukhui Han: Collaborative Keyboard Artist
Michael McKenzie: Assistant Conductor
Darita Seth: Assistant Conductor
Jake Hesse: Choral Studies Assistant

SPECIAL THANKS

Ken Beaupré
The Staff of the Carpenter Performing Arts Center
Megan Kline Crockett, Executive Director CPAC
Dr. Joshua Palkki: Director of Choral Music Education
Kate Gillon: Production Coordinator
Matt Pogue: Graphic Designer
Noreen Kimura: Safety and Facilities Officer
Colleen Ryan: Senior Academic Affairs Facilities Specialist
Dr. Alicia Doyle: Interim Director of the BCCM
Christine Guter: Director of Vocal Jazz

Dr. Alexander Hahn: Director of Vocal Studies
Dr. David Anglin: Director of Opera
Aram Barsamian: Professor of Voice
Marian Bodnar: Professor of Voice
John Buffett: Professor of Voice
Dr. Steven Kronauer: Professor of Voice
Shigemi Matsumoto: Professor of Voice
Dr. Katharin Rundus: Professor of Voice
Dr. Jennifer Sung: Professor of Voice

THE BOB COLE CHAMBER CHOIR

Dr. Jonathan Talberg, Frank Pooler Professor of Choral Music / conductor
Dr. Gukhui Han, piano—collaborative keyboard artist

Soprano

Gem Acabal
Melanie Athans
Lora Bashmakian
Nina Bashmakian
Alice Brutschkaya-Stempkovskaya
Anna Crumley+
Natalie Gissel
Emma Holm
Bettina Houser
Clara Kelly
Sabrina Ontiveros
Anneka Remp

Alto

Brianna Estrada+
Aria Gittelson
Lauryn Jessup
Holly Jordan
Alexandra Mason
Alyssa Mesa
Alondra Ramirez
Alexandra Reyna
Alexis Saldana
Tyler Serrano

Tenor

Chester Bingham
Isaiah Chacon
Vincent Loza+
Kyle McDonald
Benjamin Nicholas
Darita Seth~
Max Smith
Cole Temple
Jonathan Wright

Bass

Eric Cornwell
Nathan Diaz
Charles Egger
Jake Hesse
Fadley Iriantony
Youngjin Kim
Steven Leyton
Ian Luna
Michael McKenzie~
Myles Mineer
Joshua Valdes+

+ — section leader
~ — assistant conductor

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Piano

Dr. Gukhui Han

Cello

Raymond Newell

Electric/Auxiliary/ Acoustic Guitar

Dr. Alexander Miller

Bass

Brian Slack

Violin

Cole Perez

Clarinet

René Ulloa

Viola

Daisy Swanson

Percussion

Joseph Chang

Tickets and info **562-985-7000** or:
WWW.CSULB.EDU/MUSIC

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