



## ChamberQUEER Presents:

### KEEP THE FIRES LIT

ChamberQUEER programming is always the result of a bunch of great ideas, lots of experimentation, and the inevitable evolution of one of the great ideas into something that feels right, and that resembles the original idea to some degree, but transcends it. This set came about from an initial idea of Kevin Devine's, to pair arias of Handel with important figures from the history of the AIDS crisis. While that idea could fill a whole concert program easily, we also felt called to expand the story we wanted to tell into the present day, because so many of the urgent issues that our activist ancestors fought for, still apply today: the disproportionate marginalization of Black and trans people and the inequity of the health system come to mind as especially pertinent in 2020 and 2021.

#### **ELI**

**Arthur Russell (1951-1992)**

**Andrew Yee, cello**

Eli, Eli, Eli

Eli, Eli, Eli

A simple dog

With ears and nose

Eli, Eli, Eli

I don't know why nobody likes him

There's some people trying to put him away

When he comes up to them

They always say "Go away"

"Go away, please take him home"

"Make him stay"

Eli, Eli, Eli

Eli, Eli, Eli

Several times I've tried to tell him

"Please don't make them say that"

But he won't listen to me

Sometimes I pray that there could be more  
between us

But some people never are satisfied

Eli, Eli, Eli

Eli, Eli, Eli

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**HE WAS DESPISED**

**From Messiah**

**Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759)**

**Brian Mummert, voice**

**Jules Biber, cello**

**Kevin Devine, harpsichord**

Text from Isaiah

He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.  
He gave his back to the smiters, and his cheeks to them that plucked off the hair:  
he hid not his face from shame and spitting.

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**JUST AS WITH HER OWN LIFE**

**From Messiah(s)**

**Emily Lau**

**Danielle Buonaiuto and Brian Mummert, voice**

**Jules Biber, cello**

**Kevin Devine, harpsichord**

Text from the Khuddakapāṭha Mettā Sutta

Just as with her own life, a mother shields from hurt -  
her own son, her only child.  
Let all-embracing thoughts for all beings be yours.

**Note from the composer:** I think of this project as an opportunity to write a companion to Handel's masterwork, so that it can be more inclusive and moving to a diverse audience today. The single most important focus of this work for me has been curating a new set of texts for the solo movements, choosing words that bring inspiration and unity in today's world, regardless of one's religious or cultural background.

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**SOUND AN ALARM**

**From Judas Maccabeus**

**Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759)**

**Danielle Buonaiuto, voice**

**Jules Biber, cello**

**Kevin Devine, harpsichord**

Words by Thomas Morell

Sound an alarm! Your silver trumpets sound,  
And call the brave, and only brave, around.  
Who listens, follow: to the field and to war!  
Justice with courage is a thousand more.

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**A SARABANDE TO STOP THE VIOLENCE**

**Mazz Swift**

**Jules Biber, cello**

**Note from the commissioner about the piece:** This piece was written to be performed amidst recorded voices of children who are part of Rev. Margaret Guy's Stop the Violence Prayer Chain Foundation in Wilmington.

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**KEEP ME IN YOUR HEART/LIGHT OF A CLEAR BLUE MORNING**

**Arr Brian Mummert**

**Songs by Warren Zevon and Dolly Parton**

Shadows are fallin' and I'm runnin' out of breath

Keep me in your heart for a while

If I leave you it doesn't mean I love you any less

Keep me in your heart for a while

When you get up in the mornin' and you see that crazy sun

Keep me in your heart for a while

There's a train leavin' nightly called "When All is Said and Done"

Keep me in your heart for a while

... I've been looking for the sunshine

You know I ain't seen it in so long

But everything's gonna work out just fine

And everything's gonna be all right

That's been all wrong

'Cause I can see the light of a clear blue morning

I can see the light of a brand new day

I can see the light of a clear blue morning

Oh, and everything's gonna be all right

It's gonna be okay

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