

ALL SOULS CHURCH CHOIRS  
*presents*



# Spring Choir Concert

**May 17 | 4 PM**

All Souls Unitarian Church

*Featuring:*

Cherub  
Choir

Children's  
Choir

Youth  
Choir

The Combined  
Adult Choirs



# PROGRAM

## **Combined Children and Youth Choirs**

*Hashivenu*

arr. Doren Rao

## **Welcome**

## **Youth Choir**

*Simple Gifts*

Andy Beck

*From Eden*

Andrew John Hozier-Byrne

## **Cherub Choir**

*Zum Gali Gali*

Israeli Work song

Pioneers all work as one,  
Work as one all pioneers;  
From the dawn till setting sun,  
Every one finds work to be done.

*Here Comes the Sun*

arr. Mac Huff

## **Children's Choir**

*Wade in the Water*

traditional African Spiritual

*Oye*

Jim Papoulis

All alone, in the darkness  
They are crying out for your help  
They are hoping, they are dreaming  
They are asking, for a change to be heard.  
Are you listening, can you hear their cries?  
They are watching, they are listening  
They are searching to find their way  
Can you see them, can you hear them calling  
What their voices are trying to say.

## **2026 CHILDREN'S & YOUTH CHOIR FLYERS & AWARDS**

## **Combined Children and Youth Choirs**

*Bashana Habaa*

arr. V. Pasternah

Soon the day will arrive when we will be together.  
And no longer will we live in fear.  
And the children will smile without their wondering wether  
In that day dark new clouds will appear.  
Wait and see, wait and see what a world this can be  
If we share - if we care - you and me.  
Wait and see, wait and see what a world this can be  
If we share - if we care - you and me.

# PROGRAM

## INTERMISSION

### **EXCERPTS FROM *CONSIDERING MATTHEW SHEPARD***

Music by Craig Hella Johnson

Text by Michael Dennis Browne

Leslea Newman

Craig Hella Johnson

Commissioned by Fran and Larry Collmann and Conspirare.

Dedicated to Philip Overbaugh

The subject matter is difficult and deeply emotional. Through the recurring image of the fence to which Matthew was tied – “The Fence (Before),” “The Fence (That Night),” and “The Fence (One Week Later)” – the work reflects on violence, grief, humanity, and healing. Johnson also chose not to omit the painful realities surrounding Matthew’s death, including the protests by members of the Westboro Baptist Church at Matthew’s funeral and the hateful language they used. Some of the material in this program contains offensive language. One song repeats a common slur directed at gay people that may be painful or difficult to hear. The language is included in it’s historical and dramatic context and reflects the harsh realities of the events portrayed.

## **Combined Adult and Chamber Choirs and Chamber Orchestra**

### **Prologue**

*Cattle, Horses, Sky and Grass*

Aaron Hawkins, soloist

Kate Huges, soloist

*Ordinary Boy*

Rachel Hughes, narrator

Alice Perrault, Judy, Mathew’s Mother

Thomas Farnan-Williams, Matthew

Kate Hughes, Sue Pogue, Aaron Hawkins, Adam Grider, quartet

*We Tell Each Other Stories*

Kate Ferguson, soloist

*Recitation*

Sue Pogue

*The Fence (Before)*

Mitchell Smith, soloist

# PROGRAM

## Passion

*Recitation* Amanda Shankle-Knowlton

*The Fence (That Night)*

Adam Grider, soloist

*Recitation*

Bea McCartney

*A Protestor*

*Recitation*

Julie Sickles, Cathey Edwards

*The Fence (One Week Later)*

Kate Hughes, soloist

*Recitation*

Holly Redwood, Joan Bjornsgaard, Wendi Opitz

*Deer Song*

Alice Perrault, soloist

## Epilogue

*Recitation*

Lucy Weberling

*Meet Me Here*

Rachel Hughes, soloist

*All of Us*

Kate Ferguson, Kate Hughes, Rachel Hughes, trio

*Cattle, Horses Sky and Grass (Reprise)*

Aaron Hawkins, soloist

## Performers

**Cherub Choir:** Samantha Luria, director; Cathryn Thomas, piano; Margo Call, Rhys Harrison, Kate Jeter, Mona Luria, Laura McKeon, Larkyn Miller, Brindle Morrow, Evie Morrow, Ben Waldron, Blake Walters

**Children's Choir:** Libby Sublett, director; Cathryn Thomas, piano; Violet Ellington, Kiley James, Katelyn Johnson, Lily McKenzie, Ellie Pogue, Connor Pritchard, Celia Renoff, Cordelia Renoff, Geneva Scoggins, Margaux Scoggins, Sloane Selby, Benni Sickles, Violet Shouse, Julia Showalter, Juliette Wulfers

**Youth Choir:** David B. Smith, director; Cathryn Thomas, piano; Mason Griggs, Lyla Lavanhar, Angelita Letterman, Emerson Shankle-Knowlton, Alyssa Self, Carter Viles, Oliver Voelker, Violet Voelker

**Adult Choir:** Randall Hooper, conductor; Joan Bjornsgaard, Greg Bledsoe, David Boaz, Jesse Candy, Jan Eckardt Butler, Cathey Edwards, Janice Green, JoAnn Howse, Andrew Khouw, Bea McCartney, Wendi Opitz, David Parker, Margaret Peters, Holly Redwood, Kathy Reid, Amanda Shankle-Knowlton, Julie Sickles, Janis Updike Walker, Jim Walker, Lucy Weberling, Tim Whitely

**Chamber Choir:** Randall Hooper, conductor; Sue Burk, Caitlin Clark, Thomas Farnan-Williams, Kate Ferguson, Adam Grider, Aaron Hawkins, Kate Hughes, Rachel Hughes, Alice Perrault, Mitchell Smith, Alex Tirrell

**Orchestra:** Alexandra Doyle, Clarinet; Sheri Neubauer, Violin; Jeff Cowen, Viola; Kathy Rad, Cello; Jarrett Bastow, Bass; Jerry School & Jim Clanton, Percussion; Cathryn Thomas, piano

# NOTES

**Matthew Shepard (born December 1, 1976, Casper, Wyoming - died October 12, 1998, Fort Collins, Colorado)**, was an American college student who was severely beaten because of his sexual orientation and was let to die in 1998. He was discovered and hospitalized, though he succumbed to his injuries. His death, which was evidence of the physical danger that homosexuals still face in the United States, played a key role in the 2009 passage of legislation that expanded federal hate crime law to include violence committed because of the sexual orientation of the victim.



Matthew attended the University of Wyoming at Laramie, where he studied foreign relations, languages, and political science. On campus Shepard had been open about his sexuality, and he was involved in the university's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) student association.

Matthew attended the University of Wyoming at Laramie, where he studied foreign relations, languages, and political science. On campus Shepard had been open about his sexuality, and he was involved in the university's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) student association. On October 7, 1998, Shepard was befriended by two men, Aaron McKinney and Russell Henderson, who were posing as gay in order to lure him away from a local bar. They drove him to a rural area where they tied him to a fence, administered a brutal beating, and left him to die in the cold. Shepard was discovered 18 hours later by a bicyclist and was rushed, still alive but in a coma, to a hospital in Fort Collins, Colorado, where he died four days later. McKinney and Henderson were found guilty of murder.

Shepard's death attracted widespread attention, not only in the small town of Laramie, which had a population of fewer than 30,000, but also across the country and around the world. Although federal laws at the time covered hate crimes based on race, color, religion, and national origin, none included sexuality or sexual orientation. In 1998 Wyoming was one of 10 states that had no hate crime laws to protect specific categories of people. Shepard's death was cited by figures within the gay rights movement as clear-cut evidence of the need for more-expansive federal hate crime legislation. In 2007 the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act (later dubbed the Matthew Shepard Act) was introduced to address these shortcomings in the law. In 2009 a modified version of the bill was finally approved by both the house and the senate.

Shepard was memorialized by the Matthew Shepard Foundation, an organization begun by his parents, Dennis and Judy, with a mission to "replace hate with understanding, compassion, and acceptance" through various educational initiatives.

## **A note from the poet Leslea Newman**

Introduction" from OCTOBER MOURNING:

A SONG FOR MATTHEW SHEPARD by Lesléa Newman

One of the last things Matthew Shepard did that Tuesday night was attend a meeting of the University of Wyoming's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Association. The group was putting final touches on plans for Gay Awareness Week, scheduled to begin the following Sunday, October 11, coinciding with a National Coming Out Day. Planned campus activities included a film showing, an open poetry reading, and a keynote speaker. That Keynote speaker was me.

I never forgot what happened in Laramie, and around the tenth anniversary of Matthew Shepard's death, I found myself thinking more and more about him. And so I began writing a series of poems, striving to create a work of art that explores the events surrounding Matthew Shepard's murder in order to gain a better understanding of their impact on myself and the world.

# NOTES

What really happened at the fence that night? Only three people know the answer to that question. Two of them are imprisoned, convicted murderers whose stories often contradict each other (for example, in separate interviews both McKinney and Henderson have claimed that he alone tied Matthew Shepard to the fence). The other person who knows what really happened that night is dead. We will never know his side of the story. This book is my side of the story.

While the poems in this book are inspired by actual events, they do not in any way represent the statements, thoughts, feelings, opinions, or attitudes of any actual person. The statements, thoughts, feelings, opinions, and attitudes conveyed belong to me. All monologues contained within the poems are figments of my imagination; no actual person spoke any of the words contained within the body of any poem. Those words are mine and mine alone. When the words of an actual person are used as a short epigraph for a poem, the source of that quote is cited at the back of the book in a section entitled "Notes," which contains citations and suggestions for further reading about the crime. The poems, which are meant to be read in sequential order as one whole work, are a work of poetic invention and imagination: a historical novel in verse. The poems are not an objective reporting of Matthew Shepard's murder and its aftermath; rather they are my own personal interpretation of them.

There is a bench on the campus of the University of Wyoming dedicated to Matthew Shepard, inscribed with the words He continues to make a difference. My hope is that readers of *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard* will be inspired to make a difference and honor his legacy by erasing hate and replacing it with compassion, understanding, and love.

## More about this project

*Considering Matthew Shepard* was developed with the support of Conspirare. Please visit [Conspirare.org](http://Conspirare.org) to learn more about this project and learn more about the many individuals and organizations who support this work.

**Conspirare, The Matthew Shepard Foundation, and KLRU-TV, Austin PBS are partnering to ensure that *Considering Matthew Shepard* reaches as many people as possible on the stage and screen.** *The Matthew Shepard foundation has provided ongoing support in outreach and project development. Conspirare and KLRU-TV, Austin PBS are co-producing a *Considering Matthew Shepard* television special commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Matthew Shepard's passing. KLRU profiled Craig Hella Johnson's creative process in their documentary series *Arts in Context* (available at [artsincontext.org](http://artsincontext.org)). The film will be accompanied by outreach and engagement programs.*

Text & Publication Credits

*Considering Matthew Shepard*

Text authors and publication credits.

All music composed by Craig Hella Johnson © 2016.

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Ordinary Boy © Craig Hella Johnson / From *The Meaning of Matthew*, by Judy Shepard p. 206. / + I Love Poem by Matt Shepard © by Judy Shepard. Used by kind permission.

We Tell Each Other Stories We Tell Each Other Stories © Craig Hella Johnson

The Fence (before)\* Lesléa Newman

The Fence (that night) Material reproduced from Hildegard of Bingen from *Symphonia: A Critical Edition of the "Symphonia Armonie Celestium Revelationum"* (Symphony of the Harmony of Celestial Revelations), Second Edition, translated by Barbara Newman. © 1988, 1998 by Cornell University. Used by permission of the translator, Barbara Newman, and publisher, Cornell University Press. / The Fence (that night)\* Lesléa Newman

A Protestor \* Lesléa Newman / Additional italicized text by Craig Hella Johnson

# 2026 CHILDREN'S & YOUTH CHOIR FLYERS & AWARDS

## **Cherub Choir Flyers**

Brindle Morrow, Evie Morrow, Larkyn Miller, Blake Walters

## **Children's Choir Flyers**

Katelyn Johnson, Connor Pritchard, Julia Showalter

## **Graduating Seniors**

Anjelita Letterman, Emerson Shankle-Knowlton, Carter Viles, Violet Volker

## **Allison Hill Memorial Award**

This award is presented annually to the singer who has shown the most vocal improvement.

## **Lucy Nave Award**

The Lucy Nave Award is presented to a member who has demonstrated excellence in attitude and performance both musically and non-musically.

## **Suzanne Meyer Memorial Award**

This award is given in memory of Rev. Suzanne Meyer, a former associate minister at All Souls, and presented to a singer who demonstrates that choir is ministry and service.

## **Chris Ferguson Award**

This award is given to a graduating senior who has shown exemplary attendance and dedication from their entrance to the Children's Choir Program to graduation.

# GET CONNECTED

Visit [allsoulschurch.org/announcements](https://allsoulschurch.org/announcements) for a full list of events



## Interested in Joining the Adult Choir?

Have you ever thought about joining the All Souls Adult Choir? Rehearsals are held every Tuesday at 6:30 PM. No audition required! Whether you're a seasoned singer or just want to be part of something musical, we'd love to have you. For questions, reach out to Randall Hooper at [rhooper@allsoulschurch.org](mailto:rhooper@allsoulschurch.org).



## All Souls Has a Choir for Young Singers, Too!

Cherub Choir (grades 1–3), Children's Choir (grades 4–7), and Youth Choir (grades 8–12) are all open and looking for new voices. No experience needed - just a love for music! Reach out to David B. Smith at [dsmith@allsoulschurch.org](mailto:dsmith@allsoulschurch.org) to learn more.

**May  
20**

## All Souls Religious Exploration Round Up Meeting

Families, come imagine with us! Adults will spend time planning our summer and fall programs together. Dinner is served at 5:30 PM, with childcare available from 6:00–7:30 PM. **Register by Monday, May 18** and dinner and childcare **are free**. Walk-ins are \$20 per person for dinner and \$50 per child for childcare. **Register at [allsouls.me/re](https://allsouls.me/re)**.

**May  
31**

## Service of Promise & Repair | 10 & 11:30 AM Services

This is a call to reflect, recommit, and repair what has been harmed in ourselves and in our world, honoring the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre - a painful chapter in our city's history that intersects with our own founding. Together, we'll acknowledge the past while moving toward healing and accountability.

**Jun.  
29**

## All Souls Kids (ASK) Summer Camp 2026

Camp is right around the corner, kids! Join us this June for fun, movement, meditation, games, music, play, community, and so much more. Ready to learn more and sign up? **Visit [allsouls.me/summercamp](https://allsouls.me/summercamp)**.



We acknowledge that All Souls Church is on the Muscogee Nation Reservation which is the original land of Osage Nation.



To give to All Souls, visit [allsoulschurch.org/give](https://allsoulschurch.org/give) or scan the QR code

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