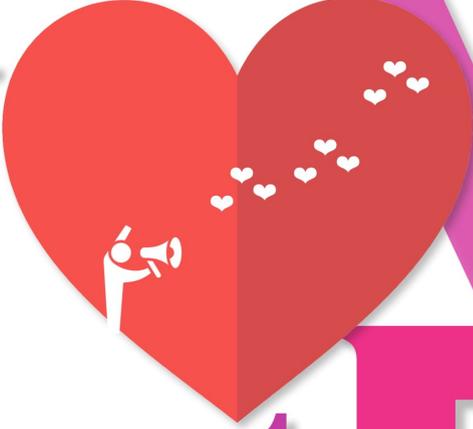




**A Choral Celebration
of Love's power to heal, sustain,
and rebuild lives**

Where
L  **V**
is
found
E

 **HOUSING WORKS**

Wednesday, February 13 @ 7:30 pm

Housing Works Bookstore Cafe
126 Crosby St, NYC

Welcome

Homelessness is one of the most visible problems in New York City; however, it is easy to become numb to it quite simply because we are confronted with it so frequently, and possible solutions seem elusive and overwhelming. For this reason, Inspire has dedicated our second season to learning more about what is being done—and what we can do—to support the homeless populations of NYC. Thank you for being here to celebrate and learn more about the lifesaving mission of Housing Works to provide services, housing, and advocacy for people struggling with HIV/AIDS in New York City.

About the Program

Our repertoire tonight spans centuries of sung tradition, much of it reimagined through arrangements, and all of it recontextualized here to reflect on loss and stigma; the journey through hardship to hope; and the healing, rebuilding, and sustaining power of love in action. Interspersed throughout are personal stories from the *Humans of New York* series created by Brandon Stanton.

The South African folk song "Senzenina" asks, "what have we done to deserve this suffering?" In addition to its anti-apartheid roots, it became associated with HIV/AIDS activism, as the HIV/AIDS crisis in South Africa was inextricably caught up in the devastating oppression of apartheid. Craig Hella Johnson's expansive arrangement of Stephen Foster's "Hard Times" begins and ends simply like the tune, but he draws the listener into the anguish of the lyrics by adding layers, until it becomes almost unbearably complicated, before finally resolving into a climactic cry of "Hard Times, come again no more." *Pasar la Vida* sets a poem by former Bolivian ambassador Jorge Torres (Coco Manto), who has lived in exile in Mexico for three decades.

Following these songs of trial and loneliness, a new actor enters our story and, much as Housing Works does, welcomes the sufferer with comfort and compassion. Alexander Lloyd Blake's contemporary arrangement of "Poor Wayfaring Stranger" draws upon the song's many-layered history with an infusion of gospel and intense jazz harmonies to heighten the text's emotion. Taken from the oratorio *Considering Matthew Shepard*, "Meet Me Here" looks toward a more hopeful future through coming together in community, and "You Will Be Found," from the hit musical *Dear Evan Hansen*, speaks promise to those who feel utterly lost and alone.

Our story then turns to the theme of the night: Love. Laura Hawley's setting of Shakespeare's "Sonnet 43" is indomitably effervescent, and Inspire member Ari Messenger's setting of the centuries-old tune "O Waly, Waly" is warm, full, and welcoming, while acknowledging the trials that love endures. And "Seasons of Love," from *Rent*, celebrates love and community in the face of life's struggles and tragedies.

Finally, we invite you to join us in singing "We Walk in Love," in honor of Housing Works' commitment to advocacy and activism. Composer and co-lyricist Deanna Witkowski, who joins us for this performance, created a melody and text that are a stirring call to action in love.

Where Love is Found

I. *Hard Times*

- Senzenina Traditional Xhosa and Zulu
Brandon Hornsby-Selvin, *tenor*
- Hard Times Stephen Foster (1826–1864)
arr. Craig Hella Johnson (b. 1962)
Carrie Quarquesso, *soprano*
- Pasar la Vida Jorge Cózatl (b. 1973)
Laura Stelman, David Orama, Zana Thaqi, Brooke Larimer,
Brandon Hornsby-Selvin, *soloists*

II. *You Will Be Found*

- Poor Wayfaring Stranger arr. Alexander Lloyd Blake (b. 1987)
Laura Childers, *soprano*
- Meet Me Here Craig Hella Johnson
from *Considering Matthew Shepard*
Megan Chartrand, *soprano*
- You Will Be Found Benj Pasek (b. 1985) & Justin Paul (b. 1985)
from *Dear Evan Hansen* arr. Ari Messenger (b. 1993)
Josh Giles Alexander, Lauren Annunziata, Anthony Collins, *soloists*

III. *And Hope Comes Home*

- Sonnet 43 Laura Hawley (b. 1982)
- When Love Is Found arr. Ari Messenger
- Seasons of Love Jonathan Larson (1960–1996)
from *Rent* arr. Steve Zegree (1953–2015)

IV. *We Walk in Love*

- We Walk in Love* Deanna Witkowski (b. 1972)
Deanna Witkowski, *piano*

**Please turn to the inside back cover and join us as directed.*

I. *Hard Times*

Senzenina

Traditional Xhosa and Zulu

What have we done?

Hard Times Come Again No More

Stephen Foster

Let us pause in life's pleasures and count its many tears,
While we all sup sorrow with the poor.
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears:
Oh! Hard Times come again no more.

'Tis the song, the sigh of the weary,
Hard Times, Hard Times come again no more.
Many days you have lingered around my cabin door,
Oh! Hard Times, come again no more.

While we seek mirth and beauty and music light and gay,
There are frail forms fainting at the door.
Though their voices are silent, their pleading looks will say,
Oh! Hard Times, come again no more.

'Tis the song, the sigh of the weary,
Hard Times, Hard Times come again no more.
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears:
Oh! Hard Times, come again no more.

There's a pale drooping maiden who toils her life away
With a worn heart whose better days are o'er.
Though her voice would be merry, 'tis sighing all the day,
Oh! Hard Times, come again no more.

'Tis a sigh that is wafted around the troubled wave,
'Tis a wail that is heard upon the shore.
'Tis a dirge that is murmured around the lowly grave,
Oh! Hard Times, come again no more.

It's the song, the sigh of the weary,
Hard Himes, Hard Times, come again no more.
There's a song that will linger forever in our ears...

Pasar la Vida

Soy muchedumbre y soy uno
Cuando camino adelante
O atrás en busca del humo
De la utopía ambulante.
Tengo el destino sellado:
Trashumante.

El abanico del mundo
Se abre tentador fragante
Al sedentario fecundo
Y al nómada rutilante
Peregrino consagrado:
Caminante.

El cielo y el mar rotundos
Se ofrecen al que es amante
De lo que encuentra en el rumbo
De la aventura campante:
Quién le quita lo viajado:
Navegante.

Y el que camina sin rumbo
Y vive siempre el instante
Porque es todos y ninguno
Por una ley infamante...
Es ilegal remarcado:
Inmigrante.

Caminante trashumante
Que no olvida
Inmigrante navegante
Vieja herida
Habitante militante
De la vida.

Jorge Mansilla Torres (Coco Manto)

*I am a crowd and I am one
When I walk forward
Or behind in search of the smoke
Of the ambulant utopia,
Sealed destination I have:
Nomad shepherd.*

*The range of the world
Fragrant tempter opens
To the sedentary fertile
And to the shining nomad
Consecrated pilgrim:
Walker.*

*Resounding sky and sea
Offer themselves to the one who is a lover
Of what is found through the course
Of the wandering adventure:
Who takes away the travel from him:
Navigator.*

*And the one who walks without course
And lives always that moment
Because it is all and none
By a defamatory law...
He is branded illegal:
Immigrant.*

*Wandering shepherd
That he does not forget
Immigrant navigator
Old wound
Militant inhabitant
Of the life.*

—Translation by Jorge Cózatl

II. *You Will Be Found*

Poor Wayfaring Stranger

Traditional Spiritual

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger
A-trav'lin' through this world of woe.
But there's no sickness, toil, nor danger
In that bright land to which I go.

I'm goin' there to see my father,
I'm goin' there no more to roam.
I'm just a-goin' over Jordan,
I'm just a-goin' over home.

I know dark clouds will gather round me,
I know my way is rough and steep.
But beauteous fields lie just before me,
Where God's redeemed their vigils keep.

I'm goin' there to see my mother.
I'm goin' there no more to roam.
I'm just a-goin' over Jordan,
I'm just a-goin' over home.

I'm goin' there to see my mother.
I'm goin' there no more to roam.
I'm just a-goin' over Jordan,
I'm just a-goin' over home.

Meet Me Here

Craig Hella Johnson

Meet me here, won't you meet me here?
Where the old fence ends and the horizon begins.
There's a balm in the silence like an understanding air,
Where the old fence ends and the horizon begins.

We've been walking through the darkness on this long, hard climb,
Carried ancestral sorrow for too long a time.
Will you lay down your burden? Lay it down, come with me.
It will never be forgotten, held in love, so tenderly.

Meet me here, won't you meet me here?
Where the old fence ends and the horizon begins.
There's a joy in the singing like an understanding air,
Where the old fence ends and the horizon begins.

Then we'll come to the mountain, we'll go bounding to see
That great circle of dancing, and we'll dance endlessly,
And we'll dance with all the children who've been lost along the way.
We will welcome each other, coming home, this glorious day.

We are home in the mountain, and we'll gently understand
That we've been friends forever, that we've never been alone.
We'll sing on through any darkness, and our Song will be our sight.
We can learn to offer praise again, coming home to the light.

You Will Be Found

Benj Pasek & Justin Paul

Have you ever felt like nobody was there?
Have you ever felt forgotten in the middle of nowhere?
Have you ever felt like you could disappear?
Like you could fall, and no one would hear?

Well, let that lonely feeling wash away.
Maybe there's a reason to believe you'll be okay,
'Cause when you don't feel strong enough to stand,
You can reach, reach out your hand.

And oh, someone will come running,
And I know, they'll take you home.

Refrain:

Even when the dark comes crashing through,
When you need a friend to carry you,
And when you're broken on the ground,
You will be found.

So let the sun come streaming in,
'Cause you'll reach up, and you'll rise again.
Lift your head and look around.
You will be found.

There's a place where we don't have to feel unknown.
And every time that you call out you're a little less alone.
If you only say the word, from across the silence your voice is heard.
Someone will come running to take you home.

Refrain

Out of the shadows the morning is breaking, and all is new.
It's filling up the empty, and suddenly I see that all is new.

Refrain

III. *And Hope Comes Home*

Sonnet 43

William Shakespeare

When most I wink, then do mine eyes best see,
For all the day they view things unrespected;
But when I sleep, in dreams they look on thee,
And darkly bright, are bright in dark directed.
Then thou, whose shadow shadows doth make bright,
How would thy shadow's form form happy show
To the clear day with thy much clearer light,
When to unseeing eyes thy shade shines so!
How would, I say, mine eyes be blessed made,
By looking on thee in living day,
When in dead night thy fair imperfect shade
Through heavy sleep on sightless eyes doth stay!
 All days are nights to see till I see thee,
 And nights bright days when dreams do show thee me.

When Love Is Found

Brian Wren

When love is found and hope returned,
Sing and be glad for what we've earned.
When love bursts forth and fills the sky,
Embrace and share each other's joy.

adapt. Ari Messenger

When love has flowered in trust and care,
Build both each day that love may dare
To reach beyond home's warmth and light,
So love may ease another's plight.

When love is torn and trust betrayed,
Pray strength to love till torments fade,
Till lovers keep no score of wrong
But hear through pain love's peaceful song.

When love is tried as loved-ones change,
Hold still to hope, though all seems strange.
Till ease returns and love grows wise
Through listening ears and opened eyes.

Seasons of Love

Jonathan Larson

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes.
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred moments so dear.
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes.
How do you measure, measure a year?

In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee?
In inches, in miles, in laughter and strife?
In five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes?
How do you measure a year in the life?

How about love?
Measure in love.
Seasons of love.

Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes.
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred journeys to plan.
Five hundred twenty-five thousand six hundred minutes.
How do you measure the life of a woman or a man?

In truth that she learns or in times that he cried.
In bridges he burned or the way that she died.
It's time now to sing out, though the story never ends,
Let's celebrate, remember a year in the life of friends.

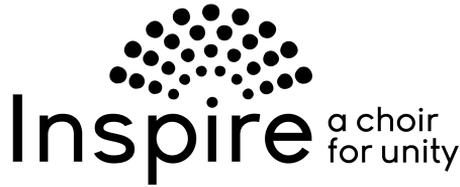
Remember the love.
Measure in love.
Seasons of love.

IV. *We Walk in Love*

We Walk in Love

Deanna Witkowski & Lemuel Colon

Please turn to the inside back cover and join us as directed.



Inspire a choir
for unity

Artists

Josh Giles Alexander	Jennifer Mello
Lauren Annunziata	Ari Messenger
Ryan Buchanan	David Orama
Megan Chartrand	Caroline Pohlmann
Laura Childers	Jon Pohlmann
Anthony Collins	Carrie Quarquesso
Brandon Hornsby-Selvin	Amber Fort Salladin
Ben Keiper	Michael Sauter
Eleanor Killiam	Laura Stelman-Jaeger
Brooke Larimer	James Knox Sutterfield
Claire Manganiello	Zana Thaqi
Lela McElfresh	

with:

Deanna Witkowski, *piano*

Board of Directors

Katherine Austin-Evelyn, Chair
Megan Chartrand, Executive Director & Treasurer
Justin Jalea, Artistic Director

James Knox Sutterfield, Associate Artistic Director
Amber Fort Salladin, Associate Artistic Director
Erin Halpin, Associate Artistic Director
Claire Manganiello & Erin Halpin, Digital Design
Laura Childers, Wardrobe Coordinator
Susan Pohlmann, Reception Coordinator
Anthony Collins, Donations & PR Manager

In partnership with:



HOUSING WORKS
Bookstore Cafe

We Walk in Love

All are invited to stand as you are able and join your voices with ours as directed.

Words by Deanna Witkowski and Lemuel Colon

Music by Deanna Witkowski

New York, NY | 2017

Gospel 3 feel (♩ = 104)

C7sus F Gm/F F Gm7

1. We walk in love u - nit - ed in pur - pose. We
 2. We cry for peace and rights for all peo - ple. We
 3. We dream a world of jus - tice and kind - ness. We

A7 Dm7 G7sus G7 C7sus

join our hands and lift up one voice. We
 wel - come friends from far and near. We
 build a bridge cre - at - ing new paths. We

Bm7(b5) Bbm6 F/C F

speak the truth with strength and com - pas - sion re -
 fight for those whose voic - es are si - lenced, re -
 march with joy as all walk to - geth - er. Em -

Gm F/A Gm/Bb F/C C7sus C7 F

sound - ing with hope, with cour - age and joy.
 sist - ing in faith un - til all are free.
 brac - ing each one, we bold - ly stand.

Inspire: A Choir for Unity is a New York City-based chamber choir dedicated to cultivating compassion and action for diverse social issues through the power of song. In partnership with organizations seeking positive social change, we encourage individual and collective action on socially pressing issues. We seek to inspire a spirit of unity among our artists, audiences, and wider community.

Housing Works Bookstore Cafe is a social enterprise and event venue that raises money to support Housing Works' lifesaving services and advocacy for people living with HIV/AIDS in New York City. **Housing Works** is a healing community of people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Their mission is to end the dual crises of homelessness and AIDS through relentless advocacy, the provision of lifesaving services, and entrepreneurial business that sustain their efforts.

Special Thanks

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Ryan Buchanan	Troy Messenger
Rosie Clarke	Sarah Morrow
Erin Halpin	Susan Pohlmann
Justin Jalea	Caren Rosenblatt
Nan Melville	Deanna Witkowski

and to our donors

Join us for our spring concert:

Hope Comes Home

Saturday, June 1, 8:00 PM

The Bowery Mission

227 Bowery, New York, NY

Visit our website and join our mailing list to stay updated!

www.choirforunity.org

