

# A World Transformed

## PROGRAM

To Spring, from *Lyric Pieces*, op. 43, piano solo (2:30) Edvard Grieg (1843-1907)

**Spoken Text:** *The story of Matthew Shepard began on December 1st, 1976 when he was born to Judy and Dennis Shepard in Casper, Wyoming. He was sensitive, soft-spoken, and kind. He was easy to talk to, made friends quickly, and actively fought for the acceptance of all people.*

Let Beauty Awake, from *Songs of Travel* (2:00) Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
Innocence, from *Six Irish Songs for Maureen* (1:30) Jean Coulthard\*! (1908-2000)  
Love's Philosophy, from *3 Songs*, op. 3 (1:30) Roger Quilter+ (1877-1953)

**Spoken Text:** *As a child growing up in the small town of Casper, Matthew always felt out of place. He never had a best friend. He had always been different, but that only made him more thoughtful, sensitive, and empathetic.*

Reflection (3:30) Matthew Wilder b. 1953 and David Zippel+ b. 1954,  
arr. Marcel d'Entremont\*+ b. 1991  
Facing Forward, from *Facing Forward / Looking Back*, vocal duet (4:00) Jake Heggie+ b. 1961

June, from *The Seasons*, op. 37a, piano solo (5:30) Pyotr Tchaikovsky+ (1840-1893)

**Spoken Text:** *Matt went to public school in Casper until his junior year of high school when he moved with his family to Saudi Arabia. Eventually, Matt's college career eventually took him back to Wyoming where he studied political science, foreign relations, and languages at the University of Wyoming in Laramie.*

The Last Rose of Summer (4:00) arr. Benjamin Britten+ (1913-1976)

**Spoken Text:** *Just after midnight on October 7th, 1998, Matthew stopped by a Laramie bar called Fireside Lounge, near the University of Wyoming, where he had just begun his freshman year. Having failed to enlist some schoolmates to join him, he found himself in conversation with Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney, both 21, who were sharing a pitcher of beer. The two men lured him outside and into McKinney's father's truck.*

Now the leaves are falling fast, from *On This Island*, op. 11 (2:00) Benjamin Britten+  
I hear an army, from *Three Songs*, op. 10 (2:30) Samuel Barber+ (1910-1981)

**Spoken Text:** *Once in the vehicle, McKinney pulled out a gun, beat Matthew with it, and seized his wallet. They drove about a mile out of town, down a dirt path that ended in a rocky prairie of sagebrush and range grass. Henderson used a clothesline to tie Matthew to a log fence. McKinney began to furiously pistol-whip him, striking him in the head and face more than 20 times. As Matthew pleaded for his life, McKinney and Henderson stole his shoes, got back into their truck, and left him to die.*

When I am laid in Earth, from *Dido and Aeneas*, piano solo (3:30) Henry Purcell (1659-1695)  
I have trod the upward and the downward slope, from *Songs of Travel* (2:00) Ralph Vaughan Williams

## INTERMISSION

Chanson d'Automne (Autumn Song), piano solo (2:30) Stephen Reynolds b. 1947

**Spoken Text:** *"He was my son, my first born. He was my friend, my confidant, my constant reminder of how good life can be- and ultimately how hurtful."* -Judy Shepard

Dark Lullaby, from *The Poet and the War* (3:30) Norbert Palej\* b. 1977  
Come Back!, from *Two Songs* (1:30) Roger Quilter+  
Autumn (3:00) Phyllis Batchelor! (1915-1999)

**Spoken Text:** *Judy Shepard had to learn details no mother should possess about her son: that a hard strike of a pistol butt had crushed his skull, that he had screamed for mercy, that he was discovered slumped on the ground and caked in blood except for the tear streaks down his face.*

For You There Is No Song (3:00) Leslie Adams^ b. 1932

**Spoken Text:** *"On October 12th, 1998, my firstborn son, and my hero died. I keep wondering the same thing that I did when I first saw him in the hospital. What would he have become? How could he have changed his piece of the world to make it better? Matt officially died in a hospital, but he actually died on the outskirts of Laramie, tied to a fence, left there, by himself. But he was not alone. First, he had the beautiful night sky and the same stars and moon we used to see through a telescope. Then he had the daylight and the sun to shine on him. And through it all, he was breathing in the scent of the pine trees from the snowy range. He heard the wind, the ever-present Wyoming wind for the last time."* -Dennis Shepard

Leiermann/Täuschung aus "Die Winterreise", von Franz Schubert, piano solo (4:30) Franz Liszt (1811-1886)  
(The Hurdy-Gurdy Player/Illusion from "The Winter Journey" by Franz Schubert)

**Spoken Text:** *"Matthew Shepard's death was not in vain. It awakened a nation to the injustices faced by some individuals and ignited a movement for equality."* - Chad Griffin, former president of the Human Rights Campaign

Both Sides Now (5:00) Joni Mitchell\*! b. 1943, arr. Sheng-Ching Hsu^! b. 19—  
Blackbird (2:00) John Lennon (1940-1980) and Paul McCartney b. 1942, arr. Brian Finley\* b. 19—

**Spoken Text:** *"I promised Judy Shepard, when she saw me in the Oval Office, that this day would come. After more than a decade of opposition and delay, we've passed inclusive hate crimes legislation to help protect our citizens from violence based on what they look like, who they love, how they pray, or who they are."* -Barack Obama, 2009

It Takes Time (3:00) Shirley Eikhard\*! (1955-2022)  
If I had my way (4:00) arr. Marcel d'Entremont\*+  
Frank Wildhorn b. 1958

**Spoken Text:** *"I feel it necessary to show that there doesn't need to be this kind of violence and hatred in our world. And that loving one another doesn't mean that we have to change our beliefs; it simply means that we choose to be compassionate and respectful of others. Hate is a learned behaviour; we can unlearn that behaviour. We can live our lives in love, if we make that choice."* -Judy Shepard

Bridge Over Troubled Water (4:30) Paul Simon b. 1941  
arr. Dakota Scott-Digout\*

^ Indicates a BIPOC composer  
+ Indicates a 2SLGBTQIA+ composer

\*Indicates a Canadian composer  
! Indicates a female composer