



Sheila Heffernon, Director  
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Spring 2023

Dear Friend:

I invite you to support an important project being undertaken by Da Camera Singers: a performance this spring of the oratorio, *Considering Matthew Shepard* by Craig Hella Johnson. It is scored for choir, soloists and chamber orchestra. We will perform this moving work on Sunday, May 21 at 4:00 pm in Greenfield High School.

Craig Hella Johnson wrote, "In composing *Considering Matthew Shepard* I wanted to create, within a musical framework, a space for reflection, consideration and unity around his life and legacy." Jason Marsden, Executive Director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, calls *Considering Matthew Shepard* "by far the most intricate, beautiful and unyielding artistic response to this notorious anti-gay hate crime." Audiences describe this work as "brilliant," "powerful," "innovative," "dazzling," and "gripping." Da Camera Singers are proud to be presenting the Western Massachusetts premier of this important work. We are excited, as well, to be partnering with Lesléa Newman, award winning poet, author and one of the librettists of the oratorio. She will do a presentation, "He Continues to Make a Difference: The Story of Matthew Shepard" on April 22, which will be open to the public and free of charge. Ms. Newman, a Valley resident, will also introduce our performance of the oratorio in May.

Please consider becoming a **Friend of Da Camera**, or renewing your membership. Contributions are tax-deductible and will be recognized in our program. Make your check out to Da Camera Singers, fill out the form, and return it to Melissa Valentine, 40 Blossom Lane, Amherst, MA 01002. You may also donate on-line via the Da Camera Singers webpage, [dacamerasingers.org](http://dacamerasingers.org), and entering your information in the comment box. We are grateful for your support!

Become a part of keeping the choral arts alive in the Valley and stand with us in our support of all persons, celebrating the strength of diversity and inclusion, and affirming the primacy of love over hate.

Thank you,  
Francis G. Couvares, President

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to be a **Friend of Da Camera!**

**Companion** (\$300 and up) \_\_\_\_\_ **Benefactor** (\$200-299) \_\_\_\_\_

**Patron** (\$100-199) \_\_\_\_\_ **Sponsor** (\$50-99) \_\_\_\_\_ **Donor** (\$5-49) \_\_\_\_\_

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