



Matthew
Shepard
Foundation
Erasing Hate since 1998

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To the cast and crew of Da Camera Singers,

On behalf of myself, Dennis and the staff of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, I want to thank you for taking on the task of performing *Considering Matthew Shepard*. The three-part fusion oratorio, which has been performed across the country, shares the life and legacy of our son Matt through a variety of musical styles seamlessly woven into one unified voice.

Composer, Craig Hella Johnson's blending of poetry, newspaper reports, interviews, and passages from Matt's personal journal creates a powerful experience, making *Considering Matthew Shepard* a significant artistic expression of Matt's story. Today, you become an integral part of that story and Matt's legacy to foster a more caring and just world.

Considering Matthew Shepard, with its powerful messages, unfortunately, continues to be relevant today, as hatred and division cloud our efforts towards equality. Yet, it is your courage to engage in what can be an emotional and sometimes life-changing process, that helps sustain my optimism and ignite my eagerness to continue in this critical advocacy work.

Once again, we thank you for your participation in a production that often raises so many personal feelings. We encourage you to use this opportunity to inspire conversation on how to create change and challenge your community to identify and address hate that lives within your schools, neighborhoods, and homes.

We applaud and appreciate your efforts.

Best Wishes,

Judy Shepard
Co-Founder and President
Matthew Shepard Foundation