



MEDIA ALERT FOR EDITORS, COLUMNISTS, BLOGGERS, CRITICS, & CALENDAR LISTINGS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MENALIVE PRODUCES the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PREMIERE of ANDREW LIPPA'S NEW WORK UNBREAKABLE

Presented by MenAlive - Orange County Gay Men's Chorus

WHAT: UNBREAKABLE by Andrew Lippa

WHEN: Saturday, April 2, 2022 @ 3pm and 8pm

WHERE: Meng Concert Hall, Cal State Fullerton 800 N State College Blvd,
Fullerton, CA 92831

TICKETS: Free Will Offerings/Pay What You Can

INFORMATION: www.ocgmc.org

Orange County, CA: February 23, 2022

MenAlive proudly presents the Southern California premiere of Broadway composer Andrew Lippa's latest choral masterwork, **UNBREAKABLE**. The experiences of literary giant Gertrude Stein, trans-rights activist Sylvia Rivera, and Bayard Rustin - an out African American civil rights leader who worked alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. are among the true stories that make up this 14-movement choral work that spans 120 years of LGBTQ history in America.

MenAlive Creative Director **Robb Neal** was struck by Lippa's question "if we don't tell our stories, who will?" Neal added, "Not only do we need to know and understand what happened to us historically, at a more fundamental level, it's important to recognize that we existed at all, and that we weren't actually invisible." Director **Ryan Holihan** notes the importance of the piece. "The LGBTQ+ community has a rich history of people fighting to be seen and heard

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while bravely facing fear, hatred, and even global pandemics,” says Holihan. “*Unbreakable* presents some of these people and moments from the past in order to celebrate how far we’ve come, remember who we’ve lost, and optimistically looks forward to a better time for all of us. While we are still dealing with the current pandemic and its consequences, what better time is there to remind ourselves of these stories in order to find hope, resilience, and a loving, unbreakable community?”

UNBREAKABLE by Andrew Lippa
Musical Direction by Bob Gunn
Stage Direction by Ryan Holihan

GUEST soloists for UNBREAKABLE:

Elizabeth A. Bouton Summerer of Torrance
Annemarie Randle-Trejo of Anaheim

Featuring MenAlive soloists:
Philip Lee of Tustin
Robby Mason of Los Angeles
Edward McDonald of Santa Ana
Jason Pascual of Laguna Hills
Eric Saggese of Rancho Mission Viejo

For more information about MenAlive, go to www.ocgmc.org

ABOUT MENALIVE

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit, MenAlive’s mission is “Through music, men’s voices unite as a vehicle to entertain, educate, bring healing, joy, community and build bridges to the public at large.” Founded in 2001 by former Artistic Director Rich Cook, MenAlive has grown into one of Orange County’s largest choruses and continues to be an active and respected partner in the Southern California arts scene.

Now in its 20th Anniversary Season, MENALIVE continues to produce full-scale productions that combine song, dance, and theatrics to provide shows of enormous popular appeal for all ages and backgrounds. This past year was difficult for the chorus as a performing arts organization, and the chorus was only able to make their presence known via virtual events. This concert season marks the return to live and in person rehearsals and performances of a wide range of musical styles including classical, jazz, gospel, traditional, contemporary, musical theatre, and popular hits. During its 20-year history, several major and noted guest stars have joined MENALIVE in performance over the years, including Michael Feinstein, Debbie Reynolds, BenDeLaCreme,

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Ruta Lee, Ben Vereen, Sam Harris, Leslie Jordan, David Burnham, Alec Mapa, Nikki Blonsky, Broadway legend Bernadette Peters, and, of course, the one and only Liza Minnelli.

MenAlive is more than just Arts and Entertainment. The chorus actively promotes understanding and acceptance to the community at large. Today, 74% of LGBTQ youth are harassed and have 300% higher suicide rates than others, while aging gay seniors have fewer programs and social outlets within their reach. Knowing these statistics, MenAlive continually strives to be a living testament that family—however one defines it—is a crucial anchor for all of us. MenAlive is proud to stand as positive role models to LGBTQ+ youth, while also providing a safe and accepting family to their chorus members and volunteers of various ages and backgrounds. And through their outreach programs, MenAlive is committed to an ongoing mission of breaking down the doors of discrimination and building bridges of trust where, before, there was only fear and misunderstanding. MenAlive's hope is that through free performances, their many public appearances, and their expressions of love and friendship, they can continue to serve as positive, visible examples that LGBTQ+ people are both unconditionally loving—and unconditionally loved.

Additional information: www.ocgmc.org

MenAlive In The Community: www.ocgmc.org/community

Follow us on Instagram, YouTube, Twitter, Facebook - @MenAliveChorus

For further press inquiries, additional editorial content, press photos, additional information, or to schedule interviews, please contact us:

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