



# tonality

Tonality is a vocal ensemble whose mission is to **DELIVER AUTHENTIC STORIES** through voice and body to **INCITE CHANGE, UNDERSTANDING,** and **DIALOGUE.**

A portrait of Alexander Lloyd Blake, a Black man with long dreadlocks, wearing a dark blue suit jacket over a blue and white checkered shirt and a light-colored tie. He is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

# ALEXANDER LLOYD BLAKE

Founder and Director, Tonality

One morning in Asheville, NC, I was approached by a police officer while on my way to retrieve some things from my car. The officer stopped and questioned me, and he asked for my identification. After he dismissed me, I was left confused and embarrassed, and I struggled to figure out the reason why I was approached by the officer. I did not do anything wrong. It became obvious to me that it was because I am a man of color.

This type of incident occurs far too often in our society, and it has to stop. Based on that experience, I knew that I needed to do something. No more racism, no more exclusion, no more discrimination. I decided to do what I do best: make music. I decided to form a choir whose purpose is to increase awareness through music. After meeting every member of Tonality, I realized that I was not alone, that many others possess a passion for unity, for bringing people together.

Since its formation a short time ago, Tonality has received support from artists who also value diversity and social justice through their music. India Carney from U.S. Season 8 of *The Voice* says, "Tonality is going to broaden horizons for music and show a diverse array of faces for classical music as we know it." Grant Gershon, Artistic Director of the Los Angeles Master Chorale, states, "Choral singing is about sharing our voices, our traditions, and our experiences. Tonality has the potential to bring the amazingly diverse voices, traditions, and experiences of Los Angelenos together in a powerful new way."

Tonality, now a diverse ensemble of 25 singers, was established on June 6, 2016. The singers come from a variety of backgrounds, ethnicities and countries. They are professional singers from Los Angeles who care about the future of our country and our world, and we sing in unity to actively demonstrate the beauty of diversity.



## PROGRAM

### **Resta di darmi noia**

Carlo Gesualdo de Venosa

### **Hear My Prayer, O Lord**

Henry Purcell

### **Deep River**

arr. by Alexander Lloyd Blake

### **Tulips**

Shawn Kirchner

### **Conversations with Strangers**

Natalie Dietterich

### **Big White Room**

Jessie J, arr. by Nathan Heldman

### **No, Child. No Chils**

Alex Wurman

### **Please Stay**

Jake Runestad

### **You Find Yourself Here**

Dale Trumbore

### **You Will Be Found**

Pasek and Paul, arr. by Nathan Heldman

# YOU ARE NOT ALONE

Tonality sings of the labels placed on those with mental illness. These fellow community members, treated as “different” reflect on our shame and feelings of misunderstanding.

This concert speaks through the eyes of poets and artists who have dealt or deal with mental illness issues. Additionally, the concert explores how we can be of support to members of our community who need compassion, understanding, and validation.

Additionally, the concert will include spoken stories of those within our Los Angeles and Tonality community as well who are personally affected by these issues. We can heal and grow together, through our united story and bond through singing.



## PROGRAM

### **Silence My Soul**

Music by Francisco F. Feliciano  
Text by Rabindranath Tagore

### **New Collective Consciousness: I. We Know New Collective Consciousness: II. How Dare You**

Music by Joseph Trapanese  
I. Text by Andri Snær Maganason  
II. Text by Greta Thunberg From her speech to the  
United Nations on 23 September 2019 and her  
speech to a climate rally in Edmonton (Alberta,  
Canada) on 18 October 2019

### **It's Not Too Late**

Music by Carlos Fernando Lopez  
Text by Gabriel García Marquez

### **Flames**

Music and Text by Christopher O'Brien

### **This Land Is Your Land**

Music by Woody Guthrie arr. Blake Morgan  
Text by Woody Guthrie

### **When Old Men Plant Trees**

# HOME CARE

“HomeCare,” is designed to educate us on aspects of climate change which go beyond our emotional response.

For this information we have invited Luke Wallace, musician and climate activist, and Ruth Andrade from Stand LA, to share their knowledge of this issue and ways to heal our land. It is my hope that you will leave this space aware of our limited resources and how we must work to protect them for generations to come.



**It's Not Too Late**, Music by Carlos Fernando Lopez



## PROGRAM

### **Declaration**

Alexander Lloyd Blake and Joe Trapanese

### **1232 Lyfe**

Music and Text by Alexander Lloyd Blake

### **In This House**

Music by Cristian Larios

Text by Cristian Larios and the 'Know and Exercise Your Rights' presentation of The Chicago Legal Protection Fund Community Navigator Fund

### **Tulips**

Music by Shawn Kirchner

Text by Sylvia Plath

### **Bridge Over Troubled Water**

Music and Text by Paul Simon

Arr. by Nathan Heldman

### **New Collective Consciousness: I. We Know**

### **New Collective Consciousness: II. How Dare You**

Music by Joseph Trapanese

I. Text by Andri Snær Maganason

II. Text by Greta Thunberg From her speech to the United Nations on 23 September 2019 and her speech to a climate rally in Edmonton (Alberta, Canada) on 18 October 2019

### **Build Me Up**

Music and Text by Roman GianArthur

### **Little Rose**

Music by Shawn Kirchner

Text by Shawn Kirchner, Quotation from the spiritual Steal Away

### **A Change is Gonna Come**

Music and Text by Sam Cooke

Arr. by Tehillah Alphonso

### **No, Child. No, Child.**

Music and Text by Alex Wurman

### **America Will Be!**

Music by Joel Thompson

Text by Langston Hughes, Emma Lazarus, Students from the Freedom High School Chorus, Orlando, Florida; Alterations by Joel Thompson

### **"#unitedwedream" (From "American Dreamers")**

Music by Melissa Dunphy

Text by Claudia D. Hernández



America Will Be! Music by Joel Thompson

# AMERICA WILL BE

America Will Be attempts another sense of patriotism; one where a true awareness of how self-evaluation and refinement can bring about the country in which we all can be proud to live.

The Tonality Chamber Choir presents America Will Be, a renewed vision for an inclusive America. The repertoire conjures a patriotic future for the United States for all of us. The Chamber Choir employs a "choral spectrum", traditional choral sounds also presented with contemporary styles reflect the diversity of voices and the inspiring storytelling Tonality weaves so well. As does an ideal America embrace the full diversity of humanity, America Will Be asks questions about the justice system, immigration, climate change, Black Lives Matter, mental health, LGBTQ+ equity while honoring the promise of a great America.



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Alexander Lloyd Blake | A Choral Spectrum

**BOOKING:**

david lieberman

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