

Peter Golub presents

AN EVENING AGAINST AIDS

ACT I

A REMARKABLE STILLNESS

Conceived and Directed
by Moises Kaufman

Conductor/Musical Director
Peter Golub

Part 1 The Waiting Room by Robert Ashley

Part 2 Rejoice in the Lamb
 Music by Benjamin Britten
 Text by Christopher Smart

Assistant Director	Weylin Symes
Lighting Design	Michael Giannitti
Light Board Operator	Brian Miller

Chorus	Susan Felber	Jonathan Bepler
	Shannon Jones	Michael Buhl
	Raven Meyers	Mike Cole
	Shawnette Sulker	Ian Jelinek
	Catherine Wenglowski	Ned Mooney
Doctor	Jason Little	
Patient	Peter Schmitz	
Piano	Allen Shawn	
Timpani	Weylin Symes	
Bass Drum	Selina Basey	
Nurses	Kate Cofrancesco	Dan Reid
	Rob Faucette	Andrea Reynolds
	Abby Gaudette	Rachel Smith
	Crissy Leight	Alexei Westphal
	Rachel Lewis	

-INTERMISSION-

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

The Cantata **Rejoice in the Lamb** was composed in 1943 by Benjamin Britten using as text segments of Christopher Smart's poem of the same name.

Smart (1722-1771), the most startlingly original poet of the eighteenth century, began his career as a respected poet and translator. However, in 1756, at 34, he began to suffer from a strange mental disorder. Modern day psychologists reviewing his symptoms agree that he was probably suffering from Turret's Syndrome (a neurophysical ailment characterized by sudden verbal outbursts) or at worst, a strange form of epilepsy. At the time however, he was diagnosed as insane and spent the rest of his life in a series of "madhouses".

It was there, in Bedlam, that he began a thorough exploration into formal biblical poetry that resulted in his most original and sublime work, including **Rejoice in the Lamb (Jubilate Agno)**. In his writing one detects a lucid and keen intelligence at war with the injustice of his situation.

His contemporaries read these writings (now thought to be brilliant radical literary explorations) and quickly dismissed them as symptoms of his "madness".

Smart died in debtor's Prison in 1771. It would take another hundred years for his poetry to be "discovered".

Britten (1913-76) was the most outstanding composer of the British generation that came to prominence just before WWII. He was a homosexual in England where homosexuality is a crime. Although highly respected and admired, he still felt ostracized and rejected. People close to him at the time continue to refer to his long periods of depression, caused largely by his sense of isolation.

Britten has carefully chosen certain passages of the full-length poem to set to music, and in this "re-construction" of the text he creates his own discourse. It now deals with his own sense of being ostracised and his struggle against adversity.

We have re-constructed his musical work by setting it in an AIDS ward. We hope that the juxtaposition of Smart's words, Britten's music and this dramatic setting will highlight not only the different passages of the piece but also articulate something about the experience of people living with AIDS.

ACT II

Trout

Conceived and Directed by Wendy Woodson
in collaboration with Peter Schmitz

Performer	Peter Schmitz
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Set and Costume Design Suzanne Duggan

Speakers

Spencer Cox

Kathy Doyle

Thanks to Selina Basey, Tony Carruthers, Terry Creach, Steve Fox, Marianne Finckel, Becky Godwin, David Groupe, Suzanne Jones, Leslie Noyes, Ann Resch, Roberta Tansman. Special thanks to Joan Edwards.