

LAVENDER

SHOW TITLE: LAVENDER PEN

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01:00:36	TIM	There's a storm. And we have to learn how to dance with the storm.
01:01:14	CHORUS	I have struggled through the rain. Felt the sting of every pain. Do I take a step and follow? Do I trust that all is well? If I dance with the storm, I'll be safe in your arms. I can see past tomorrow, I can feel all your love.
01:02:08	CHORUS	If I dance with the storm, I'll be safe, I'll be whole. I can run, I can rise, I face all good-byes, if I dance with the storm. With the storm.
01:03:20	TIM	I would've never thought to go back home to my roots in the South with this chorus. And when the election happened and our board chair said, "Why don't we go to the South?" I was like, "Really?" 'Cause it, like, my people. So, I get to go and sprinkle water on some pretty dry land.
01:04:01	STEVE	Take that big, deep breath. Go. Say thank you and turn around.
	STEVE	Well, we watched the vitriol that was pervading the entire election process and the way people were disregarding human worth and dignity and the way they treated each other. And what I realized was actually that hatred is the hatred I grew up with. I grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and it was okay to be openly racist. And it was okay to be homophobic. And, boy, they were.

		They were when I was growing up in Birmingham. And-and I thought we had gotten past that. And now here we are seeing it on a national scale recurring in a way that I never dreamt was possible. So we just all woke up. And there are two things that we can do.
01:05:01	STEVE	We can sing, and we can love. And so that's where we got the idea for the Lavender Pen tour.
	CHORUS	Amazing grace, how sweet the sound...
	TIM	Living and walking in the shoes of an LGBTQ person is not a easy thing. We fight perceptions. We fight bigotry. We fight discrimination. Walking into the room of a gay men's chorus is home. It's family. We shed all of that. There is no one in here that's gonna discriminate against you, make fun of you, bully you, or tell you you don't have the same rights. It's an amazing place.
	TIM	Many of you have asked, why are we singing religious music?
01:06:01	TIM	Because in the South, you don't get to making any kind of effective change without going through the church. For me, when I say, "I once was lost but now I'm found," was the day that I came out. Because I was no longer lost. I was found. And the rest of my life has been about truth-telling. And that's why we're singing religious music in the South. Amen?
	CROWD	Amen.
	TIM	Do I hear a "Amen" up in there?

	CROWD	Amen.
	TIM	We're gonna sing now. Don't fuck it up. Okay.
	CHORUS	[LAUGH]
	TIM	"I can run. I can hide. I can face all good-byes." Jesus. "I can chase." That's not the right words. Fuck me. This is not what I do. I'm not a cabaret singer that sits at the piano and sings. Okay. "I can run. I can hide..."
01:07:00	TIM	So, I like to surround myself with my people when I'm in here working or singing. So I have-I have queens everywhere. Just queens and queens. I have Harvey Milk who was like the most famous elected queen. I have myself meeting the queen. And, uh, the caption was, "Lucky Queen," meaning whichever one you wanted to choose. I grew up in a family full of Southern Baptist ministers. My father was a minister. My mother was a singer with Billy Graham. And I was expected to follow in the footsteps of the family and become a professional Southern Baptist. So then I did become the associate minister of music at First Baptist Church of Houston, a tiny church of 22 thousand members. When at the age of 35 I could take it no more. I was living a lie, and I couldn't live with myself. And so I came out, and I've been conducting gay and lesbian courses ever since. Early on in my career, having come right out of the Baptist church, I did not know anything about the gays.
01:08:02	TIM	Didn't know about a gay choir. Had no idea. And I came to my first

		rehearsal, and there was a young man on the front covered in sores, and I had no idea what that was. And I asked a friend of mine, um, "What is that?" And he said, "Uh, okay, you're really stupid and you don't know what you're doing, but I'll tell you. It's," um, "KS." That's- he has full-blown AIDS. And I-I was like, "What is he doing at rehearsal? This is so weird that you're that sick and come to rehearsal." And he goes, "Because it's keeping him alive. It's what's keeping him alive." And it was one of the moments that changed my life dramatically. And I realized that, like, dealing with men who have been so wounded, I had found the vehicle where my life could find meaning.
	TIM	You're so sweet. Thank you.
01:09:00	TIM	I needed that extra cup of coffee. Badly.
	JIMMY	The South is desperate right now for what we have, so. Two days ago, Department of Justice is arguing in court that it's okay to-to fire people for simply being gay?
	TIM	Absolutely.
	JIMMY	This is ridiculous. I was living in New Orleans with my partner. I was working as a social worker at a psychiatric hospital. They found out I was gay. And so suddenly I could not have any contact with the patients, 'cause I think homosexually-s-h-so-homosexuality might rub off on them or something, and-or they might catch it or something, I don't know. So, I was basically reduced to answering the phone. I couldn't talk to any of

		the patients. All I could do is answer the phone and direct the calls. So we sold everything we owned. I walked into my job and said, "Fuck you. I'm-I'm done." And we moved out here. Now, here it is, 20 years later, and we're still dealing with this shit.
01:10:05	TIM	Correct.
	JIMMY	I have family back in the South. Spent the first half of my life there. I came out in Jackson, Mississippi which is the first stop of our tour, so it'll be kinda interesting to go there. Haven't been there in a long time.
	TIM	How long has it been since you and your dad have had a conversation?
	JIMMY	Mm. Six or seven years. I have cancer now, and that's where my energy needs to be. Not trying to mend something that's not gonna ever get mended. Two days before my 50th birthday, he said he wished I'd never been born. So this is the issue for him. And it would be great if he came to this concert, 'cause it could maybe open some things up for him.
01:11:01	TIM	Can he?
	JIMMY	Yes.
	TIM	I'm calling you on your shit.
	JIMMY	Okay.
	TIM	Here-here's the deal. You know, right now you're assuming your dad knows how much it-how-how much it means to you.

	JIMMY	Mm.
	TIM	And now you're acting like a Southerner.
	JIMMY	Mm.
	TIM	Stop it.
	JIMMY	Right.
	TIM	Say what you need. Say what you want. And you tell him how important it is that he is in the audience.
	MITZI	Bark-quit barking. Okay, that's enough. [OVERLAP] Doggy. That's not Southern hospitality. Stop barking. Okay.
	JIMMY SR	You see my dog graveyard?
	MITZI	Hasn't been out there yet.
	JIMMY SR	Behind us there's... uh, I've had Boston Bulldogs since I was six years old. And I've got four buried back here.
01:12:01	JIMMY SR	But this one is the smartest. Well, I'm sorry it bit you. He has a bad attitude.
	JIMMY SR	You got to realize that I'm from the old school. I'm from the Bible Belt. It's not a way of life I was brought up with. And progress has been made throughout the whole country. But the South has always been very religious-type deal. What he does with his lifestyle is... that's his business. It's not mine. It's not something I'm gonna do.
	MITZI	His dad, he knows the chorus is coming to Jackson. And he hasn't

		really mentioned it. It's probably gonna take a little doing to get him to go. In fact, it probably would be any chorus. He's-he's not real big on... unless it's the Eagles or Three Dog Night or Neil Diamond, you don't go to see him.
01:13:02	MITZI	You know, he's not gonna just go see a chorus. It is his son singing in the chorus. And that's why I'm going to try my darndest to get him to go. Because, you know, you don't know what the future holds. You don't know-this might be the only time he would ever see him perform and hear him, and that's what I'm gonna stress to him. That, you know, you need to do this. You need to do this for Jimmy, and you need to do it for yourself.
	TIM	This chorus has an amazing history. And in that very beginning, the first thing we did was, in week number four, gather and join the tens of thousands of people at the candlelight vigil for Harvey Milk the day he was assassinated. So we're gonna go back to that very first song that the chorus sang. And we're going to sing "Singing for Our Lives." We have found that in the most troubled of times, singing and music has carried us through those times.
01:14:02	TIM	And this music, this very music, this very song, has helped carry this chorus for 40 years.
	SINGER	We are a peaceful, loving people. And we are singing, singing for our lives.
	CHORUS	We are gay and straight together. And we are singing, singing for our

		lives.
	CALLER 1	No, you're gonna bring the fight to the South. No, you're gonna bring a bunch of city-slickin' evil Sodom and Gomorrhites living in these wicked cities in America.
01:15:05	CALLER 1	You people need to get back in your little stupid closets where you belong. Quit acting like everybody wanting to accept you, 'cause that is never gonna happen. You're not persecuted. This isn't a civil right. It's called what's right and what's wrong. Bunch of perverts.
	CHRIS	There's no amount of singing that's gonna fix that.
	CHORUS	We are a land of many colors, and we are singing, singing for our lives. We are a gentle, angry people. And we are singing, singing for our lives. We are gentle, we are angry, we are young, and we are old. We are gay, straight, trans, cis, a land of many colors.
01:16:03	CHORUS	We are justice-seeking people. And we will keep on singing. Because we're singing, singing, singing, singing, singing for our lives.
01:17:05	DIRECTOR	You can kind all cram on two chairs. Can you cram on two chairs? Yeah. You guys just drove in a car together, right? From, like...
	MALE 2	We did.
	CREW BLACK SHIRT	Great. You're gonna be looking right at him. Right straight in.
	MALE 3	Okay. Yeah.

	FEMALE 1	Have y'all hit record?
	CREW	We are-it's-we're shooting.
	FEMALE 1	Oh, okay. Okay. All right, ask me a question.
	CREW	What's that?
	MALE 4	I said I don't know what I can give to you in an interview, but I will-I-I will gladly talk. I've never been a quiet man, so.
	MALE 5	The political, uh, system right now is just in complete turmoil. And anything that can be done to push people in the right direction is excellent, in my opinion.
	MALE 6	When you're listening to music, you don't see black. You don't see white. You don't see man. You don't see woman. You don't see gay. You don't see straight. It's-the-the music just rolls over you.
	MALE 7	Music is a universal language. Everyone speaks that language.
01:18:01	MALE 7	And we are dealing with a very divisive political climate right now. So what I want to do is, let's enjoy each other, embrace each other differences, and just, like, look, let's learn from this.
	FEMALE 2	It's, uh, heartbreaking at times. But, uh, that's one thing about our community is, we are good at celebration and finding ways to keep hope going around. You know, but it is an uphill battle.
	CHRIS	This last summer when we came on our advance tour, we had the opportunity to meet this beautiful transgender woman. She is the coordinator for

		the ACLU's transgender education and advocacy program. And it is an honor to be able to take some of our funds and benefit the ACLU. Please help in welcoming Malaysia Walker.
	MALAYSIA	If Mississippi is the hospitality state like they say they are, then everyone needs to be included. You know, a lot of our rights are being violated because of 45 or whatever.
01:19:06	MALAYSIA	You know, commander in chief, whomever hell he is. You know, a lot of, um, issues have come with him being elected. Because they're steadily snatching away our life.
	MALE 3	We have a person who's been elected to the highest office in our land who got there because he appealed to fear.
	FEMALE 3	Yes.
	MALE 9	But how powerful it is that you come to the place where we have historically embraced a fear of one another.
	MALE 10	Yes.
	FEMALE 4	But you still have fearmongers who are codifying hate, um, in our state.
	FEMALE 5	That terrible bill.
	CHRIS	That terrible bill, H.B. 1523, is the reason that we are kicking off the Lavender Pen Tour here in Jackson. We know that it is the most heinous anti-LGBT legislation in the country. You know, our hope is to be able to magnify and amplify what it is that you all are doing in the community.

01:20:00	MALAYSIA	H.B. 1523 is a law that allows legal discrimination because it violates their, uh, religious beliefs. Because of course in Mississippi you say anything about, uh, you know, anti-LGBT, everybody's gonna jump on it. But what happen is, they persuaded folks to think that it was, you know, anti-LGBTQ people, but it's anti-everyone.
	CHORUS	Somebody's calling my name, oh my Lord...
	MALAYSIA	This is just like the civil rights movement, what we're going through now.
	CHRIS	In 33 states, you can still be fired or kicked out of your home for being gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender. So are we really equal? No, we're not. What we're looking for is equal protection under the law. Period. And once we have that, we as a community will breathe a deep sigh of relief.
	CHORUS	I will sing unto the Lord a new song.
01:21:04	CHORUS	Hallelujah, sing praises to the thee. I will lift the savior up for all men to see. Hallelujah, sing praises to thee. For there's no other place I'd rather be. Hallelujah, sing praises to thee. Hallelujah...
	TIM	On the day after the election, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir contacted us and said we would like to go with you. So we got on the phone with their executive director and we're like, "Really? Really?"

		He goes, "Oh, this is-this is our mission. We sing gospel music, but our singing membership represents 13 religions and some with no religion. This is not about Jesus. It's about we love gospel music."
	TERRANCE	We share the need to bring love, hope, and acceptance to the world. And that's why we needed to go on tour with San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus to the South.
01:22:04	CHORUS	Everybody dancing. Everybody giving it up to Him. Everybody dancing. Everybody giving it up to Him. Dancing.
	TERRANCE	Being a gospel choir can open doors in the South that SFGMC can't. Even though a full third of the choir is gay.
	JIMMY	Hmm. Wow. That is gonna be awesome. This has been kind of a dream of mine for a l-a while, to bring chorus to the communities in this country that are suffering. You know, maybe we should take a minute to imagine the impact that we're gonna have here.
01:23:02	JIMMY	A big wave of love. Lavender ripple effect going out. My family's coming to see me. So, here we are, finally. I'm hoping my dad will become a little bit more open-minded. Maybe it'll crack open a little bit of that right-wing, hate-anything-that's-different-from-the-norm, you know, veneer that he has. I doubt it. But one can hope. Hey.
	MITZI	Hey.
	JIMMY	Ha-ha, hey.

	MITZI	I thought this was a one-man show.
	JIMMY	Ah-ha-ha.
	MITZI	James.
	JIMMY	You look lovely.
	MITZI	Well, thank you. You look very handsome.
	JIMMY	Thank you.
	MITZI	So excited we all got to be here.
	JIMMY	Me too. Hey there, old man.
	JIMMY SR	Hey. How you doing?
01:24:00	JIMMY	I'm good.
	MITZI	Y'all just look alike more and more each day.
	JIMMY	Do we really?
	MITZI	Yes, you do.
	JIMMY SR	Hmm.
	JIMMY	Cool.
	SINGER 2	I've got the picture. That you gave to me. And it's signed with love just like it used to be. The only thing different, the only thing new, I've got the picture. And she's got you. I've got the records that we used to share.
01:25:06	SINGER 2	And they still sound the same as when you gave them, Dear. The only thing different the only thing new, I've got the records. And she's got you. I've got the class ring that proved you cared. And still looks the same as when you gave it, dear.

01:26:01	SINGER 2	The only thing different, the only thing new. I've got these little things, and she's got you.
	JIMMY	Steve.
	STEVE	Did you see your dad yet?
	JIMMY	I'm about to go see him right now to find out. Yeah.
	MITZI	Judy's like, "I can't see him." And I said, "Watch that little turtlehead bop." [Gopher, gopher?]
	JUDY	I think the last song was probably my favorite.
	MITZI	Ask Pappy what his favorite song was.
	JIMMY	Which one was yours?
	JIMMY SR	Um...
	MALE 12	Patsy Cline.
	MITZI	Patsy Cline. Yeah.
01:27:00	JIMMY SR	It was great. Really good. I enjoyed. Believe it or not. Oh, she can rattle...
	MITZI	Oh my god. It was good.
	JIMMY	I'm so glad y'all came.
	MITZI	No, it was. It was good.
	JIMMY	Thank you, thank you, thank you for making the trip up here. Thank you. Okay. Hmm.
	BO DIDDLEY	Can't judge an apple by looking at a tree. You can't judge honey by

		looking at the bee. You can't judge a daughter by looking at the mother. You can't judge a book by looking at the cover. Oh, can't you see. Oh, you misjudge me. I look like a farmer, but I'm a lover.
01:28:00	BO DIDDLEY	Can't judge a book by looking at the cover.
	TIM	So here's what I do in the morning. I am going to be a guest on Real News on WERT.
	CROWD	[APPLAUSE]
	TIM	From your applause, I can tell that you don't listen to that station.
	CROWD	[LAUGH]
	TIM	They espouse everything that is the opposite of what I believe. It is gonna be awesome. I got an interview with the alt-right.
	CHORUS	[LAUGH]
	RADIO ANNOUNCER	Thank you for listening to the best conservative talk in Knoxville.
	NICK CRAWFORD	He's got some passionate feelings about health care.
	CALLER 2	When people are listening to President Trump talk about health care costs, or they're listening to the Democratic Party who wants to give everybody everything, uh, you know, what's next?
01:29:06	CALLER 2	You know, so you got health care right now. Oh, and you know, the minute you're born, you-you're owed housing. You're not owed housing. You got to work for it.

	NICK CRAWFORD	808 here on talk radio 92.3 FM broadcasting live. We have Mr. Tim Seelig. He's the artistic director, uh, of the Gay Men's Chorus in San Francisco.
	TIM	Right.
	NICK CRAWFORD	You're going around to cities all around the Southeast.
	TIM	We are.
	NICK CRAWFORD	Promoting unity and peace.
	TIM	That's correct.
	NICK CRAWFORD	Sounds wonderful.
	TIM	Isn't that great.
	NICK CRAWFORD	I mean, A, I, uh, I was in honor's choir when I was in high school. And I just love-I mean, love you out there, ladies. Love you. Love-I love you altos. I love you sopranos and first-especially first sopranos and things like that. But I love a good men's choir.
	MR. HENRY	When you initially started this, spread this message of peace and unity, it doesn't seem like there's exactly a-a reciprocation, if you will, from the other side, right? I-I-I guess I'm asking is, is there further things to be done to sort of bridge that unity? And mostly importantly, was there a specific moment or cause or impetus behind starting s-a such movement like this, at the time that you did?
01:30:03	TIM	We're hurting. We're scared. We're frightened. We woke up after the election. And I'm talking about the LGBT community and other communities

		that sometimes are called "other." Anybody that's "other" got scared. And so this is a concert tour with activism behind it. All the 300 singers paid their own way so that in every city, every dollar we raise from tickets or donations stays with beneficiaries in that-in that city. So we are raising money, and it will be divided, um, among four beneficiaries that we've chosen.
	NICK CRAWFORD	Abso-that is fantastic. And also I want to say too, um, no matter who you are and how you fell, uh, during the election, I think after the fallout, l-literally, no matter who you are, political persuasion, wherever you come from, there's been a lot of nonsense no matter who you are, that-has been in response to the election, and anybody out there using art to spread the message of unity, I think that's m-and-and peace, is probably more important than politics at the moment.
01:31:05	NICK CRAWFORD	Because we can't have political discussions, rational ones, if people are swinging baseball bats at each other.
	MR. HENRY	Right.
	NICK CRAWFORD	Or-or even just angry epithets.
	MR. HENRY	True.
	NICK CRAWFORD	Uh, no matter where you come from. And I think it's a beautiful thing and a beautiful sentiment. And I hope that people are touched by the sentiment.
	TIM	Thank you.

	NICK CRAWFORD	Got to take a short break. Stay with us.
	TIM	Great. This was not the show we thought we were coming to. We were armed.
	MR. HENRY	Oh, okay.
	TIM	Dang it.
	NICK CRAWFORD	See, I think you'll find that the people who are hostile, I think there's probably a little bit of a, um, a myth out in California that, like, there's all these people down here in the South-
	TIM	Abs-so-
	NICK CRAWFORD	That are hostile. Those are the-that is the extreme minority.
	TIM	Here's the cool thing.
	MALE 13	Absolutely true.
	NICK CRAWFORD	Is extreme minority.
	TIM	Here's the cool thing. The cool thing is I, being-
	NICK CRAWFORD	I mean, we think those people are weird.
	TIM	Mmm.
	NICK CRAWFORD	You know.
	MR. HENRY	A lot of the false assumptions on both sides create these fake realities that we all just exist in, you know? And, unless you ever really try and pursue real reality, what we talk about all the time...

	NICK CRAWFORD	That's what we say all the time.
01:32:00	NICK CRAWFORD	Reality's coming back. We're all people. We're just trying to make it. You know?
	TIM	Thanks.
	NICK CRAWFORD	Hey, no, thank you.
	TIM	That was great.
	MR. HENRY	Thanks for coming out.
	JOSH	The South is a myth, right? The South is a distancing technique. The South has been a place for people to overlay their fear. And I think the tour has engendered two very particular reactions. There are plenty of people that want this to happen because, let's bring attention to the needs of local communities. That's a great idea. But then the other side of it is, after being ignored for so long, the idea of a-of a prominent national organization doing a goodwill tour in the South feels very white, paternalist, and condescending. And so it's like, I'm sorry, you want to do what in the South? Like, did this anyone ask for this kind of help? I'm of two minds myself. I know that in the past, the experiences that I've had with large queer communities that are urban and not in the South has not been good. The way we describe it locally is that people show up thinking we're a bunch of dirt-eating cousin-fuckers.
01:33:04	JOSH	There's no way to nuance that with people whose version of the South is Gone with the Wind or Uncle Tom's Cabin. And that's all the South they get. But the South is radical

		and pissed off and anti-assimilationist as much as it is friendly and eating cornbread and grits.
	TIM	Right.
	JOSH	And we're all those things simultaneously.
	TIM	There's no way for us to-to fix that part of you that is resentful-
	JOSH	[LAUGH] No.
	TIM	That we're coming. There-we can't fix it. Um, however, uh, what I can say is, it never was the intent. And I think that-that people, uh, that choose to look at our tour here in that light, there's nothing I can do to change them. But there are all these people in the middle, in Charlotte, in Jackson, Mississippi...
	JOSH	Yeah.
	TIM	That really, um, can-can be affected. That's the people that we're going after.
	FEMALE 7	Ugh, [we have to look straight?] I think sometimes we get stuck in thinking that things are harder here than they are other places..
01:34:02	FEMALE 7	But really, there is a vibrancy and a resiliency here. And-and in fact, sometimes because you have to work so much harder at it, the community feels stronger.
	FEMALE 8	We're oppressed, you know, obviously. But we're also such a close-knit community, and-and that in itself is really beautiful.

		Finding community in a place where it's not easy to just be yourself.
	FEMALE 9	Everyone assumes that just because you're a queer in the South that you are not okay, that you are struggling. Um, we are incredibly resilient, incredibly strong, incredibly brave. But there are those narratives that still continue.
	FEMALE 10	So the friends that I do have that are in the gay community, or, like, any minority here, pretty much, it's, um, hush tones. They have to hide their identity a lot more, it seems. Um, 'cause they're afraid of their neighbors.
	FEMALE 9	Because of our very, very strong religious background here in the South, um, a lot of people are still-they still have the Bible thrown at them for all these terrible things. And the hyp-p-hypocrisy and the-the bigotry still exists in a big, big way.
01:35:02	FEMALE 11	My grandparents are homophobic. And, uh, I remember going to my first Pride Fest, like, two years ago. And I brought home a flag and they just burned it on our backyard.
	STEVE	This is the place where my life turned to hell. That gym right there, Mr. McDaniel, who was our principal, uh, made fun of a student who was perceived to be gay in front of the entire school. You-the worst thing you could be called was a homo. You could be a murderer, you could be a rapist, you could be anything. But the one thing that you couldn't be was gay. I am angry when I come back here, what happened

		to me, but I'm more angry that it didn't just happen to me. It's happening to a lot of other kids. And probably happening to kids right now.
01:36:01	STEVE	That's why I want to come here. I want to come for those kids.
	RILEY	When I started to date this trans guy, just the reaction to it was completely extreme. You know, they took me out of high school. And at one point they had kicked me out of the house. They put me in a Christian school and they had me going to a Christian therapist and all these things. Um, it was just kind of explosive, just the way that they reacted to the whole situation. My parents, really, they-they could stop me from going to the concert. Obviously, I really, really want to go. I want to see this and I want to have this experience with everyone. I will try to do everything I can to be there. I'll never forget this conversation that I had with my dad. He gave up on his art because his dad sat down and told him that it was making people, like, perceive him to be weird, I guess.
01:37:00	RILEY	And made him look different because his art was different. So he gave up on his art to become more likeable. And I was sitting there the whole time thinking, he's gonna get to the point where he tells me that I shouldn't do that. That I shouldn't give up on being myself for other people. And it didn't get to that. It got to, "I think you should change yourself, and you should be the way that other people want you to be because that's how

		you're gonna be the happiest. You're gonna be the happiest when other people around you like you and are supportive to you."
	FEMALE 12	When you come out, you already have to accept that suddenly all the movies aren't about you. All the songs aren't about you.
	VICTORIA	Yeah.
	RILEY	Everything isn't about you. You have to accept that-
	RILEY	You can't relate.
	FEMALE 12	You have to accept that even in one of the more accepting countries, you-only about half the population even supports gay marriage.
	RILEY	Yeah.
	ASHLE	I am changing. Trying to...
	HOST	Hello, hello, hello everybody. How are you? Thank you so much for [OVERLAP] coming out tonight. What a great crowd. Please give it up for Ashle.
01:38:09	ASHLE	To find a way to understand. But I need you, I need you, I need a hand. I am changing. Seeing everything so clear.
	ASHLE	I joined the chorus under a different name and looking a lot different. So I'm transgender, and I'm actually transitioning. So for the last year, I've been transitioning from male to female. And when I started transitioning last year, I was very nervous that I wasn't going to be accepted. I was worried that I would have to give up

		my community. And what happened was the exact opposite. These men made it very clear to me that I was welcomed here, and this didn't have to go anywhere.
01:39:06	ASHLE	All over again.
	ASHLE	Being ashamed of who I was as a feminine person after years of suppressing all that at a later age, all that finally came out, and I was able to be myself. And it's changed my life so much. It's almost like this feeling of euphoria.
	ASHLE	Oh, that feels good.
	ASHLE	When I first heard about the tour, and I was going through my transition, I thought, well, how do I fit into this? Because there's no way I can hide in the South looking the way that I do.
01:40:00	ASHLE	And at first I was like, I'm not sure I want to go, I'm not sure if I'm in a good headspace for that. And someone said to me, this could be transformative for me. And one thing I thought about is making connections. We can make connections when we go outside of our community.
	CINDY	Hi.
	ASHLE	Hi.
	CINDY	Welcome. I'm Cindy.
	RILEY	Cindy. Ashle. Nice to meet you.
	CINDY	Nice to meet you.
	FRING	I'm Fring. Nice to meet you.

	CINDY	Fring. Nice to meet you. I'm a hugger.
	FRING	Oh, wow.
	CINDY	Welcome to Alabama.
	ASHLE	Hi.
	CINDY	Hi, come on in.
	ASHLE	Thank you so much. Thank you so much.
	CINDY	You're welcome. Right on in.
	MALE 14	Let's bow. Our holy father in heaven, we thank you so much for this day. We thank you for the safety of our friends as they've traveled and asked father that you will continue to give them safety and, uh, help them as they are going through the tour, that-that all things will go well. And in all these situations that we'll always be like neighbors and help one another out. Amen.
01:41:02	CINDY	I used to be in chorus when I was in high school. And, um, I-we-our congregation and our belief is we don't use instruments with the way we worship the Lord. Because we don't find examples of that in the New Testament. But I have great memories of being in the chorus.
	ASHLE	While I'm not a terribly religious person anymore, you know, I still have this spiritual energy, this spiritual connection partly 'cause I grew up in a church. And it was just-it's so hard for me to go back to that because of the way I was treated as a child. Like in the Pentecostal Church, I was prayed

		over, like, every week. Like, when I was-when I came out as, you know, gay at 16, 17, pray the gay away and-and, you know, remove the demons, and you're a horrible person and that sort of thing. And that just leaves so many scars when you keep trying to change or be something different. And you're like, why isn't it working? I keep doing this. And-and it just, it breaks your spirit. So it's hard for me to go back there.
01:42:00	CINDY	We love everybody's soul, and we hope to bring as many people to heaven with us as we can, and that's one of those feelings that I think our-that's why we have the hospitality that we do.
	MALE 14	It-it's-it's not that we got to agree on a particular thing. But as long as we can agree to-to be civil. As long as we can agree to accept, that's your decision.
	FRING	Mm-hmm.
	MALE 14	My decision might be different.
	FRING	Yeah.
	MALE 14	But you don't wake up every morning, decide in your life based on what I believe or what I think. And I don't wake up every day going, okay-and-and that's where I-I think sometimes, it's like, no, you've got to accept this. You know, you've got to believe this instead of just going, "Where's the way we could work together where we don't inter-interfere with one another?"
	ASHLE	Being here, being able to have a-a conversation, whether we agree or

		disagree with each other, is important. And I wish that we could see, like, more of this just in society.
	FRING	Yes.
	ASHLE	The fact that you opened your home.
	FRING	Yes.
	ASHLE	To us. I could not imagine, you know, years ago sitting, um, you know, in-in the South, in-in Birmingham, Alabama with a family, it-that, just, opening their doors to us.
01:43:08	ASHLE	And it's just beautiful, so, thank you.
	MALE 14	Uh, that better?
	MALE 15	I don't know.
	MALE 14	There. There we go. That looks better.
	TIM	How do you like it? You like it? Actually, the-the, um, the biggest concern I think for us was, will anybody show up if we sing? And are there any gays.
	CROWD	[CHEERS AND APPLAUSE]
	TIM	So, I just want-I want you to know that there are some ground rules about a concert when I'm there is, you just never know what to expect. But, people, here's the deal. I spent my entire life up until six and a half years ago in Texas. Now-I know. No, don't boo or hiss.
01:44:00	TIM	Don't do it.

	CROWD	[LAUGH]
	TIM	So, uh, until I was 35 years old I was the associate minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Houston, Texas with a beautiful wife and two beautiful children when I came out.
	CROWD	[APPLAUSE]
	TIM	No, no, no, no, no. No, you don't need to clap. It was shit, so.
	CROWD	[LAUGH]
	TIM	No, no, no. "Oh, that's nice." "I bet that went well for you." Yeah, well, no, it didn't.
	TIM	I could never say what was bothering me. I fought it as long as I could. I knew it. But did what I was supposed to do. And that was go to a nice Baptist college and marry a nice Baptist girl. And my wife and I, we would sing together in church doing pageants and dressing up and putting on makeup, which I don't even do now. And I knew all along that there was something deeply wrong with this. But I thought I could certainly pray it away.
01:45:01	TIM	And-and I was a strong person, and I could do this.
	TIM	As we traveled, many people flocked around Jesus. Many of them wanted to be healed. Many of them wanted to see again.
	TIM	When I professed that I am a creature of God and God made me gay, the church chose to throw me out. A group from the church sat me down

		and said, "Here's what's gonna happen. You're gonna pack your car with whatever you can get in your car. You're gonna say good-bye to your kids, and you're gonna leave. And you're not gonna come back. And we're gonna tell the kids that you're on a concert tour. And it'll give everybody some time to figure all of this out." I will never get over that pain. The church made very conscious decision to not only fire me, but to finance litigation against me.
01:46:06	TIM	They were not going to stop until I had lost everything. My house was foreclosed. Bankruptcy. Lost both of my jobs. So what was there to live for? I think my ex-wife would have done a lot better without the church behind her saying, you know, "Hurt him as much as you can. We are going to make sure that he's ruined." And then she moved away with my two kids. And I was not able to see them. I hate the church for all of the things they did to my family.
01:47:09	TIM	It would be really easy for us to stay at home in our San Francisco bubble and say, "I'm done with the hurt, I'm done with the rejection, let's just stay here." But we're not gonna get anywhere by just singing to our own people.
	TIM	One of the important aspects of this tour is for our members to reconnect.
	MALE 16	Mm-hmm.
	TIM	To their roots and to understand that...

	MALE 16	Mm-hmm.
	TIM	We can-we don't sing in churches.
	MALE 16	Mm-hmm.
	TIM	Actually, there are very few churches in San Francisco.
	MALE 16	Mmm.
	TIM	So this is gonna be a spiritual journey.
	MALE 16	Well, it's-it's a common thing here for those LGBTQ+ individuals to transcend the faith tradition that they grew up with. They learn how to let it go to leave it behind. Even leave the South. Like I'm-I'm getting out of here.
01:48:00	TIM	Right.
	MALE 16	And there's so many people that they really do want that, and they can't have it. It's been taken from them, and so...
	TIM	Right.
	MALE 16	They need to come back and redeem it and reclaim it and make it their own again. Because they can't be whole until they can go back and do that.
	TIM	Yeah.
	MALE 17	So what did you all have in mind?
	TIM	We know that some people are not gonna come because the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus. And we want to provide the opportunity to, um, to reach out in churches. What we need is a place to sing.

	FEMALE 14	Everybody right here would absolutely love to have you. But the man that stuck his hand in the door is our new senior minister. He has to-has the final say.
	TIM	Sure. Of course.
	FEMALE 14	And, um, we just don't know what he's going to say. But we are going to ask him, and it-and I hope he will say yes.
	MALE 16	Mm-hmm.
	FEMALE 14	Because I'm going to be really disappointed if he says no.
	TIM	Thank you.
	TIM	I'm writing to let you know that the church that I love with all my heart has said no to the request for using our space for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.
01:49:12	TIM	They have a new senior minister who is homophobic and a bigot and discriminatory. And is not-I know for a fact that he does not like the direction that the church was going, which was toward inclusion. And he was placed there by the bishop to turn it around. And so he started with us.
	CHORUS	Love can build a bridge between your heart and mine. Love can build a bridge. Don't you think it's time? Don't you think it's time?
01:50:07	MALE 18	The civil rights movement came here. Brown Chapel became the place where all the activity of the civil rights movement took place. We marched into history. And we inspired the world.

	FEMALE 15	Today we connect Selma to Stonewall, to Castro. We bring all of that together. And what binds us together is our humanity and our personal hope.
	MALE 19	We want to thank you guys for coming to Selma. And we know that, uh, Selma has a lot of historical significance to everybody. And at the end of the day, I like to say they took that bridge for hate and changed it to love. So thank you all for coming.
	MALE 20	God clearly says homosexuality is abomination. He didn't create people like that.
01:51:01	MALE 20	And then it-on top of that, try to twist it and say it's discrimination. And then come to a place that was known of, you know, of civil rights movements, and try to compare it. I mean, that's just a fallacy. If you think logically about it, it doesn't-it doesn't match up.
	FEMALE 16	I've actually gone through this before. This was a struggle for me for years where I had felt like I was gay and I didn't want to be that way. Because I know for a fact that it's wrong in the bible. And so I did my best to stray away from that lifestyle. Which is why I found the best person on earth right here next to me. I've never actually been with a girl. But I've had these, you know, feelings. Like, I belong with a girl. But I know for a fact my religion says that's wrong, so I wasn't go against my religion for that.

	CHORUS	We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome some day.
01:52:02	CHORUS	Deep in my heart...
	TERRANCE	Bringing 200 gay men into any church is gonna test it, along with a whole bunch of non-Christians singing on the interfaith choir. So that's pushing just every kinda button you can push.
	CHORUS	We shall, we shall, we shall overcome some day. We shall, we shall, we shall overcome. We shall, we shall, we shall overcome. We shall, we shall, we shall overcome. We shall, we shall, we shall overcome. Deep in my heart, I do believe, we shall, we shall, we shall, we shall, we shall, we shall, we shall, we shall, we shall overcome, some day.
01:53:51	TIM	We don't expect that within six months Mississippi is gonna change its mind, or North Carolina's gonna change its bigotry over the bathroom bill. What we are focused on is that every person that we do meet has an interaction that changes them. That's about it.
	RILEY	There she is. Hey.
	FEMALE 12	How y'all doing?
	RILEY	What a hottie.
	FEMALE 12	I've been looking forward to this for, like, months, I guess, to be able to go to a concert. Especially, like, for a group that, you know, are people like us.

	RILEY	Yeah. Just be able to be open in a public venue.
	VICTORIA	Yeah. I think there's also like a scary part to it too. Because, like, with so many attacks, like, it's a huge risk to go out and be openly gay because there's so many things going on now. And it's just like...
	RILEY	Especially in the Bible Belt.
	VICTORIA	Scary. Yeah. And...
01:54:51	RILEY	You just kinda have to worry about people taking something like this, like this concert to an extreme level, uh, and taking it as like an attack on, you know, a Southern way of life or however they might describe it. The-the ratio of people who are accepting to the ratio of people who are not accepting is very disheartening.
	FEMALE 12	Yeah.
	RILEY	Yeah.
	SINGER 3	We feel, we hear, your pain, your fear. But we're here to say who you are is okay. And you don't have to go through this on your own. You're not alone.
	CHORUS	You have more friends than you know.
01:55:54	CHORUS	Some who surround you, some you are destined to meet. You'll have more love in your life. Don't let go, give it time. Take it slow. Those who love you the most may need more time to grow. It's gonna be okay. You have more friends than you know.

	TOM	I'm Tom.
	VICTORIA	I'm Victoria.
	TOM	Nice to meet you, Victoria. Pleasure to meet you.
	FEMALE 12	Nice to meet you too.
	TOM	The most amazing thing for us has been visiting with choirs at colleges and students. Because for us, to be able to meet you guys and to sing to you guys and share what our love and appreciation of music and art is with you is probably the highest honor that we have. It just is, like, the most inspiring thing to see people who are out, people who are out in places where it's not easy to be out is the coolest damn thing.
	RILEY	Yeah, so, as I, like, mentioned, I'm not really out yet.
01:56:57	RILEY	And I wasn't even really able to be honest where I am right now with my family. It is kinda hard for me to, you know, to get to be myself in my own home. And, you know, I haven't been very, like, actively involved in, like, this community just because I-I haven't really had the opportunity just 'cause my parents have been so closely monitoring me. So to be able to get out today and come to this is, like, a huge opportunity for me. And it's-it's amazing because I'm just, I feel so, like, grateful to be around people who are so open. And it seriously means the world to me to be here.

	TOM	We have a phrase in the chorus that says, "You have to be the one that you needed when you were 14." And, I-I can't tell you how many people are gonna look out into the audience and see that.
	CHORUS	Some who surround you, some you are destined to meet. You'll have more love in your life. Don't let go, give it time. Take your time. Take it slow. Take it slow. Those who love you the most may need more time to grow.
01:58:02	CHORUS	It's gonna be okay. It's gonna be okay.
	SINGER 3	You're gonna be okay. You have more friends than you know. More friends than you know.
	TOM	Essentially, one of our members who's from the South had a friend who said, "I'm gonna get a couple people together and I want to make a lavender quilt."
01:59:08	TOM	And made this quilt for us. And so we bring it with us to every single city to show everyone that love can build a bridge.
	JACK	This quilt is about community. And so I decided I wanted to build this quilt with the intention of sitting down with people in these different communities and having a conversation as we quilt. So when I started building the quilt, a lady who I know came up to me. And she said, "Oh, well, what's it for?" So you-Rhonda is this incredibly conservative, um, very Republican, very Christian person. And I thought, "Ugh, okay, so I'm-I'm gonna tell her."

	MALE 21	Here you go.
	JACK	What this is. She's so conservative that she and her husband won't hold hands in public. So I sort of buckled down and I said, "Well, it's for the San Francisco..." Sorry. "San Francisco Gay Men's Choir."
02:00:09	JACK	And she goes, "Oh, that's really lovely." And I said, "You know, they're doing this," uh, "tour of Southern states with horrible laws on the books, and they're trying to go and start a conversation, and I want to start a conversation around this quilt. And I would really love it if you would come in and quilt with me when we get it done." And she paused and thought for a second. And she said, "Well, I'll-I would like to do that if it would be okay if I prayed while I quilted." Thought, "Well, fair enough." You know, I don't have an issue with that. But I said, "Can you tell me what it is you want to pray for?" 'Cause I thought, gosh, I'm not sure I want somebody quilting on the quilt if they're praying that all gay people just go away. That may not be what I want. She took a moment and she paused and she said, "Well, I think I would just be praying for acceptance." I thought, "Wow, that would be amazing." And she said, "Because I don't think it's important who you love. I only think that it's important that you love." And I thought...
02:01:10	MALE 22	Oh my god.
	JACK	Right? So, this is a person I had assumed I knew what she would say

		and what she would think. And I didn't. And I was wrong. And so it was really profound to me, 'cause I realized, I was doing to the people in rural America that voted for Trump what I would be furious if they did to me.
	MALE 22	You're right.
	ON TAPE	Just, anywhere you feel, any time the negative emotions start to emerge, observe that emotion and repeat to yourself this area is love. This area is me. [INAUDIBLE] to breathe, deep breathe the very bottom of your belly.
02:02:19	FEMALE 17	I hear from y'all a lot about the relief that comes from figuring out that, like, internal identity and external performance. But I also hear talk about having that responsibility of other people's perceptions on you.
	ASHLE	It was a great thing for me to learn that trans is this umbrella, and-and everybody has their own personal journey and their own personal identity. And I think for some people, they expected that I was gonna transition and also become, like, Laverne Cox or something. You know, or my drag persona with, like, all the hair and the lipstick every day, and-and all that. And-and I think people are realizing that it-it's not about hair and makeup.
	MALE 23	Interesting, also, Ashle, hearing you talk about, like, how you look. Because you look very feminine to me. And so, I mean, again, that's-it's like, for me to judge or say anything like that, but it's interesting, again, that internal

		feeling versus the external feeling.
	MALE 24	Yeah, yeah.
	MALE 23	And whereas like, for you, for yourself, I'm sure you are, um, like, looking at yourself very closely.
	ASHLE	Yes. 'Cause in-on any given day, and it happens every day, like, I'll be called "ma'am" and "sir" by many different people.
	MALE 23	Right.
02:03:19	ASHLE	I have a hard time understanding how other people see me-
	MALE 23	Perceive you.
	ASHLE	Because of that. Like, I always feel like I have to be either on one side or the other.
	MALE 25	Mm-hmm.
	ASHLE	Like there's not really middle place for me.
	ASHLE	The tour has exposed a lot of things that I need to figure out. Maybe there's somewhere in the middle that I can exist as a gender-fluid person. I see kids younger and younger now, they just don't care. Like, they're playing somewhere in the middle, or they're like, they're this one day or they're that one day. And maybe it's this generational thing. And I feel like it has to be this or it has to be that. And I'm not giving myself a break and saying, "You can be somewhere in the middle. It's-it's okay." A friend of mine gave me this thing up here, and he could see

		that I was struggling. And that's, I don't know, that's what "love can build a bridge" means to me now. It's just, it's bridging that-that gap that I had in me.
02:04:25	ASHLE	And now I have to sing that later. Think I'm ready.
	JIMMY	The whole week has been texting. Made me realize the cancer's making me weaker. The energy level's definitely dropped. The hospital called yesterday and bumped up the surgery to next Tuesday. So...
	SCARLETT	Yeah?
	JIMMY	Uh, start chemo next week. I'm just like, I'm ready-
	SCARLETT	So you wore out. You wore out.
	JIMMY	I'm tired.
	SCARLETT	But you're here.
	JIMMY	I'm here-
	SCARLETT	And there's a lot of love-
	JIMMY	And this is-
	SCARLETT	And there's a lot of stuff going on...
	JIMMY	It's so uplifting, you know.
	SCARLETT	I'm just happy to see you.
	JIMMY	Oh, I'm so glad to see you too.
	SCARLETT	I'm so happy. I miss seeing you. And Mama said hey.
	JIMMY	Oh. Tell her I said hi.

	SCARLETT	She was like...
	JIMMY	Tell her I said hi.
	SCARLETT	She was like, "Are 'y'all going?" I see-we're gonna-we're here right now.
02:05:26	SCARLETT	We're gonna see him in a couple hours...
	JIMMY	Awesome. Awesome.
	SCARLETT	So she was like really excited, so. I just love you.
	JIMMY	I'm so happy. So, so happy you drove up here.
	SCARLETT	You got to see your buddy in Jackson. Then you get to see-
	JIMMY	I know, really. My entire family now has seen me sing.
	SCARLETT	Can you take a picture?
	MALE 26	Yes.
	SCARLETT	Please.
	JIMMY	Awesome. Awesome.
	JIMMY	That particular concert opened a door. A little crack in the door so that a bridge could be built.
	JIMMY	Love it. I look different. That's good.
	JIMMY	Can't put it in words. It's too profound. I feel hopeful, though. Definitely feel hopeful. For mending relationships, um, music heals, so. It's healed me. It's healing me. Continues to heal me.

02:06:36	TIM	All right, let's see. Oh my gosh. who are you people? Jeez. Every night we've had, like, three or four. What is this Charlotte thing? John.
	JOHN	Hi. These are my parents, Tim and Melody from Columbus, Ohio.
	MALE 27	My mother's best friend and best friends of the family, Mary and Chuck are here from Topeka, Kansas.
	MALE 28	This is my cousin Rhonda and her husband Scott that I haven't seen for 30 years.
	TIM	Thank you for taking the trouble to make this trip to support your family member, your friend. It's not an easy road with a family member who comes out. Nobody ever said that was easy. You have stuck by us. You have loved us. You have made us your own.
02:07:26	TIM	And tonight, you're getting 200 more gay brothers and sisters and mothers. So we sing this song, and it started in the days when there were so few family members and friends that would come and stand by their loved one. So thank you for your support. I miss my mom. That's it. So I'm gonna invite her to this family party.
	CHORUS	May the road rise up to meet you. May the sun shine warm on your face. And the rain falls soft on your fields.
02:08:35	CHORUS	And until we meet again...
	TIM	Hug them tight.

	CHORUS	In the palm of His hand.
	TIM	Welcome to the family.
	TIM	We are so incredibly happy to be here. There were two states we wanted to go to. And those were the two, sorry to say, with pretty much the worst laws against the LGBT community. Yeah, yeah, you do. You're one of them.
02:09:35	CROWD	[LAUGH]
	TIM	And... yup, you are. So we decided, we had to go-we had to go to Mississippi and had to go to North Carolina. Because I understand, as well as many of you do, that we are not going to affect change in our legislation until we affect change in organized religion. They are so inextricably combined.
	PASTOR WILLIAM	Erwin reached out for me about maybe doing a concert here.
	TIM	Mm-hmm.
	PASTOR WILLIAM	And what I told him was, it had a possibility. As long as we could really play that this is an act of hospitality. But I said, "Erwin, I got to be honest with you. If it smells of demonstration, if it s-smells of in-your-face, if it smells of anything like that, then I'm gonna get resistance. I'm gonna get pushback." My job is to keep saying there are ways for us to hold a center here.
02:10:37	PASTOR WILLIAM	And so the idea of exclusion just rubs wrong. So that's my starting point with anybody on this conversation.

	TIM	I have, uh, in my older age, uh, found that not to be enough. It's absolutely not enough. Because I know what means. It means, "Oh, bless your heart."
	PASTOR WILLIAM	Yes, yes.
	TIM	And then you go home and just rail. You know, and scream into a pillow. So the levels of, um, being hospitable, uh, that's not good enough for me anymore.
	PASTOR WILLIAM	I-
	TIM	Because you could stab me in the back while you're hugging me.
	PASTOR WILLIAM	Yes.
	TIM	And so there's that. And then there's tolerance. And I'm not interested in tolerance. I don't need to be tolerated.
	PASTOR WILLIAM	Tolerated.
	TIM	And it's really hard to get from, uh, hospitality to tolerance. The harder step is to celebrate the uniqueness.
	PASTOR WILLIAM	I just haven't felt the nudge to do that.
	TIM	Uh, you know, like I-I just, I've lived that very painful Southern veneer of, "We're hospitable to all."
02:11:43	TIM	And, you know, that veneer is basically bullshit. It makes me so angry. My ex-wife and I would go and sing the special music at our megachurch. And the people would just go, "Oh, it's so beautiful.

		That is so beautiful." And we had the perfect picture. Wife, two children, lovely car. We had the perfect life. As long as we didn't ever say that we had trouble. And we would sing this beautiful, uplifting duet in the morning church, and we would get in the car and start fighting. And no one ever saw that part. And so when that veneer cracked, all that pain explodes. Everywhere. And for me, um, having done that in a church of 20 thousand people, uh, my-that-when my veneer exploded, um, it got everyone dirty. Everyone was hurt. And I will say that, um, of those 20 thousand people, who were so hurt by me coming out, none of them reached out in compassion.
02:12:54	TIM	None of them reached out in compassion.
	CHORUS	I ain't afraid of your Yahweh. I ain't afraid of your Allah. I ain't afraid of your Jesus. I'm afraid of what you do in the name of your God. I ain't afraid of your churches. I ain't afraid...
	PATRICIA	In the deep South, the Bible is more important in the Constitution. Every state has tried some of these religious, quote, freedom bills. You know, it's fine if you believe that, and you can practice your religion any way you want to. But how dare you assume that everybody in this country is a Christian. I know that we're gonna win this battle for full equality. Every social movement has used music to both soothe the souls of the activist and communicate their message.

02:14:01	PATRICIA	Gospel during the civil rights movement. And I think these courses have empowered the queer movement.
	CHRIS	The San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus was born with a deep sense of artistry and artistic pride, but also a deep sense of social justice. This chorus and the LGBT core movement itself, started out with the AIDS epidemic in the early 1980s. And in the '90s it was Don't Ask, Don't Tell. In the 2000s it was really marriage equality. And here we are. Having an equal protections bill in this country would go a long, long way.
	CHORUS	Oh, I ain't afraid of your children. I ain't afraid of your stories. I'm afraid of what you do in the name of your God.
02:15:12	FEMALE 18	You can reach somebody through song sometimes faster than you can reach them with a conversation. And so that is gonna bridge a gap.
	MALE 4	Uh, I'm not a gay p-man myself, but there's still no reason for me to have any prejudice whatsoever toward anybody like that.
	FEMALE 19	To be tolerant and be accepting has nothing to do whether you're gay or straight or fat or thin or pretty or not pretty. It's because we all need to get along.
	FEMALE 20	I think they're reminding us that we celebrate. That we celebrate life. And that in the middle of all the oppression and the hatred and-and the discrimination that we face, that we still can raise our voices and sing and that we can still gather in unity.

	FEMALE 18	I think it's gonna hopefully open some eyes to some of those people in this state that are so prejudiced against, you know, the gay and lesbian community.
02:16:09	STEVE	When I came out, it was pretty much a complete rejection from both parents. I had done what they perceived to be the worst possible thing that anyone can do to them, having a gay son. And they had done to me what I perceived to be the worst possible thing a parent could do, rejecting their child. And we had really good reasons to be angry for each other-with each other for 10 years. But God, I wish we hadn't. They're gone now. And I-I'd love to be able to be a little kinder. To them. And I think there's a part of that that destroys about too. It's about wanting us all to be a little kinder. I feel like it's so easy when you experience those moments that feel like a betrayal, to shut someone off.
02:17:16	STEVE	Whether that's a family member or someone who's voted for somebody else, or somebody who believes differently than you do. It's so easy to just shut that person out of your life. And it's so destructive.
	SINGER 4	Lord, how come me here? Lord, how come me here? Lord, how come me here? I wish I never was born.
02:18:19	TIM	Each of the singers comes with special painful baggage. But nonetheless, we try to take care of each other.

	ASHLE	There's still a lot of confusion. There's still a lot of things that I'm dealing with. I mean, I always felt if I'm a trans person that was going to make me happy. It was going to make me whole. But I'm going way back to sort of start over again and just see what's right for me going forward.
02:19:09	SINGER 4	Born.
	FEMALE 21	Good morning. You want a program? There you go.
	MALE 29	Thank you.
	FEMALE 21	Hi. Welcome.
	CHORUS	If I dance with the storm, I'll be safe, I'll be whole. I can run, I can rise, I can face all good-byes.
	PASTOR ROB	I got a phone call out of the blue a few weeks ago saying, "Some of us would like to come sing in a church. Would you be willing to welcome us?" And I said yes. I think it was important for the chorus to feel welcome in a church. Too many of us in the LGBTQ community don't feel welcome in church.
	PASTOR ROB	If you don't preach about what's happening in the world, take off your robe and quit your job.
02:20:20	PASTOR ROB	'Cause if a church does not preach about the world and what is happening in the world, the church has no business being the church.
	PASTOR ROB	I think that it's a mistake to conflate religious freedom with the freedom to discriminate.

	PASTOR ROB	This week, a law will go into effect that takes us back half a century to one of the darkest chapters in our history to tell your pastor he can't have lunch in their establishment. To tell me I can't buy from their shelves. We have a decision to make as a culture. Where will our faith reside? Amen.
	CROWD	Amen.
	FEMALE 22	We in the red state need all the help we can get.
	MALE 30	It's why we chose to come here. And I was eyeing this scarf from up in the loft. It was beautiful.
	FEMALE 22	Thank you. I thought today was a good day for wearing those.
	MALE 30	Very appropriate.
02:21:20	FEMALE 23	Your smiles are almost as wonderful as your voices are.
	MALE 31	Thank you. Thank you for loving us so much.
	MALE 32	There's pecans in the Jell-O.
	MALE 33	No. Wonder why.
	MALE 32	I've had pecans with every meal so far. I'm not complaining.
	MALE 34	Are you gonna be able to make it tonight?
	MALE 35	We're gonna try to.
	MALE 34	Okay.
	PASTOR ROB	What you're doing is making an enormous difference. And thank you so very, very much. 83-year-old

		woman in this church, she has made it very clear to me since I got here that she voted against me at the congregational meeting. Not in a mean way. She just wanted to know where she stood.
	FEMALE 24	Yes.
	PASTOR ROB	And I-I-this morning, she came up to me after work shift and she said, "I get it," and she hugged me. And said, "I'm glad you're my pastor." And that was largely because you all were here.
02:22:35	BELINDA	We're here tonight because of a friend I have met only through Facebook. His name is Julian Francis Clift. And we have a lot of differing opinions, but the one thing we always agree on is respect.
	JULIAN	You enjoyed yourself.
	BELINDA	Very much. It was such a blessing. I felt like... I t-I was telling them earlier, I felt like I was in the-in church. I always had my church arms going on. My Pentecostal arms going on. It was so wonderful.
	JULIAN	It is a very different-I mean, our concerts are always fun. This has a different spin on it that's really incredible. And it's been a really unbelievable experience for me.
	BELINDA	This is a gift for you.
	JULIAN	Okay.
	BELINDA	And let me tell you a story about it. Giving a gift is difficult with so many unknowns, so I made a quilt for you. The fish on the face of

		your quilt, it represents the Deep South Bible Belt, baby.
02:23:40	BELINDA	What a challenging area to take on to spread the message of equality, compassion, inclusiveness into areas still known more for their intolerance than for understanding in equal rights. Your quilt is made of soft, brushed cotton flannel as a reminder that you will always find people even in the most unlikely of places that you want to wrap you in the warmth of friendship in understanding and acceptance. You see, quilt pieces, they're diverse and unique when you view them individually. Then they become stitched together, accepting how their differences can work together, become stronger, unified group. This is the world that I dream of. A world of acceptance, tolerance, and unity, and a world I'm glad to share with you.
02:24:55	TIM	Tomorrow's our last show. We're singing at a mega Southern Baptist church in South Carolina. We have had acceptance from the Episcopalians, the Presbyterians, the Unitarians. But to go in the Southern Baptist Church is frightening. The Baptist Church absolutely left no stone unturned to ruin my life. So I carry all that tomorrow night as I walk in to that altar and lead 300 people I love. And I hope it's not to the slaughter. Because it's really, really frightening. It's frightening for me.
02:25:52	TIM	This is the first time in 30 years that I've entered a Southern Baptist church at their invitation knowing full well that I'm gay.

	PASTOR JIM	Welcome to South Carolina. I have no idea who's coming tonight or how many people are going to show up.
	TIM	Jim Dant, the pastor, has welcomed us. But it remains to be seen if the whole church welcomes us.
	CHRIS	It's gonna be full. It is full.
	TIM	We'll get some people.
02:26:55	PASTOR JIM	I-I need to answer two questions. I've obviously gotten a lot of phone calls in the last couple of weeks.
	CROWD	[LAUGH]
	PASTOR JIM	And I thought I would just wait and answer the two primary questions tonight. Uh, the answer to the first question is, no, I'm not gay.
	CROWD	[LAUGH]
	PASTOR JIM	But the second question is, why? And, uh, my simple answer to that each time has been, because I am a Christian and a follower of Christ. That's why.
	CROWD	[APPLAUSE]
	PASTOR JIM	The only people that Jesus never was really comfortable with were self-righteous, judgmental religious people.
	CROWD	[APPLAUSE]
	TIM	There is no way we could thank you for this experience. I will tell you that many of us up here have been rejected by our families, by our churches, and have moved away from our home cities. One of the

		most wonderful things about this tour is that we have been able to be in places where their LGBT community is becoming part of the community.
02:28:04	TIM	And a church like this, you may be getting a lot of backlash. I almost said a dirty word in-
	CROWD	[LAUGH]
	TIM	It is nothing compared to what you have done as a shining light to all of us, to give us hope. And we want to thank you-thank you for that.
	CROWD	[APPLAUSE]
	CHORUS	Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch. A wretch like me.
02:28:57	CHORUS	I once was lost but now am found. I once was blind, but now I see.
	TIM	Grace doesn't have to be from God. Grace does not have to be bestowed by religion. Grace is a feeling. It's a position of acceptance.
	CHORUS	...my heart to fear, and that same grace...
	TIM	The transformation for me came in an acceptance from a whole group of people I never thought I would gain any acceptance from. But I was wrong. I've been wrong.
	CHORUS	How precious did that grace appear the hour when I first believed.
02:30:10	STEVE	It has been such an enriching experience for everyone on the tour. We came thinking that we were going to be sharing an experience of our singing with people. But we didn't anticipate was how much we-we would

		be getting in return.
	CHORUS	Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already safely come. 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and surely, surely grace will lead me home.
02:31:15	CHORUS	I shall go home. When we've been there 10 a thousand years, bright shining as the glorious sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than since the day we first begun.
02:32:23	CHORUS	Than since the day we first begun.
	TIM	As long as the world continues to discriminate against the LGBT community, we will fight until our very last breath.
	SINGERS	Pass me not, O gentle Savior...
02:33:46	FEMALE 1	I have nothing sassy to say. Amanda, they want me to be sassy.
	FEMALE 20	We actually met on the steps of the Supreme Court protesting Roy Moore.
	FEMALE 2	Yes.
	MALE 5	Any kind of discrimination laws are totally out of place in these-in these day-in this day and time.
	FEMALE 25	Before we started dating, I was n-I guess kind of obsessed with the-the phrase, "Love wins." And so I bought us necklaces that said "Love wins." They were matching necklaces. And then after we got married, Sheila bought us new necklaces that said, "Love won."
	MALE 36	All right, Soprano. Here we go. Soprano. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Halle- Whoo. Altos come on. King of. King of all...

		Keep going. Tenors, coming. Halle-
02:34:47	MALE 36	Hallelujah. Basses come in. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelu-let me hear you. Let me hear you. The Jackson Five rehearsal is on next Monday Night. Hallelujah. Oh. Hallelu-hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelu-hallelujah. Oh.
02:35:52	MALE 36	Sing praise. All right, here we go. Grab your dance partner. You can take it to the floor as long as you can get up by yourself. Are we ready? Are you ready? Are you ready, Jackson? All right, here we go. Here we go. Here we go. Everybody dance. Everybody dance. Get your hands in the air. Wave them like you care. Everybody dance. Everybody dance. Get your hands in the air.
01:37:06	MALE 36	Everybody dance. Everybody dance. Dance. Thank you. We love you.
02:37:58		END OF FILE