

Maine Gay Men's Chorus



Tuesday, July 10 • Ellie Caulkins Opera House • 4:30 pm

Artistic Director, Art Kenne
Composer-In-Residence, Tom Wallace

The White Rose (Excerpts)

“The White Rose” is based on the true story of the murder of Charlie Howard, who in the 1980s dared to be out as gay. He became a target for gay bashers. One night, three teenagers beat him and threw him in the river where he drowned. In “The White Rose”, one of his murderers, Rob, is haunted by Charlie’s eyes. The story shows how Rob comes to see what he has done, and how Charlie, as a ghost, and he come to see their common humanity.

All selections from “The White Rose: A Musical about Healing and Hate”

Music by Tom Wallace, lyrics by Bruce Spang

Middle Street

Charlie describes his life in the 1980s in Bangor, Maine, when men met secretly on Middle Street, bringing to light the struggle of gay men to find one another in the light of day.

Manuscript (3:10)

They’ll Never See Me

Charlie laments the difficulty of finding love, of never being seen, then shows his devastation at never knowing love since he’s gone, a ghost.

Manuscript (2:15)

Look This Way/A Little Bit Gay

*In a comic interlude, taking a break from a Community Dance, straight high school boys admire themselves in mirrors in a bathroom. Meanwhile, Charlie asks: “What if we are *all* a little bit gay?”*

Manuscript (5:15)

Rose Petals

Charlie relives his drowning, as the River bears witness and does what it does.

Manuscript (5:20)

Quiet of the Water

In this, the final number, Rob accepts responsibility. In these final moments, he and Charlie discover, in the most violent of encounters, the capacity to see one another as beautiful and move beyond hate to forgiveness—an act of grace.

More at whiterosepetals.com

Manuscript (7:50)

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The Maine Gay Men's Chorus is in its 20th season. They will present excerpts from “The White Rose: A Musical about Healing and Hate”. The libretto was written by Bruce Spang, MGMC member and Poet Laureate of Portland, Maine. The music is by MGMC Composer-In-Residence Tom Wallace.

