



palaver
STRINGS

a change is gonna come

September 29, 2023 / Cambridge, MA



program

Blowin' in the Wind: Bob Dylan
arr. Domenic Salerni

What Are You Fighting For?: Phil Ochs

Fiddle and the Drum: Joni Mitchell

Where Have all the Flowers Gone: Pete Seeger
arr. Domenic Salerni

Protest Songs (World Premiere): Errollyn Wallen

Strange Fruit: Abel Meeropol, Billie Holiday
arr. Jonathan Bingham

Lovely, Dark and Lonely One: Harry Burleigh, Langston Hughes
arr. Ian Gottlieb

-INTERMISSION-

Fear the Lamb: Akenya Seymour

Stranger: Nico Muhly

Freedom is a Constant Struggle: Roberta Slavitt

I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill: Alfred Hayes

It Isn't Nice: Malvina Reynolds
arr. Domenic Salerni

musicians

Violin Teagan Faran, Bree Fotheringham, Maya French,
Grant Houston, Katie Knudsvig, Abby Swidler

Viola Brianna Fischler, Lysander Jaffe, Elizabeth Moore

Cello Matthew Smith, Nathaniel Taylor, Kamyron Williams

Bass Nate Martin

Tenor Nicholas Phan

a change is gonna come

Featuring Grammy-nominated tenor Nicholas Phan, this program explores our country's rich legacy of protest songs. Repertoire includes traditional songs of protest and music inspired by social movements and historical events, including Nico Muhly's *Stranger*, Akenya Seymour's *Fear the Lamb*, and the premiere of Errollyn Wallen's *Protest Songs*. Spanning genres, eras, and movements, *A Change Is Gonna Come* confronts our past and present and celebrates protest as one of our most precious rights.

thank you

Palaver would like to thank Nicholas Phan for his unwavering commitment to this project and the many conversations along the way, Domenic Salerni for his unbridled enthusiasm, and Eric Cooper for his encyclopedic knowledge about protest songs. We would also like to thank Errollyn Wallen for the incredible new composition *Protest Songs* - we are so lucky, we'd like to thank the Tippet Rise Sidney E. Frank Foundation for helping commission Errollyn's work, the Longy School of Music at Bard College for hosting this performance, Alan Bise and Azica Records for working with us to bring this program to life through recording (stay tuned for an album next year), and to EACH OF YOU for continuing to show up and support our work.

board of directors

Ekhlas Ahmed, Carolyn Benthien, William Black
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about palaver strings

Palaver Strings is a musician-led string ensemble and nonprofit organization based in Portland, ME. Founded in 2014 and established as a nonprofit in 2015, Palaver has made its mark as a forward-thinking ensemble whose mission is to strengthen and inspire community through music.

Palaver recruits musicians from top music training institutions in Boston, New York, Chicago, and beyond, with the goal of bringing highly skilled musicians and educators to Portland and contributing to Maine's cultural diversity and creative economy. Palaver ensemble members share artistic and administrative leadership, guided by a passion for engaging new audiences, addressing social justice issues, and amplifying underrepresented voices.



Each year, Palaver Strings presents a full series of live performances featuring diverse musical programming, cross-genre projects, and community collaborations in Maine and around the northeast. The ensemble has performed at venues such as the Kennedy Center, National Sawdust, and a Lullaby Project celebration at Carnegie Hall. Palaver's most recent album *Ready or Not* (Azica Records, 2022) has received acclaim by publications such as *The Guardian* and *BBC Music Magazine*.

Equally committed to education, Palaver launched the Palaver Music Center in 2019, which now serves hundreds of Portland-area students each year. The ensemble has enjoyed residencies at Rockport Music, Boston Center for the Arts, Bay Chamber Concerts, and Longy School of Music, where ensemble members teach workshops, master classes, and graduate courses on music and community engagement. In 2022, Palaver opened its first dedicated teaching space in downtown Portland, a new community hub for lessons, classes, rehearsals, and more.



Described by the Boston Globe as “one of the world’s most remarkable singers,” American tenor Nicholas Phan is increasingly recognized as an artist of distinction. With an incredibly diverse repertoire that spans nearly 500 years of music, he performs regularly with the world’s leading orchestras and opera companies. Sought after as a curator and programmer, in addition to his work as artistic director of Collaborative Arts Institute of Chicago, Phan has also created programs for broadcast on WFMT and WQXR, and served as guest curator for projects with the Philadelphia Chamber Music Society, Merola Opera, and San Francisco Performances, where he served as the vocal artist-in-residence from 2014-2018.

A celebrated recording artist, he has twice been nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Classical Solo Vocal Album. He is the first singer of Asian descent to be nominated in the history of the category, which has been awarded by the Recording Academy since 1959.

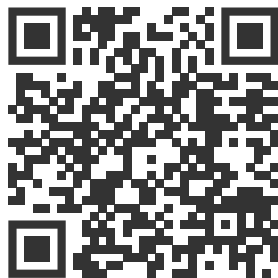
about
nicholas phan





Palaver Strings is a musician-led string ensemble & nonprofit.

For info visit www.palaverstrings.org or
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photos by Christina Wnek
visual art by Devon Kelley-Yurdin