

A Senior Thesis in Musical Theater Composition for Ben Kramer

Audition Guide

Basic Information about the Show:

Performances: April 4-6

Title: [As of yet untitled]

Music, Lyrics, and Book by Ben Kramer '23

Director: Jay Mehta (jay.mehta@yale.edu)

Music Director: Ben Kramer (ben.kramer@yale.edu)

Producer: Mars Adams (marshall.adams@yale.edu)

Synopsis:

This original musical follows the lives of five men—all 22 years old and gay in five different years between 1969 and 2023—over the course of a single calendar year, from New Year's Eve to New Year's Eve.

Presented as a series of intertwined musical monologues and song fragments, the piece explores the intergenerational experience of gay identity, centered around collective memory of the AIDS crisis.

Together, these five men's stories build a mosaic of love, loss, and hope in contemporary gay America. At the core is one crucial question: what does it mean to love another man?

Who can audition?

Anyone is welcome to audition, and no prior experience in musical theater is necessary! We are seeking to cast five performers, who will work closely with the composer, director, and creative team to develop the world premiere of an original work of musical theater. The piece has been under construction since December 2022, and you will help bring it to life in a staged production! We are so excited to welcome you to the team.

While all of the characters in the piece are male-identifying and sing in a tenor range, performers of any gender identity are welcome to audition as long as they feel comfortable portraying a male-identifying character and singing in that range. Performers should keep in mind that the show deals with sensitive issues, including suicidal ideation.

What will the audition process be like?

Auditions will take place on November 6 and 7, followed by callbacks on the evening of November 11.

Auditionees will be notified of casting decisions on November 12. If you are not able to make any of these dates, we will work with you to find another time.

What will the production process be like?

An informal reading of material from the piece will take place during Reading Week of the fall semester (exact scheduling pending the availability of performers), but participation in the reading is not required in order to be cast in the staged version of the show. More information about the informal reading will be provided after casting.

Rehearsals for the staged production will begin in earnest during the first week after winter break (January 16). From then until spring break (March 8), performers can expect 4-7 hours of rehearsal per week. After spring break, there are two weeks of rehearsal before performances.

Tech Week: Tech week will be March 30-April 3. During tech week, you can expect ~5 hours of rehearsal per day (roughly 6:00-11:00)--only during tech week! Performances will be on April 4 (8 pm), April 5 (8 pm), and April 6 (2 pm and 8 pm).

Characters:

CHARLES "CHARLIE" STEINBECK. 1969. Milwaukee. A student of astronomy. Secretly harbors feelings for his best friend, Jim.

SAMUEL "SAM" SCHWARTZ. 1981. New York. A student of law and a rabbi's son. Madly in love with his florist boyfriend, Tom, with whom he lives in a new apartment purchased by his parents.

GABRIEL. 1985. San Francisco. A headstrong gay refugee from a conservative Colorado family. Works as a bartender in the Castro. A bit of a loner.

ARTHUR GOLDMAN. 1997. Los Angeles. Leads a meaningless and anonymous life as a closeted telephone salesman, while his perfect older brother is rising in the political ranks in Washington.

NOAH MAXWELL. 2023. Washington, D.C. A student of linguistics. Wants to be in love but isn't.

How do I audition?

Audition slots are available from 6:00-9:00 on Monday, November 6 and Tuesday, November 7. You can sign up for a slot [here](#). Auditions will take place in Broadway Rehearsal Lofts (294 Elm Street), Room 205. When you arrive for your audition, please wait outside the room until the previous audition is finished.

The audition will consist of the following components:

1. **A vocal warm-up.** This is a chance for us to hear your vocal range and for you to warm up for the rest of the audition.
2. **An excerpt from a song.** We have selected two excerpts, each roughly a minute long, from the show. The first excerpt consists of measures 38-70 of "The Boy Who I Love." The second excerpt consists of measures 12-27 of "Noah's Song." Please prepare one excerpt and sing it for us! Feel free to memorize it if you would like, but there will be sheet music provided. We will be listening to you sing and watching how you can act through music. Sheet music and recordings of Ben singing each excerpt can be found [here](#). Please do not share these files. If you have any questions about the music, do not hesitate to reach out to Ben at ben.kramer@yale.edu!
3. **A monologue.** While the show is sung-through (i.e., just music without scenes of dialogue), we would love to see you act a bit. To that end, we've selected three monologues from works with related themes. Please select one and prepare it for the audition. Feel free to memorize it if you would like, but the texts of the monologues will be provided. If you have any questions about the monologue, please reach out to Jay at jay.mehta@yale.edu.

If we need to see a bit more, we will ask you to join us for callbacks on the evening of Saturday, November 11. If you do not receive a callback, it does **not** mean that you are not under consideration for a role in the show. Performers will be notified of casting decisions on Sunday, November 12.

If you are not cast in the show but still wish to be involved, we would love to have you join our creative team! Reach out to Mars (marshall.adams@yale.edu) for more information on creative team roles.

If you have any questions about the audition, about the rehearsal process, or about the show in general, feel free to contact Ben (ben.kramer@yale.edu) and Jay (jay.mehta@yale.edu). We cannot wait to see your auditions!