

A THEATRICAL SONG CYCLE

# AMERICAN PATRIOTS

"In our increasingly polarized society,  
*American Patriots* asks audiences to  
listen across difference."

**CREATIVE PRODUCER &  
PERFORMER**

SAMANTHA ROSE WILLIAMS

**DIRECTOR**

MARY MCGOWAN

**MUSICAL DIRECTOR**

YANIV SEGAL

**PRODUCER**

CATH BRITTAN

**COMPOSERS**

REGINA HARRIS BAIOCCHI

GALA FLAGELLO

DANIELLE JAGELSKI

MARC LEMAY

YANIV SEGAL





## CONCEPT

American Patriots is a theatrical song cycle that portrays the lived experiences of Americans today from four vastly different perspectives: Black, Indigenous, New American, and white Working-Class American. Set for 3 singer-actors, 8-piece ensemble, and projections, the 80-minute production uses verbatim lyrics from interviews with 50 Americans to combat polarization through connection, and to grapple with the fundamental questions of who we are as a country and who we want to be. In a rare collaborative effort, all of the music has been written by composers from the same backgrounds as the interviewees.

An immersive and intimate performance is created through innovative visual projections by Camilla Tassi, sound design, and evocative staging by director Mary Cynthia McGowan. Music Director Yaniv Segal collaborated with the team of five composers to weave a range of styles (opera, jazz, classical, rock, golden-age Broadway) into one cohesive experience. The final result is a production that is reflective of the wealth of diversity across the nation and that appeals to the audience of today: a broad base of critical thinkers, activists, and adventurous consumers.

The actors traverse race, ethnicity, gender, and class as they embody diverse Americans in their exploration of fundamental questions of American identity. We meet a Black Gen-Z pre-teen who explains why the American Dream is for white people, an immigrant who laments lost scholarship opportunities because she's "not BIPOC," a Native American who struggles with the concept of sovereignty under a larger nation, and a military veteran grappling with the desire to respect the flag while protesting unequal treatment as a mixed-race citizen. [VIEW VIDEO SAMPLE HERE](#)

*“The provocative text of “I’m Not BIPOC” becomes a perfectly squeamish, funny piece of musical theatre in the hands of composer Yaniv Segal and soprano Annie Sherman”*

### — I CARE IF YOU LISTEN

#### FULLY-STAGED

- 80 minutes
- Projections
- 3 singers
  - Soprano
  - Mezzo-Soprano
  - Bass-Baritone
- 8 instrument ensemble
  - Piano
  - Saxophone
  - Oboe/ English Horn
  - Percussion
  - Electric Guitar
  - Bass/ Bass Guitar
  - Trumpet
  - Violin

## METHODOLOGY

*American Patriots* is committed to a new methodology of “Intentional Storytelling.” **Collaborating with marginalized communities and allowing them to present themselves in ways that feel authentic to them is critical** to the mission of this project.

To do this, creative producer Samantha Rose Williams centered a system of checks and balances ensuring collaboration with each community rather than extraction: paying interviewees for their time, having each interviewee approve or veto the final song, allowing each interviewee to choose their own level of credit or anonymity in the project, prioritizing hiring composers from each identity to set the songs from that experience, and ensuring that composers and interviewees get royalties for their work with every performance.

As our society becomes increasingly diverse and as audiences demand more accountability, *American Patriots* believes that the **process is equally important to the product** when it comes to the representation of marginalized communities.

## THE SEMINAR RECITAL

Geared towards classrooms, conferences, and community centers, the recital format of *American Patriots* creates opportunities for audiences and performers alike to reflect, interact, and anonymously respond to the themes and texts of the songs. The seminar recital is a blended performance format that uses the interactive presentation software Mentimeter and a trained facilitator in addition to a singer and pianist to contextualize the art within deeper conversations. An interactive approach allows the audience to guide which selection of songs from the fully-staged production are performed, making each recital uniquely curated to optimize discussion and audience engagement.

### RECITAL

60 minutes

Interactive Performance

Mentimeter Presentation (QR code)

1 singer, 1 pianist, 1 facilitator



## CORE COLLABORATORS



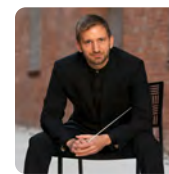
### CREATIVE PRODUCER & PERFORMER

SAMANTHA ROSE WILLIAMS is an arts activist committed to sharing marginalized experiences with diverse audiences and creating space for critical discussion about art, culture, and social change. After earning her B.A. at Stanford University, Samantha went on to receive her Master's in Music and Specialist's in Music at the University of Michigan in Voice Performance. An accomplished performer in both musical theater and opera, a researcher, and an arts leader, Samantha began producing to share nuanced stories of people of all backgrounds and beliefs. In recognition of her impact Samantha was awarded the University of Michigan's 2022 Graduate DEI Award, the 2021 MLK Spirit Award, and also served as a panelist in SphinxConnect 2021's session on youth activism.



### DIRECTOR

MARY MCGOWAN (she/her) is a freelance producer, director, actor, and arts administrator based in Brooklyn, NY. Credits include: *How To Dance in Ohio* (Associate Director, Broadway/Syracuse Stage), *Mean Girls Jr.* (Director, Take It From The Top), PAC NYC (Producing Coordinator), HER SOUND (Director, NYFA New Works Series, Co-Director, Joe's Pub), The American Repertory Theater (NYC Line Producer, Special Assistant to the Artistic Director, Diane Paulus/Assistant Director, ExtraOrdinary, 1776), American Modern Opera Company (Artistic Liaison/Company Manager), Chautauqua Theatre Company (Teaching Artist, Young Playwrights' Project), *Evita* (Assistant Director, New York City Center). Mary is also a proud Supporting Artist at CO/LAB Theater Group, where she serves as Program Manager.



### MUSIC DIRECTOR & COMPOSER

Creative polymath YANIV SEGAL has achieved critical success since childhood for his work as a conductor, composer, actor, and violinist. Yaniv is Music Director of the Salina Symphony, Conductor Laureate and Artistic Advisor of the Chelsea Symphony in New York City, and former Assistant Conductor of the Naples Philharmonic and Detroit Symphony Orchestra.

In recent seasons his compositions have been performed by the Reno Philharmonic, Norwalk Symphony, Grand Rapids Classical Orchestra, Ashland Symphony, Naples Philharmonic, and the Chamber Orchestra of Sarasota. Yaniv grew up trilingual in New York and completed graduate degrees in conducting and composition at the University of Michigan, with support from the Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans.



### PRODUCER

Originally from Manchester, England, CATH BRITTAN was a producer for the Vienna Festival for many years. She worked as a production manager and producer in venues throughout the world, including English National Opera, London; The Bolshoi, Moscow; Teatro Real, Madrid; and Opera de Comique, Paris, to name a few. Between 2018 and 2023, Cath was the producer for AMOC (American Modern Opera Company). Recent and up-coming productions include *Aci, Galatea e Polifemo* (dir. Christopher Alden); Messian's *Des Canyons aux étoiles* (w/ Deborah O'Grady) *Glass Handel* (2018 & 2019, BBC Proms 2022); *Comet Poppea* (dir. Yuval Sharon); *Bandwagon* (New York Philharmonic); *Amadigi de Gaula* (dir. Louisa Muller).



### PROJECTION DESIGNER

Born in Florence, Italy, and described by Third Coast Percussion as "sharing passion for meaningful cross-disciplinary collaboration," CAMILLA TASSI is a NYC-based designer and musician interested in the production of new+period music and theatrical performances. Her work as a projection designer includes Golijov's *Falling Out of Time* (Carnegie Hall), Purcell's *King Arthur* (Lincoln Center, Juilliard415), Apollo's Fire's tour of Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo* (Cal Performances & UMS Michigan), Deavere Smith's *Fires in the Mirror* (Baltimore Center Stage & Long Wharf Theater), Esmail's *Malhaar* (Walt Disney Concert Hall, LA Master Chorale), Talbot's *Path of Miracles* (Conspirare, TX), Mozart's *Magic Flute* (Berlin Opera Academy), Handel's *Alcina* (Yale Opera), *Lady M* (Heartbeat Opera), Tesori's *Fun Home* (David Geffen School of Drama), as well as for recitals, chamber music, and theater at Curtis, Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, IU opera, PROTOTYPE Festival, Mass MoCA, and others.

## CORE COLLABORATORS



### COMPOSER

REGINA HARRIS BAIOCCHI is a composer, author, and poet. Her music has been performed by acclaimed artists throughout the U.S., notably the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. Regina's work has been profiled in the Chicago Tribune, the New Grove Dictionary of American Music and the International Dictionary of Black Composers, and has received many awards, including from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Illinois Arts Council.



### COMPOSER

GALA FLAGELLO is a composer, educator, and nonprofit director whose work is inspired by a passion for lyricism, rhythmic vitality, and fostering meaningful collaboration. With music described as “both flesh and spirit, intensely psychological without sacrificing concrete musical enjoyment” (I Care If You Listen), Flagello collaborates with leading ensembles, artists, initiatives, and institutions nationally and internationally to craft impactful projects for performers and audiences alike. Recently Gala was a Composition Fellow at Tanglewood Music Center 2023, the Gabriela Lena Frank Creative Academy of Music 2022, and Aspen Music Festival 2022. She is the Festival Director and co-founder of the nonprofit contemporary music festival Connecticut Summerfest.



### COMPOSER

DANIELLE JAGELSKI is a conductor and composer based in New York, NY and Portland, OR. She is the Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Renegade Opera, Lead Producer for First Nations Performing Arts, Associate Conductor of PROTESTRA, and Conducting Faculty at Manhattan School of Music Precollege. As a composer, she is an avid writer of song, opera, choral, music for theatre, and narrative stories of all kinds. Her most recent premieres have been by New Native Theatre, MUSE Cincinnati Women's Choir, and Hear Us Hear Them Ensemble. As an enrolled member and citizen of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin and Redcliff Band of Ojibwe, Danielle often collaborates with other Native artists in multidisciplinary creative projects in order to further the visibility of Indigenous peoples in the fine arts realm.



### COMPOSER

MARC LEMAY, a native of Birmingham Alabama, is a composer known for music that is at once “pleasingly muscular” and “passionately lyrical” (New York Classical Review). Commissions include from the BrassTaps Duo, CHAI Collaborative Ensemble, and the vocal sextet Variant Six. He was a fellow with the American Opera Projects Composers & the Voice workshop from 2015-2017, and has been developing projects for new operas and multimedia works ever since. Marc began his life in the arts as an actor, theatre technician, photographer, guitarist, and self-taught singer-songwriter. He received his PhD in composition from UPenn.



# DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE & NEXT STEPS

- 1 **Project Research** AUG 2020 - JUN 2021
- 2 **Creation and Editing Process** JUN 2021 - SEP 2023
- 3 **Music and Staging Workshops** SEP 2023-MAR 2024
  - Workshops with Renegade Opera, Salina Symphony, and Virginia Theological Seminary
- 4 **Design Residency and Avant Premiere** CURRENT
  - Projection Design, Sound Design, and Lighting Design finalized
  - Impact Work: ImpactED Theory of Change Incorporated
- 5 **American Patriots Premiere** 2025
  - Audience Engagement: Local interviews are incorporated into performance
- 6 **American Patriots Tour** 2026-2027
  - Tour dates overlap with the 250th anniversary of the United States of America



## CURRENT PROJECT NEEDS

### Co-Commissioners

Technical Design Residency

### Presenting Partners

Development and Premiere Partner  
Touring Partners

## PARTNERS

### Funders

The Presser Foundation  
National Center for Institutional Diversity  
The University of Michigan Arts Initiative  
The Virginia Theological Seminary

### CONFIRMED PRESENTERS

Renegade Opera	November 2023
Salina Symphony	January 2024
Virginia Theological Seminary	March 2024
Stanford University	May 2024

## MORE INFORMATION

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