

Heart of the Holidays

Tales of Light

Heart of the Holidays: Tales of Light invites audiences to join in a reinvigorated and deeper connection to this time of year. This program dives right to the heart of the season with narration and songs drawn from the artists' African, European, and North American heritage traditions, offering a fresh approach to this favorite time of year that cuts through commercial clichés. Resonant real-world stories, choral arrangements, and body percussion celebrate the essence of winter holidays: the courage to expand abundance at the height of scarcity, and to spark light just when it grows darkest.

Built for collaboration with community youth choirs!

Directed by Guy Mendilow

Script by Regie Gibson & Guy Mendilow

Narrated by Regie Gibson & Guy Mendilow

Music composed and arranged by Guy Mendilow & Kimani Lumsden

Body percussion choreography by Kara Fili



"... emotional and musically moving. The Guy Mendilow Ensemble is very tight musically and the "surround sound" of the choir facing the audience during the audience round sing was terrific. Guy Mendilow's experience as a master educator is clearly evident as he worked with the various community partners to achieve a thrilling performance that brought tears to the audience."

— Robin Baker, Celebrity Series of Boston

"...Music of hope and affirmation, sophisticated in its delivery but easily accessible to listeners anywhere."

— Chicago Tribune

GUYMENDILOWENSEMBLE.COM

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LITERARY ARTIST REGIE GIBSON

REGIE GIBSON performs and lectures throughout the US, Cuba, and Europe. His honors include US National Poetry Slam Champion, Italy's Absolute Poetry Award, the international Europa in Versi Award, TEDx speaker, and poet-in-residence at the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. Gibson collaborates and performs with music/vocal ensembles, symphonies, and multimedia groups, and is featured in the film "Love Jones," written about his life. As an educator and advocate, Regie is a sought-after workshop facilitator and guest speaker, a NPR favorite for "On Point" and "Radio Boston," and a widely anthologized poet. He also serves as a project advisor to organizations like the National Endowment for the Arts and the Red Cross-Red Crescent Climate Center (Hague, Netherlands) on issues related to humanitarianism, climate change, nonpartisanship, and the legacy of slavery.

"Regie sings and chants for all of us. Nobody gets left out." - **Kurt Vonnegut**



GUY MENDILOW ENSEMBLE (GME)

An international tour de force, the Guy Mendilow Ensemble (GME) is a cutting-edge collaboration of world-class musicians, singers, visual artists and theatrical designers. GME weaves inspiring stories through live riveting scores, and narration blending memoir and poetry. GME's productions center on real-world tales of the choices people make in times of personal or societal change — especially unexpected grace in the midst of upheaval. Musically, GME draws on a broad palette including the fire and intricacy of multilayered percussion, gorgeous vocal harmonies, and pan-cultural influences layered over the harmonic roots of Western classical music. GME has been honored with multiple awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Boston Foundation, the New England Foundation for the Arts, and Western Arts Alliance for its artistry, cultural preservation, and strengthening of communities through the arts.

PACKAGE WITH:

Innovative residencies, workshops and choral/string collaborations



GUY MENDILOW
ENSEMBLE

Inquiry
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Grant awards from these funders have generously supported GME's touring & program development

