



OLIVER CAPLAN

you are not alone

JUVENTAS NEW MUSIC ENSEMBLE

FOR CHRIS.
You make my heart sing.

This album shares stories of
COMMUNITY, TRANSFORMATION
AND, ABOVE ALL, LOVE —
SOMETHING WE NEED MORE OF
NOW, AND ALWAYS.

Through this music, I hope you will find
ASPECTS OF YOUR OWN TRUTH,
MOMENTS OF HEALING,
REFLECTION AND AFFIRMATION
THAT RESONATE IN YOUR HEART.

Love Letters 2015

On June 6, 2015 I married the love of my life, Chris. Chris and I grew up in a time when two men could not marry. In 2004, our home state of Massachusetts was the first to guarantee marriage equality. Yet, on the day Chris and I tied the knot, our marriage was only recognized in some parts of our country.

I composed this music for our ceremony as an expression of my deepest affection. The processional music, “Forever Began with Hello,” recalls the intoxicating magic of early love, with the main theme hued from our joined initials, C-B-O-C. “The Tree With the Lights in It,” performed as the ceremony’s interlude, draws its title from a passage in Annie Dillard’s *Pilgrim at Tinker Creek*, a mutual favorite book we discussed at length on our first date.

Three weeks after our wedding, the Supreme Court issued the landmark *Obergefell v. Hodges* ruling, which recognized the fundamental right for same-sex couples to marry. These momentous events are forever entwined in my memory, and I feel immense gratitude to everyone who persevered to make love and equality available to all.

To the Sea 2013

The Firebrand Concert Series (Malden, MA) commissioned *To the Sea* as part of my appointment as their Composer-in-Residence for the 2012–13 season. The piece draws on my lifelong passion for the environment. It is dedicated to Bike to the Sea, a community organization that built a rails-to-trails path connecting four Massachusetts communities to the Lynn waterfront. Cities hold surprising fonts of natural beauty, and I was moved by this effort to reclaim human connection with the environment.

Like tributaries that converge to form rivers, communities are built by individuals to achieve something greater than the sum of their parts. *To the Sea* draws on this idea, with the individual musicians of the string quartet weaving together musical fragments to form a combined melody.

You Are Not Alone 2014

My beloved grandmother Lucille passed away when I was 11, a victim of breast cancer. Thirteen years later, my mother was diagnosed too. Thanks to early detection and medical advances, Mom is a survivor.

In 2014, I met Mimi Lee, the Artistic Director of B3LLA Piano Trio (San Francisco, CA). Mimi's own experience with breast cancer led her to found B3LLA to share the transformative power of music.

B3LLA commissioned *You are Not Alone* as an anthem in honor of victims and survivors of breast cancer. While composing the piece, I immersed myself in stories of women (and men) with cancer. Though everyone's journey is different, I was particularly moved by the many women who, like Mimi, faced the possibility of death and emerged with new inspiration to pursue their dreams.

Metamorphosis and change are shared truths for everyone whose life is touched by breast cancer. These ideas are the foundation of *You Are Not Alone*. The four connected movements—Diagnosis, Grievance, Acceptance, Transformation—represent the emotional realities of coping with breast cancer.

For everyone facing this disease, know that we are all together in this fight. My hope is that this music will provide solace and raise awareness.



Connect All. We All Connect. 2015

Commissioned by horn player Anne Howarth, *Connect All. We All Connect.* is a reflection on the strength and fragility of human connection. Beneath master palindromist Barry Duncan's brilliant wordplay lies raw, poignant prose. *Affirmations* are juxtaposed with *questions*.

Barry's lyrics unfold in a set of five letter-by-letter palindromes alongside a longer word-by-word palindrome that weaves throughout. In homage to reversibility, the music incorporates palindromic elements of melody, harmony and form. Most of all, both music and text channel two interwoven emotions: hope and uncertainty.

This whole album is a testament to love and community connection. But have you ever doubted? I have. In moments, I have doubted myself, family, friends, and even—or perhaps especially—society as a whole.

Our ability to reverse, to rise from moments of doubt, is one of the things that makes community collaboration so powerful. Resiliency is a truly exceptional aspect of the human spirit, and it's a theme that runs through all the works on this album. Always remember that we all connect.

You Are Not Alone.

CONNECT ALL. WE ALL CONNECT.
Lyrics by Barry Duncan

*One touch, many connections, make
being human a splendid state. I believe they do.*

Is all a tone.
We bond, no?
Be we not all as I?

Traded I a tip, it aided art.

Connect all. We all connect.

I, to newer us.
Sung, I say.
Name? Not one.
We be me be we.
Not one. Many.
A sign.
Us? Sure. We, not I.

Connect all. We all connect.

Sum: It saved. Am I made vast? I'm us.

Wonder. Ah.
Set one note, solo.
Set one note, shared now.

*Do they believe? I state: Splendid, a human being.
Make connections. Many touch one.*

Thank You

Chris Beagan, for your partnership in realizing this dream and inspiring me every day; Meghan Guidry for brilliant word-smithing; Jason Pavel for thoughtful insights in concept development; Vivian Best and Rachel Ciprotti for galvanizing a community of angels; Juventas for raising these melodies with passionate performances; Lidiya Yankovskaya for gifted leadership and years of deep collaboration; Mimi Lee and B3LLA Piano Trio for commissioning *You Are Not Alone* and sharing your transformative story; Anne Howarth for commissioning *Connect All. We All Connect.* and your luminous vision for this piece; Barry Duncan for poignant words and remarkable reversibility; Diana Golden and Firebrand Concert Series for commissioning *To the Sea*; Zev Hoover for inspired photography; Elizabeth White, Sharon Hawkins and Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts for the space and time to compose *You Are Not Alone* in a breathtaking landscape; John Weston for artful audio engineering; and Mortimer & Hoover for unbridled joy.

My heartfelt gratitude to the 170 donors whose support made the album possible, including the following principal funders: Elizabeth A. Dean, Bob Beagan, Chris Beagan, Bill & Paula Luria Caplan, John A. Carey, Alexis & Nate Ruegger, Ruth & David Kessler, Lindsay MacIndoe & Wendy Holding, Trisha Solio & Katherine Power, Jane Parkin Kullmann & Family, Alex Ripley, Isadel Eddy, Katie Ritcheske, Jason Pavel & Marie Walcott, Rachel A. Ciprotti, Lucy & Lenny Schmolka, Jennifer Lewis & Lori Sanders, Meghan Fitzgerald, Matthew P. Kusulas, Meg & Aaron Hastings, Meghan S. Guidry, Antares Meketa, Pamela Misener & April Thompson, S. Rosa Ryals, Vivian, Will & Hazel Best, Elise Viebeck & Andrew Caplan, Barbara Turen, Kyle Polite, Carrie Cleary, Louise Scribner, Elion Caplan, Judy & Joe Brain, Jill & Ian Reiss, Sheri B. Dean, Naomi Pierce, Andrew “Townie” Adams, Wendy Skelton, Cristina Maniu, Bryan Burns & Cashman Kerr Prince, Katie & Bryce Remesch, Alexis Dearborn & Brian Pingree.

Credits

MUSIC

All music written by Oliver Caplan
© Oliver Caplan Music (ASCAP)

LYRICS

Lyrics for *Connect All. We All Connect.*
written by Barry Duncan

MUSICIANS

Lidiya Yankovskaya, conductor
Julia Carey, piano (4-8)
Orlando Cela, flute (1-2)
Kelley Hollis, soprano (8)
Anne Howarth, horn (8)
Wolcott Humphrey, clarinet (1-2)
Samuel Kelder, viola (1-3)
Stephen Marotto, cello (1-7)
Nicole Parks, violin II (1-3)
Olga Patramanskaya, violin I (1-7)

AUDIO ENGINEERS

Recorded & mixed by John Weston
Recording assisted by Travis Karpak
Recorded at Futura Productions (Roslindale, MA)

ARTWORK

Photography & graphic design: Zev Hoover
Layout: Catherine Headen



Juventas New Music Ensemble

Juventas New Music Ensemble voices concert music of the present and future, nurturing and showcasing today's most brilliant emerging composers. Based in Boston, Massachusetts, Juventas serves as an incubator for promising musical pioneers, giving them opportunities to develop, present and promote their work. The ensemble's core musicians and numerous guests are versatile artists with backgrounds as world-class performers, composers, conductors, educators and community leaders.

Juventas' collaborative productions cross disciplinary boundaries, creating an unparalleled artistic experience for audience members. The ensemble has partnered with dancers, painters, scientists, poets, visual artists, puppeteers, and robotics engineers.

A leader in the field, Juventas hosts the Boston New Music Festival, a weeklong showcase of Boston's contemporary music scene, with concerts, master classes and symposia. Juventas' annual Opera Project has received recognition from The American Prize, National Opera Association, and New York City Fringe Festival. The ensemble has held residencies at Boston Conservatory, Harvard University, Longy School of Music, Middlebury College and Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Juventas has also performed on recordings with Innova Recordings, Parma Records, and New Dynamic Records.

Oliver Caplan

Award-winning American composer Oliver Caplan writes melodies that nourish our souls, offering a voice of hope in an uncertain world. Inspired by the resiliency of the human spirit and beauty of the natural world, his music celebrates stories of social justice, conservation and community.

Mr. Caplan's works have been performed in over 125 performances nationwide. He has been commissioned by the Atlanta Chamber Players, B3LLA Piano Trio, Bronx Arts Ensemble, Brookline Symphony Orchestra, Columbia University Wind Ensemble, El Sistema Somerville and New Hampshire Master Chorale, among others. Winner of a Special Citation for the American Prize in Orchestral Composition, additional recognitions include two Veridian Symphony Competition Wins, the Fifth House Ensemble Competition Grand Prize, seven ASCAP Awards, and fellowships at Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Brush Creek Foundation for the Arts. Additional recordings of Mr. Caplan's music include his 2012 debut album *Illuminations*, 2015 EP *Moon Over Appalachia* and a track on the Sinfonietta of Riverdale's 2016 album *New World Serenade* (Albany Records).

Mr. Caplan is the Artistic Director of Juventas New Music Ensemble. He holds degrees from Dartmouth College and the Boston Conservatory, is a voting member of the Recording Academy, and resides in Medford, Massachusetts.



✉ music@olivercaplan.com

📘 facebook.com/olivercaplanmusic

🌐 olivercaplan.com



OLIVER CAPLAN
composer

OLIVER CAPLAN
you are not alone

- 1-2 Love Letters**
- i. Forever Began With Hello 4'56
 - ii. The Tree With the Lights in It 5'31
- flute, clarinet, string quartet*
- 3 To the Sea** 17'39
- string quartet*
- 4-7 You Are Not Alone**
- i. Diagnosis 4'56
 - ii. Grievance 5'12
 - iii. Acceptance 3'41
 - iv. Transformation 4'51
- violin, cello, piano*
- 8 Connect All. We All Connect.** 8'40
- soprano, horn, piano*