

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos: To download photos, [click here](#).

San Diego Artists Create Songs in Honor of People Passed Away During COVID-19 Pandemic

- Blindspot Collective invites those grieving to have an original song written and performed in memory of their lost loved one
- *Refractions: A Collection of Human Anthems* pairs the bereaved with a Blindspot Collective artist trained in sensitive conversation practices, plus songwriters and performers who create and perform original music based on the memories shared
- All performances available on Blindspot Collective's Facebook page

San Diego, CA -- Through its new project *Refractions: A Collection of Human Anthems*, San Diego theatre company [Blindspot Collective](#) introduces volunteer participants who have lost a loved one during the COVID-19 pandemic to artists from Blindspot Collective trained in sensitive conversation practices. The artist listens to the person experiencing loss and learns about the person who passed away, then collaborates with a songwriter or composer to create and record an original song celebrating that person's life.

Blindspot Collective has already premiered the first two original songs, available to watch on its Facebook page, and plans to create as many as 15 songs with up to 60 local artists involved. The group invites anyone who has experienced loss during this time of physical distancing measures to share their stories and have an original song developed in honor of the person they are grieving. Whether the loved one passed due to coronavirus or other causes, and regardless of culture or faith, these local artists offer their talents in hopes of providing some comfort during a time when many are forced to grieve in isolation.

Refractions is made possible in part by support from US Bank and [the San Diego Arts + Culture Challenge Fund](#).

TWO SONGS AVAILABLE NOW: FREE VIDEO PERFORMANCES

"Momma's Gonna Work It Out" was inspired by Tavi Tory McNeil's memories of his mother, Juliet Davis, who passed away during the pandemic.

"Somehow, however the universe works, it really came together," said McNeil. "It was exactly what it needed to be -- for me. And all I can say from the bottom of my heart is thank you. The way she raised me with music... my mom loved music."

Songwriters Bryan Barbarin and Kendrick Dial created "Momma's Gonna Work It Out" based on Tavi's reflections on how his relationship with his mother grew in understanding and love over

the years. Kendrick Dial & The Routine performed the song, including vocals by Bryan Barbarin and Kendrick Dial, drums by David Butterfield, bass by Nick “Nitty” Hen and guitar by Russell Ramo.

“The moment that we heard Tavi’s story and heard his love for his mother, it was very very easy for those words and those melodies to come out,” said Barbarin. “I think that expression amongst us, just as people, is what it’s all about. It feels really good to feel that deep connection to someone I’ve never met in my life. I was honored that Tavi let me into that space.”

[Click here](#) to watch “Momma’s Gonna Work It Out.”

“My Little Scholar” is a tribute to Grace Guerra Fitzsimmons, inspired by stories from her granddaughter Margot Fitzsimmons. Songwriters Derek Rice and Dan Erickson listened to Margot’s memories of growing up with her grandmother and wrote the lyrics, performed by Derek Rice, Christiana Rice and Danny Muller. [Click here](#) to watch “My Little Scholar.”

Both performances are available at facebook.com/blindspotco.

ALL INVITED TO HAVE ORIGINAL MUSIC CREATED IN HONOR OF LOST LOVED ONES

Anyone who wishes to honor a loved one who has passed with an original song is invited to [click here](#) to complete a brief questionnaire. A member of the Blindspot Collective team will then reach out to arrange a conversation with an artist who will develop an original song inspired by the individual who passed. Everyone who has lost a loved one during the ongoing pandemic is invited to participate, regardless of the person’s cause of death.

GET INVOLVED WITH *REFRACTIONS: A COLLECTION OF HUMAN ANTHEMS*

While artists cannot contribute in the remarkable ways of doctors, nurses, grocery clerks, delivery workers, and countless others, Blindspot Collective artists are honored to use their talents to elevate the lives and stories of the departed while reverberating expressions of love and loss within our community. To support the local artists making *Refractions* possible, donate at gofundme.com/refractions.

To see and watch performances as they become available, [follow Blindspot Collective](#) on Facebook and [join the Blindspot Collective email list](#).

Songwriters and composers interested in developing original music for volunteer participants may contact Blindspot Collective at submissions@blindspotcollective.org.

INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE

To arrange interviews with the artists or volunteer participants, please contact Katy Lillig at press@blindspotcollective.org or 786-473-5137.

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ABOUT BLINDSPOT COLLECTIVE

[Blindspot Collective](#) produces exceptional programming that lies at the intersection of advocacy, education, and entertainment. We believe in radical inclusivity that serves and represents those in our blindspot -- those who may have never been on stage, never seen themselves represented in a production, or never even seen live theatre.