



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 18, 2021

Contact: Gilbert Spencer
info@bridgevoices.org

Bridge and The Poet Life Announce Short Film:
“America, You’re Beautiful”

Washington, DC – Baltimore/DC-based chamber ensemble Bridge announces *America, You’re Beautiful*, a short film conceived in response to the Black Lives Matter movement made in collaboration with The Poet Life and poet Nina Brewton. The film will be released on Thursday, February 25th at 7pm via its website: aybfilm.com. The film will feature a new score by Scot Hanna-Weir, written for and performed by Bridge, and a poem, written and performed by Virginia-based poet Nina Brewton. Baltimore-based cinematographer Tyler W. Davis, fresh off a Sundance Festival debut (Baltimore’s own *Strawberry Mansion*), captured the film on location at the National Mall and Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, D.C. this winter.

In June of 2020, during the weeks of national outcry and mourning following the death of George Floyd, Bridge reached out to a previous collaborator, Christoph Jenkins (*The Poet Life*), to brainstorm a project that would respectfully respond to this tragedy, contribute meaningfully to the movement to protect black lives, and help to amplify the voice of a black artist. Bridge, courtesy of The Poet Life, commissioned poet Nina Brewton to write a poem in response to these events. Scot Hanna-Weir composed a wordless soundtrack designed solely to support Brewton’s poetry, which Bridge recorded remotely from home studios. The poem and underlying musical score both draw inspiration from “America, the Beautiful”.

The short film, which stars Nina Brewton as she performs the titular poem, is set in Washington, D.C. among familiar national landmarks and the newly designated Black Lives Matter Plaza just beyond the White House at Lafayette Square. In a year of virtual performances and broadcasts of archived concerts, Bridge and The Poet Life are thrilled to offer brand new content, recorded during and in response to events which transpired in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

More information about this project and other performances can be found at the film’s official website, aybfilm.com, Bridge’s website, bridgevoices.org, or by contacting the group directly via info@bridgevoices.org.

About Bridge

Bridge is a professional vocal chamber ensemble specializing in new works for voices, and early music. They are collaboratively led by Artistic Directors Crossley Hawn, Allan Laino, Jacob Perry Jr., and founder, Gilbert Spencer. Bridge is a collective of top Baltimore and Washington-based professional singers who collaborate with some of the world’s leading composers on commissioning projects, and present performances with purpose. The ensemble bridges repertoire from before and after the common practice period, creating engaging programs that aim to innovate and challenge the rhetoric of “classical performance” in the 21st Century.

Bridge’s dedication to working with local artists helps to ensure that near-by arts economies continue to thrive. Significant efforts are made to hold performances in geographically diverse and economically disadvantaged areas. Founded in Baltimore, Bridge hopes to mirror the uniquely creative and DIY attitude of the city’s inhabitants in its efforts to present some of the world’s oldest musical traditions in ways that resonate with its local conscience and address the issues of our time.

#