

STARRING  
**TURILE CREEK  
CHORALE**



TO A  
**DANCING STAR**  
A MUSICAL

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## TO A DANCING STAR

*Michael and Jonathan were best friends from the moment they met as children in their little town, even though they came from different sides of the railroad tracks. Life was idyllic as far as they were concerned. The small town was like any other, full of small people and some really, really wonderful ones as well. They shared everything until their last year in high school, from playing to singing in the church choir to being teacher's pets. Just before graduation, an event occurred that changed the rest of their lives in one instant. They had not changed, but life certainly had. Confused and hurt and unprepared to resolve their differences, they left the little town and parted ways for what they thought would be forever. The best years of their lives had been torn asunder.*

*Years later, having fled to the neighboring large city, they are reunited by coincidence and their fractured relationship is forced to begin again, hopefully to heal. Where to begin with this chapter of their lives? Michael has a wife and is soon to father a child. Jonathon has a partner who also has a child. Then, the second life-changing incident occurs. "Bully boys grow up to be bully men."*

*As the musical unfolds, the audience is left with the hope that the future lies in our children and in their children.*

*"One must still have chaos in oneself to be able to give birth to a dancing star."*

...Nietzsche

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# TO A DANCING STAR

Based on the lives of the men of the Turtle Creek Chorale

Story & Lyrics by Robert Espindola

Music by Robert Seeley

Adapted for the stage by Michael Robinson

Directed by Michael Serrecchia

Turtle Creek Chorale

Dr. Timothy Seelig, Artistic Director

Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center

March 10 & 13, 2002

“TO A DANCING STAR” is a moving and unique story of life journeys written for and about the members of the Turtle Creek Chorale. This world premiere, featuring 31 actors and the 225 men of the Turtle Creek Chorale, is directed by Michael Serrecchia and conducted by Dr. Timothy Seelig.

## PROLOGUE

1980's- Bella's Wedding

1. The Color of Truth, *Chorus* 2:21

## ACT I

1950'S- Small Town, USA

Scenes: the fishing hole, Michael's mother's home, church, Ms. Talmadge and Ms. Mandell's home, the train station.

2. The Promise, *Momma* 2:18
3. Smile on Me, *Chorus* 2:08
4. My Shepherd Is, *Young Michael, Young Jonathan, Chorus* 3:62
5. The Promise (Reprise), *Ms. Talmadge, Momma, Chorus* 2:59
6. Different Eyes, *Pastor Cantrell and Chorus* 2:43
7. To Have and To Hold, *Ms. Talmadge, Ms. Mandell, Chorus* 2:56
8. We Are The Bully Boyz, *Chorus* 1:59
9. Look Into My Eyes, *Jonathan and Michael* 2:36
10. The Color of Truth (Reprise), *Chorus* 1:10

## ACT II

1980'S- The City, USA

Scenes: church, park next to church, Michael and Katherine's home, Michael's mother's home, Small Town Cemetery, Andrew and Jonathan's home, choir rehearsal.

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|---|------|
| 11. Dance Me 'til Dawn, <i>Chorus</i>                               | 1:36 |
| 12. The Shelter of Two Arms, <i>Jonathan, Andrew, Chorus</i>        | 4:35 |
| 13. Two By Two, <i>Andrew, Katherine, Jonathan, Alan and Chorus</i> | 3:38 |
| 14. In My Mother's Eyes, <i>Chorus</i>                              | 4:53 |
| 15. Papa Sit Down, <i>Bella, Andrew, Jonathan</i>                   | 3:59 |
| 16. The Reunion, <i>Chorus</i>                                      | 4:34 |
| 17. In My Father's Eyes, <i>Older J.</i>                            | 2:56 |

## EPILOGUE

1980's- Bella's Wedding

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 18. Touching Hearts and Changing Lives, <i>Chorus</i> | 2:49 |
| 19. To A Dancing Star, <i>Chorus</i>                  | 3:56 |
| 20. To A Dancing Star (Reprise), <i>Chorus</i>        | 3:56 |



## **ROBERT ESPINDOLA, Librettist**

A professional educator and ordained minister, Robert graduated with honors from Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa, in 1975. Upon completing graduate studies in psychology at the Universities of Illinois and San Francisco State, he taught in the California school system for twenty years. In 1992, he was honored as one of California's "Distinguished Educators." A strong advocate for teenagers living with HIV/AIDS, Robert has traveled throughout the U.S. and Canada conducting workshops and seminars and working with state legislators lobbying for the rights of minors impacted by HIV disease. Robert has been a keynote speaker at two national AIDS conferences, and in 1993, served as a delegate the International Conference on AIDS in Yokohama, Japan.

Robert and composer Robert Seeley began collaborating shortly after meeting in the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in 1997. Their first work *IN THIS HEART OF MINE*, was commissioned by the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, and has been recorded by the Turtle Creek Chorale. Robert has written the librettos for four other commissioned works: *O JUBILANT DAY* and *OVER THE SKIES OF YISRAEL* for the Seattle Men's Chorus, *WITH ONE VOICE* for the GALA 2000 Conference, and *EXILE* for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

## **ROBERT SEELEY, Composer**

Robert graduated with distinction from California State University, Chico, with a Bachelor of Arts in Music Theory/Composition, and later taught music in the California public school system and at the community college level.

Although most of his current compositions are choral works, his background was in instrumental music. He also has a background in musical theater, performing both on stage and in theater orchestras, and has served as musical director for a number of productions in college and community theater.

Robert was a member of San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus from 1985 to 2001. In addition to composing for SFGMC, he has been commissioned by a number of other GALA Choruses throughout the years, including the New York City Gay Men's Chorus, the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington D.C., the Seattle Men's Chorus and The Women's Chorus of Dallas.

# TO A DANCING STAR

## Cast of Characters:

Jonathan - Tom Malin  
Michael - Paul Starr  
Young Jonathan - Jeremy Hoekstra  
Young Michael - James Ringholm  
Older Jonathan - Joel Ihms  
Older Michael - Will Trice  
Michael's Mother - Amy Stevenson  
Ms. Tallmadge - Laura Hardison  
Ms. Mandell - Nancy Kammerer  
Reverend Dobbs - Keith Arcement  
Reverend Cantrell - Richard York  
Bully 1 - David Fessenden  
Bully 2 - Chris Foley  
Bully 3 - Earl Fitzsimmons

### PRODUCTION NOTES

Recorded March 10 & 13, 2002  
Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center  
Dr. Timothy Seelig, Executive Producer  
Craig Gregory, Producer  
Jim Jackson, Audio  
Nolan Brett, Audio Mastering  
Group Baronet, Cover Design  
Kenneth McBryde, Layout

Katherine - Candace Evans  
Andrew - Jon Morehouse  
Young J. - Joshua Drazner-Parrish  
Young Bella - Lana Whittington  
Older J. - David Ploof  
Older Bella - Dara Whitehead  
Policeman - Richard York  
Alan - Tim Blanchard-Modisette  
Pastor Roberts - A.G. Black  
Bella's fiancé - Kirk Bradford  
Reverend Simpson - Don Kennedy  
Townsperson - Paul LaPierre  
Townsperson - Jody Walden  
Townsperson - Cheryl Bagley

### MUSICAL ENSEMBLE

Piano - Antoine Spencer  
Synthesizer - Buddy Shanahan  
Oboe - Dennis Brickman  
Bass - James Driscoll  
Percussion - Drew Lang

Video Available



T O A D A N C I N G S T A R , A M U S I C A L

1. The Color of Truth
2. The Promise
3. Smile on Me
4. My Shepherd Is
5. The Promise (Reprise)
6. Different Eyes
7. To Have and To Hold
8. We Are The Bully Boyz
9. Look Into My Eyes
10. The Color of Truth (Reprise)
11. Dance Me 'til Dawn
12. The Shelter of Two Arms
13. Two By Two
14. In My Mother's Eyes
15. Papa Sit Down
16. The Reunion
17. In My Father's Eyes
18. Touching Hearts and Changing Lives
19. To A Dancing Star
20. To A Dancing Star (Reprise)

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Chorale**

**Dr. Timothy Seelig  
Conductor**

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... Nietzsche

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