

Rehabilitation Through the Arts presents



# UPLIFT!

The power of arts & community  
inside and outside prison

Musical Direction by Kenyatta Emmanuel

Text adapted by Joe Giardina

Director of Photography Craig Feldman

Produced by RTA

A virtual concert led by RTA alumni with  
messages from members inside prison

**April 14, 2021 at 6pm**





## ABOUT UPLIFT

With Musical Direction by RTA alumnus Kenyatta Emmanuel, this virtual event features performances by our alumni, messages from our incarcerated members and cameos from our community. UPLIFT explores lives that change as we uplift each other.

## THE ENSEMBLE

- Carlos Ivan Calaff** ..... Percussion
- Andrew Drake** ..... MC
- Kenyatta Emmanuel** ..... Musical Director, Composer, Vocals
- Patrick Griffin** ..... Keyboards and Vocals
- Dustin Hale** ..... Bass
- Dunasha Payne** ..... Vocals
- Robbie Pollock** ..... Composer, Guitar and Vocals
- Isaias Umali III** ..... Lead and Rythm Guitar

## PROGRAM

<b>Message from the inside</b> .....	Gilbert from Sing Sing
<b>Opening Remarks</b> .....	Katherine Vockins, Founder & Executive Director and Kenyatta Emmanuel, RTA alumnus & Musical Director
<b>Message from our community</b> .....	Melissa Benjamin
<b>We Can (written by Kenya Emmanuel)</b> .....	Kenyatta Emmanuel
<b>Message from the inside</b> .....	Freddy from Sing Sing
<b>Message from our community</b> .....	Paulettra James
<b>Open My Heart (written by James Harris, James Q. Wright, Terry Lewis and Yolanda Adams)</b> .....	Dunasha Payne
<b>Message from the inside</b> .....	Pame from Bedford Hills
<b>Message from our community</b> .....	Michael K. Williams
<b>A special message from RTA</b> .....	Brandon Barrow
<b>Message from the inside</b> .....	Darrian from Sing Sing
<b>Message from RTA Teaching Artist</b> .....	Dr. Anderson Smith
<b>Testify (written by Robbie Pollock)</b> .....	Robbie Pollock
<b>Message from the inside</b> .....	Lenox from Green Haven
<b>Message from our community</b> .....	U.S. Senator Cory Booker
<b>Band introduction</b> .....	Kenyatta Emmanuel
<b>Everybody Is A Star (written by Sly Stone)</b> .....	Ensemble
<b>Concluding message</b> .....	Charles Moore and Dunasha Payne
<b>* Messages from the inside read by Andrew Drake</b>	



## ENSEMBLE BIOS

**Carlos Ivan Calaff** is an RTA alumnus and has been involved with RTA since 2010.

**Andrew Drake** has been an RTA Teaching Artist since 2019. He is an actor, poet and Teaching Artist from Huntsville, Alabama.

**Kenyatta Emmanuel** has been a member of RTA since 2007. Kenyatta is a composer, lyricist, actor and activist. He has shared his music from Sing Sing to Carnegie Hall.

**Patrick Griffin** an RTA alumnus since 2005, performed in RTA productions both inside and outside the walls. A musician most of his life, he is always looking to contribute his talent.

**Dustin Hale** has been a visual artist with RTA since 2019. He designed the 2019 *Macbeth* playbill. He continues making art at home.

**Charles Moore** has been a part of RTA since 2004. He is an alumnus and Director of Operations for RTA.

**Dunasha Payne** has been a part of the RTA family since 2014. She is working with Drama Club, a non-profit organization as a Program Coordinator.

**Robbie Pollock** is a multidisciplinary artist and has participated with RTA since 2010. He is the Prison and Justice Writing Program Manager at PEN America.

**Isaias Umali III** is an RTA alumnus and has been a part of RTA since 2008. He is the Program Associate for Carnegie Hall's Musical Connections program.

## FILM CREW

**Craig Feldman** (Director of Photography, Video Editor) is based in New York City with 20 years of industry experience. He was the Director of Photography and Editor on *Lulu, I Hear You*.

**John Carlo Serrano**, 2nd Camera Operator

**Anthony Scalia**, Assistant Camera, 3rd Camera Operator

**Mark Mandler**, Sound

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## ABOUT RTA

RTA helps people in prison develop critical life skills through the arts, modeling an approach to the justice system based on human dignity rather than punishment. RTA's ongoing success is proof that restorative, cost effective programming works. Less than 5% of RTA members return to prison, compared to the national recidivism rate of 60%. To support our work, please visit [rta-arts.org/donate](https://rta-arts.org/donate).

## SPECIAL THANKS

NY State Department of Corrections and Community Supervision for their support of RTA distance learning activities and for their long collaboration.

Julian Klepper, Co-Owner of Wild Birds bar and live music venue located in Brooklyn, NY where filming of UPLIFT took place.

## RTA FUNDERS



Council on  
the Arts

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## CONTRIBUTORS

### **Friend**

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### **Crew Member**

Judith Aydelott  
Carol Creel  
Nancy Gernert  
Cheryl Knopp  
Linda Meyers  
Heidi Rieger  
Judith Rubin

### **Musician**

Alisa Doctoroff  
John Gallagher  
Karen Royce

### **Producer**

Leslie Allen  
Bloomberg Philanthropies

