



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ān, a Concert for Peace on Saturday, November 11 A Fundraiser for the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i

Honolulu, Hawai'i — At a time when uncertainty continually sweeps over our world, Ān, a Concert for Peace, provides a timely gift of respite from the cares of this life by immersing audiences in a seamless blend of original and traditional music, poetry and movement, all designed to stir and console our minds and hearts.

Ān, a Concert for Peace, will be held at St. Andrew's Cathedral on Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017 at 8 pm. Doors open at 7:30 pm. Suggested donation is \$25 per ticket. All proceeds will go to the Client Assistance Fund of the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i, which provides mental health support for individuals and families across the socioeconomic spectrum. The show will be preceded by an artists' reception at 6:15 pm and drawings for ceramics by local artists at 7:15 pm. Tickets can be purchased online at AN-concertforpeace.brownpapertickets.com, by phone, and at the door.

"Ān" is the Korean hanja, Japanese kanji and Chinese hanzi, which means tranquility, soothing, calm, peaceful and safe. The concert is the brainchild of artistic director Chaz Hill, a singer-songwriter who composed the majority of the songs that artfully juxtapose the emotions of loss and love, while also delivering a message of comfort and hope.

"We take people through dark valleys but lead them to the light," said Hill, who composed the songs to help process his own personal journey of struggle as a civil rights activist at a time when the South Korea was run by a dictatorship. "This is a musical escape, a celebration of life, a way to unite us and show how we can go on."

Hill benefited from the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i Client Assistance Fund when he was unemployed and receiving counseling services to reintegrate back into America. This concert is his way of giving back to the nonprofit organization who helped him during that critical period of his life.

He considers his ballads to be commentaries about events that shake our world and reverberate in our souls, from the news about a woman in San Salvador who continued to sing even after being shot a number of times to the massacre at Pulse, the gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

The concert is intentionally being held on Veterans Day. "While we are grateful to those who fight for our freedom, we want to bring attention to the horror of war in our contemporary world," Hill said.

Hill worked lived and worked in South Korea for more than 20 years, first as a visiting English lecturer, then as a graduate student studying Korean literature at Seoul National University, and then as a drama and theater professor and assistant director of Korean Studies at Hannam University in Daejeon.

Today, he works as a flight attendant and continues to compose music, often on grand pianos in hotel lobbies across the globe during layovers for international flights.

Hill relocated to Hawaii after meeting long-time local community activist Frank Lee, now his spouse, who will also be a part of the concert, presenting his poetry inspired by social and political observations. Lee has been involved in battles to stop the eviction of Filipino plantation workers, protest the Vietnam War, and most recently, fight for marriage equality.

In addition, Hill has lined up a high-caliber of like-minded performance artists: two-time Emmy nominee puppeteer and cellist Thom Fountain III; instrumentalist and composer River Kim; New York Times best-selling author and poet Kathleen Norris; and dance educator/choreographer Esther Izuo. (*See attached biographies of the performers.*)

Financial and in-kind support for the concert is being provided by the Schulzman-Neri Foundation, Dan Brummet, and the Cathedral of St. Andrew.

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About the Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i

Established in 1989, Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i provides professional and accessible counseling for individuals and families. The nonprofit organization was founded on a deep understanding of the close relationships between mind, body, spirit and community. For more information, call (808) 545-2740 or visit www.samaritancounselingcenterhawaii.org.