

Registering a Performance of *Considering Matthew Shepard*

Register here: <https://conspirare.org/considering-matthew-shepard/performcms/>

Allow 8 weeks before your performance date to complete all permissions.

Choral Suite Only

- The Choral Suite is a **separate work** and **does not need to be registered** — You will still report your performance to the performing rights organizations per your usual process.
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2nd Edition (current/standard)

1. **Register your performance** with [Conspirare](#).
 - A Curtis Brown Ltd. representative will contact you afterward to arrange the required performance permission and royalty fee for the movements using Lesléa Newman's poetry.
2. **Report your performance to [ASCAP](#)** through your normal process.
 - Considering Matthew Shepard Work ID: **890644093**
3. **Prepare your program.**
 - You must include the **full text credits** (the composer's message + complete movement-by-movement credit list). This is **required, not optional** — other ensembles' ability to perform the work depends on everyone complying.
 - Conspirare will send you a link to the libretto, composer's message, and credits after you register, to make this easy.
4. **If you plan to print the full libretto text (not just the credits)**, you also need reprint permission from [Candlewick Press](#) for the Newman poems — this applies to: *The Fence (before)*, *The Fence (that night)*, *A Protestor*, *The Fence (one week later)*, *Stars*, *The Fence (after)*/*The Wind*, and *Pilgrimage* and for the Introduction to *October Mourning: A Song for Matthew Shepard* — which is required in every printed program regardless of edition.

5. **Streaming/recording:** Booker Music will issue a sync license for your performance date (and for YouTube, if applicable).
6. **Send your program** as a PDF to mleclair@conspirare.org, or mail a copy to Melissa LeClair, Conspirare, 1812 Centre Creek Dr. Suite 110, Austin, TX 78754.

All other movements are free and clear — no further permissions are needed.

Note on images, slides, and video: Conspirare does not own the rights to any images used in past productions of *Considering Matthew Shepard*, and does not have slides, video, or other visual materials available to share. Performing organizations that want to use projected images, slides, or video as part of their production will need to source and clear their own materials. Elliott Forrest has experience with the program and does collaborate with ensembles: elliottforrest@me.com

The Matthew Shepard Foundation also has resources available:

<https://www.matthewshepard.org/resources/legacy-works-resources/>

1st Edition Performances

Follow all the same steps as the 2nd edition above, **with one difference** — the "Thank You" movement:

- The 1st edition originally sets this movement with text by **W.S. Merwin**. If you perform that version, you must secure separate performance permission from the **Wylie Agency** (wylieagency.com/permissions.html).
 - **To avoid this step**, you can instead use the newer alternate "Thank You" text (words by Michael Dennis Browne, same music), available as a free download from Conspirare. Using this version means you do **not** need Wylie Agency permission.
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Quick reference: who to contact for what

Need	Contact
Performance rights/royalties for Newman poems	Curtis Brown, Ltd. – they will contact you upon registration .
ASCAP registration	http://ascap.com
Reprint permission for Newman poems (if printing libretto)	Candlewick Press
"Thank You" (Merwin text, 1st edition only)	Wylie Agency
Sync license (streaming/recording)	Booker Music via mleclair@conspirare.org
Submit your program	Melissa LeClair, mleclair@conspirare.org
Full Libretto & "Thank You" sheet music (Dropbox link)	Provided in Conspirare's registration confirmation email
Images, slides, or video	Not available from Conspirare — organization must source/clear its own

Important Links

<u>Document</u>	<u>Link</u>
Registration form	https://conspirare.org/considering-matthew-shepard/performcms/
Full Libretto with required credits (Word, via Dropbox)	Provided in Conspirare's registration confirmation email

<u>Document</u>	<u>Link</u>
Complete Credits	https://conspirare.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CMS-Credits-for-Registrants.docx
Director's Introduction	https://conspirare.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/CHJ-CMS-intro.docx
Alternate "Thank You" sheet music (1st edition, new text)	Provided in Conspirare's registration confirmation email
2nd Edition (purchase, Hal Leonard)	https://www.halleonard.com/product-family/PC20380/considering-matthew-shepard
Choral Suite (purchase, Hal Leonard — no registration required)	https://www.halleonard.com/product/345402/considering-matthew-shepard-a-choral-suite