



PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

# gather 'round

Written & Composed by **Karen Ann Daniels**

Directed by **Victor Malana Maog**

**MAY 11–23**  
**On Demand**



[stmarys-ca.edu/gatherround](http://stmarys-ca.edu/gatherround)

CONTENT ADVISORY: *gather 'round* contains explicit language and occasional flashing lights.

*gather 'round* will be performed without intermission.

Closed Captioning and Audio Description available.

*gather 'round*: a digital musical conjunction

Written by Karen Ann Daniels

Directed by Victor Malana Maog

In collaboration with the cast of *gather 'round*

SETTING:

Sunday, December 20, 2020 in California

It is the day before the Winter Solstice and Great Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE:

“Ordinary courage  
Can bring a brand new day  
You can take a tiny step  
You could be a tiny girl  
A mustard seed of faith  
and we can change the world.”  
- Caleb, “Ordinary Courage”

*gather 'round* was birthed against the backdrop of Covid-19, civic unrest around racially charged deaths, and further unveiling of systemic inequalities. More: deep isolation.

This is a collaboration that gives a story and humanity to seemingly unfamiliar faces, voices, resiliency and a shared community despite the confluence of crises. It's a piece handcrafted by the constellation of students and national and local artists who are part of the Saint Mary's College of California family.

With this film, we discover that stories live within us and all around us and the process of creation doesn't have to take place in a rehearsal hall, but with a few shoves of furniture, your own dance world can ignite. With a few strokes on the keyboard, one's imagination can take the shape of characters and situations for thousands to eavesdrop on. Through take after take, we shed our perceived limitations of what can happen in small, marginalized spaces. We discover that we can build our skills to be our own cinematographers, set and lighting designers, and sound techs. Instead of living in a text that someone created for a different group of people, we seize the opportunity to craft word by word, action by action, our own narratives, testimony, and, hence, reality. Oddly, it becomes more than a musical movie, but rather a toolkit for dealing with life's obstructions. And a sort of liberation strengthening our belief in our own individuality, resourcefulness, and ability to tackle seemingly impossible tasks.

A huge shout-out must be given to all the uncredited collaborators in this process: our families, friends, roommates, dormmates, school faculty and staff, pets, and strangers who lifted us up so that we could be on this journey.

Were there hiccups? Of course. There are a million challenges to a project done in a pandemic with a group of people, who might not have ever met in person. What you won't see on the film are all the pages and pages of text written by our students, which for one reason or another didn't make it to the final edit. You'll miss all the technical pivots that had to be done to get the myriad of pieces aligned just so. In the end we might look at this small but mighty group not just as performers, but as adventurers, explorers, and in some ways, pioneers. Along the path, we had dance parties, told corny jokes, shared the weight on our shoulders, and had a place to hang out. Not a bad thing to do during one's spring semester.

Thank you for joining us for *gather 'round*, our premiere short musical film with words and music by Karen Ann Daniels, created in close collaboration with this ever resilient company.

-Victor Malana Maog

## CAST

Sejal Bahl.....Aakira  
Ryenne Biernat.....Sage  
Hannah Chylinski.....Fae  
Trent Cox.....Travis  
Emily England.....Jo  
Sev.....Darrion  
Naomi Kalter.....Bethany  
Alex Meyer-Mendiola...Caleb  
Zoe Prior.....Leah  
Rae Lane.....Veda  
Sarah Shaughnessy....Charlotte  
Gabriella Thomas.....Newscaster  
Will Thompson.....Tom

## INSTRUMENTALISTS:

Ryan Ford, guitar  
Eden Llodra, cello

Sarah Mameesh, flute  
Melanie Moyer, violin  
James Vaughan, saxophone  
Benjamin Harte, trombone

PRODUCTION TEAM:

Playwright, Lyricist & Composer Karen Ann Daniels  
Music Numbers Arranged by Brandon Cerquedo Vargas  
Additional Music Composed by Brandon Cerquedo Vargas

Director	Victor Malana Maog
Choreographer	Antonio Brown
Music Director	Dr. Sixto F. Montesinos Jr.
Vocal Coach	Dr. Julie Ford
Production Designer	Deanna Zibello

Production Manager	Matthew Cohen
Video Editor	Loren R. Robertson
Sound Editor	Elton Bradman
Technical Director	Beckett Finn
Marketing Director	Tara Sundy

Production Stage Manager	Sophia Courtemarche
Assistant Director	Avery Monson
Assistant Playwright	Gabriella Thomas
Assistant Stage Managers	Rylee Cagle, Torren Valera

Associate Designers Audrey Edmondo, Brenna Bortner,  
Nadine Mhedbi, Skyelar Clouse

Assistant Events Coordinator Maya Dahlbacka

Scenery Crew Miranda Vega

Audio Description Gabriel Christian of Gravity Access Services for  
visually impaired patrons

### MUSICAL NUMBERS

*Onto My Own* | Music & Lyrics by Karen Ann Daniels  
Arr. Brandon Cerquedo Vargas  
Featuring Emily England and the Company  
Melanie Moyer, violin

*When I Was a Child* | Music & Lyrics by Karen Ann Daniels  
Arr. Brandon Cerquedo Vargas  
Featuring Sarah Shaughnessy with Hannah Chylinski

*Nothing Seems to Change* | Music & Lyrics by Karen Ann Daniels  
Arr. Brandon Cerquedo Vargas  
Featuring Rae Lane  
Sarah Mameesh, flute

*I Had a Dream* | Music & Lyrics by Karen Ann Daniels  
Arr. Brandon Cerquedo Vargas  
Featuring Will Thompson  
Eden Llodra, cello  
Ryan Ford, guitar

*Knock on Wood* | Music & Lyrics by Karen Ann Daniels  
Featuring Zoe Prior

*When They Come to Play* | Lyrics Karen Ann Daniels  
Music by Brandon Cerquedo Vargas  
Featuring Ryanne Biernat

*What the Stars Say* | Lyrics by Karen Ann Daniels  
Music by Brandon Cerquedo Vargas  
Featuring Sejal Bahl  
With vocals by Karen Ann Daniels

*Medley* | Music & Lyrics by Karen Ann Daniels  
Arr. Karen Ann Daniels, Leonard Patton  
Featuring Hannah Chylinski, Sarah Shaughnessy, Will Thompson,  
Rae Lane, Alex Meyer-Mendiola, and Emily England

*Ordinary Courage* | Music & Lyrics by Karen Ann Daniels  
Music and Arr. by Brandon Cerquedo Vargas  
Featuring Alex Meyer-Mendiola and the Company  
James Vaughan, saxophone  
Benjamin Harte, trombone

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

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This production is entered in the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival (KCACTF). The aims of this national theater education program are to identify and promote quality in college-level theater production. To this end, each production entered is eligible for a response by a regional KCACTF representative, and selected students and faculty are invited to participate in KCACTF programs involving scholarships, internships, grants and awards for actors, directors, dramaturgs, playwrights, designers, stage managers and critics at both the regional and national levels.

Productions entered on the Participating level are eligible for invitation to the KCACTF regional festival and may also be considered for national awards recognizing outstanding achievement in production, design, direction and performance.

Last year more than 1,500 productions were entered in the KCACTF involving more than 200,000 students nationwide. By entering this production, our theater department is sharing in the KCACTF goals to recognize, reward, and celebrate the exemplary work produced in college and university theaters across the nation.