

Audio Transcript: Exploring Collective Liberation Through Song

Choir:
(Singing)

Troy Anthony:

My name is Troy Anthony. I am the artistic director of the Fire Ensemble. The Fire Ensemble is a choir community. We're centering people of color and queer folks. We come together once a week and we sing. It's a space for meditation. It's a space for community. It's a space for fellowship.

When I show up to these rehearsals, it doesn't matter what mood I am in. By the end of it, I feel energized. I feel very in my purpose.

Stones:

Hi, I'm Stones. I'm one of the core singers of the Fire Ensemble.

Rehearsal here feels like a really safe space. I feel like no matter what I'm going through, I can come here and just really be myself. I feel like I always feel lighter when I leave. It's just a magical experience every time. You never know what's going to happen or what's going to come out of it. I can't wait to watch this community just really grow and blossom.

Troy Anthony:

The rehearsals are the main thing for me. There will be performances. There will be these community celebrations, but rehearsal is the thing. It's the weekly practice. How do we come together? How do we make community? Music in general has the power to bring folks together in that way, in a very unique way that I don't know that a lot of other things can.

Olivia Murphy:

My name is Olivia Murphy, and I am part of the Fire Ensemble now. Coming out of rehearsal, I feel so affirmed. I feel so full of joy. I think it's like meeting new people who will be family. Not quite yet, but we're getting there. I feel alive.

Troy Anthony:

All of the words of the songs that I choose, I call them tools, and I feel like you can use them to do things.

There's something special that happens when you sing in a certain way. I have tried to alchemize all of that and present it in a way that is digestible by everyone. I think that that kind of spiritual technology is available to everybody.

Choir:
(singing)

Troy Anthony:

Yes, everybody. Yes.