

Elevator Songs

Music and text by **Gabriel Kahane**

Performed by **Roomful of Teeth** and **Gabriel Kahane**



About

Elevator Songs—a celebration of the individual voices that comprise Roomful of Teeth—is a quasi-theatrical cycle set in an interdimensional hotel. Bookended by two songs sung by composer Gabriel Kahane, the eight intervening tunes, one for each member of the ensemble, take us into the lives of characters who exist in different times and places: here, a woman on her honeymoon in Utah at the dawn of the coronavirus pandemic; there, a man in New York City writing a eulogy for a young AIDS victim in the late 1980s; here, a spiritual podcaster in Texas recording an episode at a Holiday Inn sometime in the near future; there, a woman who, having lost her home to wildfire, makes an account of all that she and her soon-to-be ex-husband left behind. In essence, this is a “Roomful of Teeth Songbook,” an anthology meant to showcase each voice within the context of a larger work, which moves from the sacred (“Newborn Plague”) to the profane (“Put It In My Valise”) and back again (“All That Is Solid”). To introduce this rich collaboration, the program opens with a solo set by Kahane (roughly 20 minutes), followed by Caroline Shaw’s “The Isle.” In sum, this is an evening of extraordinary emotional directness, yielding a good dose of laughter, tears, and everything in between.

Approx. 40 minutes

[Listen here \(request access\)](#)

Commissioned by

- Meany Center for the Performing Arts (Seattle, WA)
- Hancher Auditorium (Iowa City, IA)
- San Francisco Performances (San Francisco, CA)
- UCSB Arts & Lectures (Santa Barbara, CA)

Vitals

- Touring party of 11. (Kahane + 8 singers, tour manager, audio engineer)
- Required Backline: Piano, Guitar amp, PA System, 5x wedge monitors, and all necessarily cabling. Inquire for more detailed rider.