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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

harvey milk, opera, people, gay, houston, pledge, call, lesbian, music, voices, mary helen, week, man, tickets, lesbian gay, listening, community, piece, harvey, work

## SPEAKERS

Suzanne Anderson, Jack Valinski, Mary Helen Merzbacher, Deborah Bell

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**J** Jack Valinski 00:06  
because we can't find ours is misplaced. In music we heard before sounds turn

**D** Deborah Bell 00:12  
your our usual music is Jamie Anderson singing No More Closets and this piece is by

**J** Jack Valinski 00:19  
it's called everyone knows in its clear conscience, including its gets named with the name of the album its debut album sounds really good.

**D** Deborah Bell 00:30  
There's more and more queer music coming out including a whole movement in the Chicago area that is called queer core, meaning hardcore music. That's kind of the punk thing. It's fascinating. And finally, it's about time there was music for us. And of course, you do usually hear a lot of queer music on lesbian and gay voices, but not so much tonight. We won't have our usual music segment with Mary Helen, but she will be here next week playing an hour long music special. She is here tonight because it is our fun drive. And she will be pitching and asking you to do your part to help keep this program on the air. But more importantly, tonight, well, not more importantly, but just as important. We have a very special interview. Juan Palomo is interviewing writer, writer Michael Korie and composer Stewart Wallace for the Harvey Milk opera, which is premiering tomorrow, January 21 at the Wisdom Center.

**J** Jack Valinski 01:30  
And if you read outsmart last month, the interview was just fabulous. So I hope this interview is

just as good with one.

D

Deborah Bell 01:37

Yes. And in this issue. The current issue about smart magazine is continuation of stories about the Harvey Milk opera. It's very exciting that we have this taking place right here in our hometown. And we'll be letting you know about some other special events surrounding the election tomorrow, right? We have lots of great premiums to give away when you pledge with your credit card. But these are valid only during lesbian and gay voices. So make sure that you call in at 526-573-8526 KPFT. Talk to Laura, and she'll help you out with the special premiums. And plus we'll have our usual cheesy KPFT premiums, T shirts and mugs and things like that. Yes, I

J

Jack Valinski 02:21

wouldn't say they're the best we've ever had. But they we have them. Well.

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Deborah Bell 02:25

It's a way of saying thank you. But we since our listeners are extremely special, we have gone to the effort of getting some incredible valuable premiums that we want to use to say thank you. And of course we'll have our usual feature including news

J

Jack Valinski 02:39

wrap from this way out and the calendar of events and there's lots of stuff we're going to talk about that's going on in the community this week. But first

D

Deborah Bell 02:46

our favorite loudmouth Suzanne Anderson speaking out.

S

Suzanne Anderson 02:50

It was the best of times in San Francisco, the worst was yet to come. Harvey Milk the city's first openly gay elected official was ensconced in a study hall on the board of supervisors. There he wheeled and deal for his several constituencies gays, Asians, Latinos, union members and the forgotten his 1977 election as city supervisor on his fourth try, was a euphoric peak in the gay liberation movement unleashed by the 1969 Stonewall riot and the New York's Greenwich Village. San Francisco soon became the capital city of many American gays. It's Castro district was the city hall and Harvey Milk was a self anointed mayor of Castro Street. But on November 27 1978, reality broke in on that dreamy Camelot. Milk was shot to death by fellow supervisor Dan White, who also killed Mayor George Moscone, the defense concocted by White's lawyers that he was mentally unbalanced after eating too much junk food. That Twinkie Defense

worked, white received a sentence of only seven years. Almost two years after his release, he committed suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning. You must know if you've been listening at all that Houston Grand Opera Harvey Milk makes its world premiere premieres Saturday at 7:30pm. And the word them Senator Brown theater 500, Texas. The work which follows Of course, the life and murder of gay politician Harvey Milk. It'll have six performances in Houston through February the fifth before moving to the New York City Opera at 2pm. On Saturday. Several of the people who knew milk and work for him will participate in a panel discussion who was Harvey Milk? Again, it's at 2pm at the word them I think it's free. The panelists include Scott Smith, who was milks companion, Frank Robinson, who is not speech writer and and Kornberg milk's campaign manager Ken reader, a member of the San Francisco's Asian community, and then Dora Medora Pain loves campaign volunteer sounds really, really fascinating. If you're interested in need more information you can call 5460231. Also, there are pre curtain lectures that begin at 7pm. Prior to each performance and they opera, they're free to ticket holders and there'll be held at the word them center by box office. If you get a copy this week of the outsmart, there's also a coupon in there and I took it in last night. And if you take it in, you can designate if you go one of a couple of nights that you can select from that half of the money for your ticket will go to a specific charity or three charities I guess that they've specified. So anyway, it's a good way to give back to the community enjoy some wonderful opera. I've heard nothing but great things about it from people who've had the privilege privilege of seeing it. On the local front the Brentwood Economic Community Development Corporation and Brentwood Baptist Church filed a federal housing discrimination suit Thursday against the city of Houston for its failure to release \$626,507 in federal funds for a planned AIDS hospice there. The suit alleges that the city violated the Federal Fair Housing Act when it denied funding after not in my backyard protests from a few local neighbors who were opponents. For months, the church and the surrounding southeast area community have been embroiled over controversy about building the facility. The hospice would consist of several cottages that would house AIDS patients in a campus like setting. It's also alleged that city councilman al Callaway, who allegedly also represents that area, and I can't help but wonder that pressured Brentwood, CDC to abandoned plans for that facility. Anyway, stay tuned and and not that will do any good. But you might get a hold of our Callaway and put in your two cents worth. Well from Paris. He defended individuals recommended using condoms and said priests should be free to marry or what a concept. The interesting thing about all this is he was a bishop. Well, the Vatican stepped in and they fired him. I don't know if I can say it on there. But anyway, they fired him. He has been dismissed. And that's something that the Vatican rarely does that. Listen to this man's radical view. That's no wonder they fired him. He believes that the church should recognize homosexual marriages. And in 1988, he shocked fellow priests by offering to bless a gay couple. Outrageous. A few weeks later, he wrote in a weekly newspaper that homosexuals will proceed us into the kingdom of God. He also endorsed the French made abortion pill, advocated the use of condoms and favored the ordinance, ordination of married priests. His latest Crusades were on behalf of immigrants and the homeless. All fascinating concepts. And again, I think it was incredibly brave. I'm sure that when he did that he knew that he had to be on his way out the door. Don't forget, and they're going to talk about it later here tonight. But a nice Parker election is tomorrow. This is the election that would not be difficult to carry. All we have to do, all we have to do is get out and vote. They're projecting that 10% of the registered voters will be out there ain't going to be 10%. There.

 Jack Valinski 08:23

Dr. Richard Murray said tonight on another radio station that she has a good outside chance. So

smell of getting the people out the polls are open from 7am to 7pm. If you don't know where to vote, the voting will be published in the Houston Chronicle tomorrow, all the voting locations. And you can just go to a polling place if you're not sure they will help you get to your right polling.

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Deborah Bell 08:43

And if we can get her into the runoff, we can get her elected. Our community can do

S

Suzanne Anderson 08:47

it. Oh, absolutely. With ease, all you have to do again is get out and vote. I know the thing phone banking out of my office this week. And if you can phone bank out of your house, all you have to do is take your directory and call people people don't remember they don't know there's an election tomorrow. There is an election tomorrow. The polling places are usually in both newspapers get out and vote and these Parker is not just a lesbian. She's not just our lesbian that's running. She has a stand. She has a history. She has a good background. She's worked hard for our community. She's worked hard for the strike community. She also is already on a first name basis with the mayor and the police chief. We're not putting an unknown in the office and we're not putting somebody in who's just one of us. So again, get out and vote. I'm off to lesbians and business a lesbian and cat empowerment group if you care to join me, it's 20 Greenway Plaza and it starts at 630 So I'm gonna be Hollan

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Deborah Bell 09:45

Is there a special you still can't say that? I don't know if I get frustrated. You know, you can't say that word out on the radio or you Suzanne you shouldn't say that word on the radio. But let's be in some business to have a special topic tonight.

S

Suzanne Anderson 10:00

They sure do, and I don't have a clue.

D

Deborah Bell 10:03

They always have always.

S

Suzanne Anderson 10:05

I think that actually I think it's about abuse in a relationship, but it starts at 630. And come join is 20 Greenway Plaza. It's on Commons between Portsmouth and Norfolk and the line number is five to nine out of seven, seven. Suzanne Anderson speaking out for lesbian and gay boys. Thank

**D** Deborah Bell 10:24

you Suzanne, you know, Harvey Milk says that change comes about by those that make their voices heard. And that's what we do on lesbian and gay voices. We make voices heard that are seldom heard anywhere else. And if certain people have their way in Congress, the probability of Lesbian Gay voices and many other open minded progressive voices are is going to be limited. And that's why it behooves us as a community to support this establishment KPFT.

**J** Jack Valinski 10:56

It was interesting because one of the arguments they were saying about cutting the funding is there's all this alternative, there's a&e, there C span, there's the History Channel, all this other stuff, that's television on radio, there really is no alternative to what we give to our community

**D** Deborah Bell 11:12

and it may not hurt NPR so much, but small community radio stations such as KPS a T other Pacifica

**J** Jack Valinski 11:21

a small amount of the money that we get percentage wise is from the government it's gonna hurt 18%

**D** Deborah Bell 11:25

It's a big cut uncle somebody's budget

**J** Jack Valinski 11:27

this radio station Yes, because we're so bare budget.

**D** Deborah Bell 11:30

And this is what is amazing about it is that we pay taxes, it's our money we want it to go to for the expression of free speech. That's what it's all about. If you support that concept, whether you think that it should be paid for by taxes or not, especially if you think that I still shouldn't pay for it, then you should be doing your share right now by calling 526-573-8526 KPFT I still

**J** Jack Valinski 11:59

love that quote someday I hope that could come true. Where the schools get all the money

they need and the Air Force has to have a bake sale to pay for another

D

Deborah Bell 12:07

one that be great. Well, we have some music coming up next so just remind the Air Force just

J

Jack Valinski 12:14

remind you what that phone number is it's 526-573-8526 KPFT you get special premiums from us and the other premiums from the radio station right

D

Deborah Bell 12:25

and Fred small will be coming into town soon for a concert but he's going to share with us right now his story about the the military the moraine lament or the pink peril by Fred small.

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 12:46

Fred small from his in concert album, everything possible. My name is Mary Helen, I'm one of the producers of Lesbian Gay voices in first small was referring in that epilogue to that song to the gays in the military debate, obviously. And we have to realize that Fred small can speak out as a heterosexual man for our community, and lesbian gay community. But everybody, like you said has to work together. So tonight, we're asking you to work with us to help keep lesbian and gay voices on the air. And the way that you do that is you call on a pledge. It's real easy to do. We're asking for a \$60 pledge from you a \$90 pledge from you. Or maybe you feel like you can afford the big \$150 pledge, you get you get one of the semi precious little KPFT watches. And you'll also get some special premiums if you ask out in to our volunteers out in the lobby and the number to call is 5265738. We'd like to hear from you. One of the special premiums that we have to offer tonight is a pair of tickets to go see Fred small in concert, this wonderful musician is going to take a sabbatical but before he does, he is going to be performing one last time here in Houston at the First Congregational Church, which is down at Houston Community College Area campus, it's 1311 home and between Austin and Caroline, just across from Houston Community College Central Campus February 10. It's a Friday night at 8pm. He'll be there. You can get a pair of tickets with your pledge of \$60 or more to lesbian and gay voices tonight. So why don't you go ahead and give us a call. We only have one pair of these tickets, you'll still get that cheesy little coffee mug, or, you know maybe one of those, you know, kind of semi nice T shirts that we have to offer and I'm telling you, you know, I mean, we've had better shirts but I'm sure there's been worse shirt somewhere. Some some some somebody's had had a worse one, but well, they're they're okay. They're wonderful kids and Don't let anyone tell you they're not especially Deborah and Jack because I mean, they are so nice. I said they're nice. And the number again is five to six. They're unique. Oh, yeah, they're unique, unique. And the number again is 5265738. Get that pair of tickets to go see Fred small, we only have one pair at \$60. And we'll come back and we'll have some people to thank, I'm gonna go check and see who we've got to thank we'd like to be able to thank you.

**J** Jack Valinski 15:29

I know we have some people to thank So Marie, why don't you check that out. And hopefully, we'll have more people to thank if those phones are ringing,

**D** Deborah Bell 15:36

right. And we're going to tell folks about some of the other excellent premiums that they can get by pledging to lesbian and gay voices tonight, this is the last time during this fun drive that this program will be on. And we know that well, we we need to seduce you with something that is quality, because lesbian and gay voices is a quality program. And while a t shirt or a mug or a nice little thank you that the station can give to people. You know, that's only so much but what we can give you is a lot more because we have a very generous and supportive community in Houston. One of the things that we have now these went fast last week, so there's only one pair left of tickets to any landmark theater, that's the River Oaks Greenway or landmark. And

**J** Jack Valinski 16:23

they have some great films running right now they do

**D** Deborah Bell 16:25

and at the \$35 level, you can pick up on a pair of tickets in addition to the I think you just get the program God with with the \$35 pledge, or you can get a \$35 pledge and get cappuccinos for two at two piece Coffee Company at 1830. West Alabama. Yes. And then you'll be wired is our favorite smoke free coffee shop woman owned right here in the Montrose area. The skyline Houston Skyline theater is also being very generous and there are two pairs of tickets available to anyone at the \$60 level call in and pledge 52657385 to 6k P F T four at the \$60 level and their current production is pizza man which has a low a bit of a feminist theme. But that is for any Skyline theater production. Another going to have the owl and pussycat coming up. Which one of the people involved in that is KPFT is very own Otis Hardy McClay there will be a there are three pairs of tickets available to the boy next door which is playing from March 1 through April at the actors workshop and that's available at the \$60 level. Now Crossroads market, they find establishment at 610. West Alabama, is offering a number of pledges that are available at the \$90 or above level you can pledge more and still get them among them are united we stand which is a double cassette of African spiritual and gospel music by Dallas Turtle Creek Chorale. I know Heartsong members are Gay Men's Chorus members are going to want to get them

**J** Jack Valinski 18:11

excellent group another day from Dallas.

**D** Deborah Bell 18:14

Yeah. The other thing from Crossroads,

**J** Jack Valinski 18:18

the naked civil servant, I didn't realize you were tweeting at me. I thought you're pointing at somebody else. It's a double CD. And that's a live performance by Quinton Chris in 1979. So he's incredibly funny. And I don't know what the right word of it is.

**D** Deborah Bell 18:34

He has a lot of the wit of Oscar Wilde on a style. He's a British writer. And that is a classic there.

**J** Jack Valinski 18:44

But one of my favorite ones here is what the Bible really says about homosexuality. And that's available at the \$90 pay \$90 level. And it's 122 pages. So you can be quoting those Bible coders

**D** Deborah Bell 18:56

that back that yeah, if they had titled that what Jesus said about homosexuality, it would have been a very thin book, it would have been a blank page

**J** Jack Valinski 19:05

and we have many more things that we're going to be telling you about during the program. Well,

**D** Deborah Bell 19:09

at the \$150 level, you can get that nifty black leather watchband KPFT special watch better time than we do here and it can help you be on time to the alley theatre for because at the \$150 level you can pick up on a pair of tickets to the current production of the mystery of aroma that which was written by Charles Ludlum, who was a gay man. And there's it's very campy and it's very fun and Cynthia reviewed it last week and it's certainly something that we would like to share with our listeners I think that they would really enjoy so talk to Laura if you need any special information about have any questions about the special premiums but we have other volunteers sitting by they're not standing by they're sitting barely waiting For the phones to ring, so call it 526-573-8526 KPFT.

**J** Jack Valinski 20:06

But we hope you're going to be plugged into this radio station, this program because of the programming the unique stuff that we offer on this this program, rather than just the



premiums, premiums are a nice bonus you can have. And we basically know that it's only about 10% of our audience of this radio station does donate on any type of regular basis. So 90% are getting it for free. And it may not be there unless people do donate.

D

Deborah Bell 20:30

So it's very important that you call now to make your pledge of support. You know, we had almost everybody that pledged last week already pay their can they pay by credit close? It's one thing, hon. So we tried to make it easy for you. We tried to thank you with nice praying premiums. So call us at 526-573-8526 KPFT. And speaking of the programming, one of the people that we've been very fortunate to have included in this program is one Palomo, who is a writer and an editor with the Houston Post. And many of you might be familiar with one story about how he came out when he wrote about the murder of Paul of sorrow and the impact that that had on his life. And he continues to be a voice for our community. He recently interviewed writer Michael quarry and the composer Stuart Wallace, who are the people behind the Houston grant offers production of Harvey Milk. It's going to be premiering tomorrow and we have this interview for you now. And we will be giving you some more information about this next outstanding event that's happening right here in Houston at the Wortham center. So stay tuned to listen to lesbian and gay voices as we hear this interview with Juan Palomo.

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21:47

This one Kelowna for lesbian and gay voices. Our guest today are Michael quarry and Stuart Wallace who are in town for rehearsal rehearsal so the Houston Grand Opera production of Harvey Milk and new opera based on the life and death of the history making gay San Francisco supervisor who was shot to death by fellow supervisor in 1978. Harvey Milk will have its world premiere on January 21 at the Welcome Center and we'll have five more performances here before it goes on to New York and later San Francisco. Premiere will be preceded by a benefit preview performance on January 19. to benefit the bearing Service Center and the many services it offers people with AIDS. Michael Cory is 39 years old and is a native of New Jersey. His first career was as a journalist including a scent with a Village Voice he has been collaborating with Stewart walls for about 10 years. And together they have produced three operas where his dick Cabala and hoppers wife. He lives in New York with his level of 18 years Ivan Sigulda. Okay, story was 34 and he grew up in Houston. He first gained the attention of Houston Grand Opera general director David Gockley a number of years ago when he submitted a short piece called soap to an eight year program that was attempting to find new young composers. Love has not come from an academic and symphonic background, but instead rooted more in pop music. Godley likes to compare him to Leonard Bernstein, who he says was able to read series music and the music of the Americas. He and his partner, Mary Ellen Carroll, also live in New York. I'd like to welcome both of you and thank you for taking the time to be here with us. Harvey Milk you know, Harvey Milk in Houston just does not seem to make sense to a lot of people. Here's a very controversial, almost radical gay politician. And here's Houston, Texas, still very conservative. Can can either be tell us what, what's going on here? Why, why this is happening?

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23:43

Whv it's happenina. And the how it's happenina are two verv different thinas. But as far as it

...very interesting and it's not happening and it's very interesting... being done in Houston, Harvey Milk as a hero. And there are very few and far between. And the fact that he was a hero of the gay and lesbian community is of great interest nationally, internationally, to everybody. You know, our first piece was called where's dick. And that was about the search for American heroes, and it was a fruitless search. It ended up with a rather cynical viewpoint that America didn't have any heroes anymore. And here are five years later in Harvey Milk. This radical street activist turned politician. We have found a hero that speaks to gays and lesbians, and I hope everybody



24:43

the idea was, was actually the idea was first suggested by a director from Germany, who David Dunkley was very interested in working with. He had seen the documentary on Harvey Milk life on German television, and was very moved by him both personally and by his admission. And he wanted to do a new opera based on Harvey Milk slides. David then sent him a tape of our first work together. Where's Derek, and the peace ensued from there. Now what's happened over the course of time is, of course, we have a different director here now, a director who we actually the director, who we've worked with on the piece, and it's very different Harvey Milk than I think, perhaps any of them intended. We decided that we wanted to know what made Harvey Milk tick. What was the thing that made this rather ordinary guy from Jewish family in Long Island, who was at one time living as a closeted Wall Street stockbroker go off and become a civil rights leader. And so that was our that was our search in defining the opera The opera was not about. It was not about Harvey Milk getting killed, we wanted an opera about his wife and his legacy. And I think that's what we've done.



25:56

of people who listen to the show, don't know very much about the opera. And there's a lot of people who love the opera. But most of them, the most of them, like me have no idea how something like this comes about and progresses. I mean, we have somebody producing the music and other person producing the words. Can you enlighten us a little bit as to how these are meshed together? What is the process here? Who does who goes first?



26:23

Well, actually, the thing that comes first is no writing at all. It's a lot of talking, Michael and I have had developed a way of working over a long period of time now. And we sit down and we talk. And we research, Michael went to San Francisco did interviews with many of the principal people who were involved in Harvey Milk's campaign, and who knew him. And then we talked about the ideas, what we want to convey, and structure and form. So before anything is actually written, there's a lot of discussion about shape and distillation and how we're going to make this. And what generally happens is Michael goes away and writes for a long time. And after, after that, we have a series of meetings where we discuss it, we edit it, reshape it. And this takes a read a long time. And so I generally try not to write a note of music until we have what would be a very strong first draft. And from there, then I can see the whole shape of the piece where the themes reoccur. It gives me a sense of the skeleton of the whole opera. And that's when I like to begin composing.



27:27

And after that, is it just a matter of give and take in this is a lot



27:31

a lot Yes, Stuart needs at least one complete act before he can begin composing because he needs to see the musical arc of the piece where it's going to be going you need to know the ending before you can know how you're gonna get there in opera. But we approach all our pieces very organically very spontaneously, we don't have a set of rules for people who aren't familiar with the opera some of your listeners.



29:18

I've been sort of researching this for a few months now and I've sat in on some of the some of the rehearsals is most people think of opera as something that is sung in some foreign language in Italian or French or German or whatever. And therefore the the image most people have is you know the words doesn't matter it's the music that's supposed to enough provide enough passion and and everything else. Yet here we have an offer the name was I was going to words matter and get out I was listening to watching the rehearsals the other day and the director told the call For us, you know, the words matter as much as music here, if not more. Any, if I'm not mistaken one or anything I have subtitles here to make sure that that people get get the words here. I mean, why I mean, I guess most everybody who has ever been an opposite the words matter but tell us why that was?



30:21

Why motions about the subtitles because I think when you read you don't hear music. And really the the the art form is a wedding of music and language and image. And so that I think can sometimes those get those things get in the way. But it comprehensibility is very, very important to us. There's one thing that I want to say in relation that sort of ties these two things together about why an opera like this would be interesting for for contemporary people when opera seems like an archaic and removed from an archaic form that's removed from American culture. I think that what Michael, what has fueled our collaboration has been an engagement in the political issues of our day in one form or another. And I think that has been a consistent thing. So the issues that turn us on are issues that are important, and they're important. Now, they're not about Greek mythology, they're not about Italian history, the really bad American ideals and American problems. And so, somebody coming to an offer like this, would be able to recognize themselves in the offer.



31:24

Which sort of leads to another question. Mike and I were talking about this the other day, and a lot, a lot of the gay opera audience are people who like the old stuff, I mean, and they don't want to be bothered with anything new, especially something that's is controversial. And yet,

you're sort of not you'd sort of dragging them into the modern world here and, and asking them to look it up in a new



31:47

way. Yeah, in some ways. We've even commented on them a bit in that Harvey Milk, because a young boy first gets introduced to his identity at the opera, where he views all these opera fans. He's men who come to the opera and stand in the back of the opera in the standing room section. He doesn't know what they are men in Woodmere, Long Island bowling league, and who are these men that know these fancy Italian phrases, the names of dead divas, he calls them the men without wives. And the back of the Opera House was kind of a metaphor to us, for the back of the bus where gay men were other. To some degree, there is a certain generation of gaming that continued to go to the opera that consider it their own special world. And they resent the fact that we're dragging what they perceive as a political agenda into the offer house. I in fact, don't think we are dragging in a political agenda. I don't feel the pieces of polemic. I feel that we do use the years of gay life in America, but we do a take on each of them. So I mean, we've I've heard some comments that I've been rather surprised that about that old fashioned point of view. What do we need to see this for? I don't have friends that are drag queens. I don't have friends that went around and leather. Why do we have to look at this in the opera house when we could be seeing Rigoletto?



33:25

Well, having knives point of view really, I mean, oddly enough, or maybe not. So Oddly, the people who supported Harvey Mudd first were the drag queens. And that's because he said that it's a big tent. gay life is a big Ted as as life at large. I mean, his basic principles were that inclusion was important. And that meant everybody, regardless of how they behaved, how they looked, what they did, was important to bring everyone in. And I think Harvey Milk when he goes back is a 39 year old man in our opera. And he goes back to the opera and he sees the same man and they're saying the same things. He feels that nothing has changed. It's important, it's a time to make a change, and he breaks that mold. And that's when he leaves his closet of Wall Street Life and becomes a street activist.



34:09

Ultimately, he returns to the opera The night before his death, which is in fact true. Before having a death premonition the night before at Tosca and this time he sees the men and women the opera the gay men and women couples now open in front of the opera openly cheering their own elected supervisor so the opera becomes sort of a means for milk to measure his progress and the world



34:35

to study more about how the milk and and what opera meant to him and he wasn't just somebody who went to the opera everyone sort of ramen you have a very special scene in there and was she's never sort of loose, cutting his hair while listening and listening to it.



34:52

That was one of the things I found out on my interviews. I really wasn't satisfied with the existing sources on On Harvey Milk in terms of wheeling, coming to know the man in a personal way, and I did all these interviews, and one of them was with his lover who still survives in San Francisco, Scott Smith. And I had heard that Harvey Milk was an opera fan. In fact, I found out from someone at the San Francisco Opera, that one of the perks that he got as an elected official with free seats to the opera, and nothing could thrill him more. And I love that contradiction of this street activist with a ponytail who loved the opera. And I don't really think it's that unusual when you think that in the 40s, when Harvey Milk was first learning to discover himself, the opera was one of the few places where gay men could be gay. Opera is such a strange, unique world with his own set of rules, that it can't make very many judgments. And he felt comfortable there as a lot of men of his generation did. He continued to love opera through his life. It was almost a secret love. And I spoke with this lover and I said, What did he like? He says, Well, he didn't been crazy about Italian opera, but he did like labo AM. And but oddly enough, the thing that he liked most was German opera, Wagner, and they would let sit in bed and listen to opera and Harvey would sing along. And you know, there was a very theatrical side to his nature. That really, he knew how to use and was aware of. When he moved out to San Francisco. He was perceived as an interloper by the existing power structure there, digit gays and Jews, and they were much more simulated already in California. And here he came this loudmouth pastrami sandwich eating Jew with an agenda from New York waving his flyers standing on his soapbox leafleting, and they disliked him intensely. But he knew how to use his cultural identity isn't ethnicities His purpose? I think that there was an incident described in the book by Randy shelf, the mayor of Castro Street, where upon being elected to City Hall, he went into that wonderful grand rotunda with a friend and motioned his hand out and said, How do you like my new theater. And this was a side of Harvey Milk we were drawn to want to explore and we liked to begin the opera of Harvey Milk. The opera itself would serve as a metaphor.



Jack Valinski 37:26

We're listening to a interview conducted by Juan Palomo, he's interviewing Michael Curry, and the writer in the composer Stuart Wallace of the Harvey Milk opera, which is opening tomorrow night at the Werdum center 7:30pm. And it's going to play for only eight performances. We're very lucky that one was able to do this interview. And I think I've learned more about the opera listening to this interview than I've read in some of the magazines and all the other things that we were able to get a hold of some very interesting points he talked about including Harvey's love for the opera, and how there was men sitting in the back of the opera, who were gay men or men without wives. Very interesting stuff. And we're very lucky that this opera is coming to Houston. We're also very lucky that one was able to do this interview. And if you appreciate this type of programming here on KPFT, we're asking you to call 526-573-8526 KPFT. There's premiums that we will give you when you make your pledges are we are suggested level is from \$35 on off. But hopefully you're pledging because of the type of programming that's done here. I remember doing this program many, many years ago, when we were lucky to be able to get some type of any type of game as being culture. And we would be talking about every little piece that we got. Now we're very lucky that we have a lot more stuff and we try to bring you some of the stuff behind the scenes or some of the reasons why this stuff is happening. From the opera to the voting booth. There's a lot of things happening are getting lesbian community

and remind you that tomorrow, election day, the polls are open from 7am to 7pm, with a nice Paco as one of the 19 candidates running for city council at large position. So we're trying to provide you the information in the entertainment. But we're asking you to become involved. We're asking you to go out and vote we're asking you to pick up the phone and dial 5265738 We have Mary Helen out in the lobby and we do have some people to thank Mary Helen,

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 39:22

we should do jack and we'd like to take just a minute to thank all of them who have called up at 5265738. And if you've been waiting for us to open up the mic out here in Marathon Central, now's your chance to hear your very own telephone all over the 100,000 watt radio station and the number to call is 5265738 and I know that's important to most of you. We want to thank AC is important to one person. We want to thank Michael Atkinson As who's called in to renew his support. Thank you very much, Michael. He appreciates getting a voting information such as what you heard tonight about a nice Parker. We'd also like to thank Bob McLaughlin and Christopher Robin's they called in to renew their support with a family membership.

J

Jack Valinski 40:19

Wonderful. Yes. We do not require the Texas definition of families to do a family membership here. No, no,

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 40:26

we do not. And they are picking up on a pair of tickets to go on February the 10th. To see Fred small, they're going to be able to pick those tickets up at the door guys, so they really enjoy gay and lesbian voices fresh air, and are getting a kick out of 100 days that's airing in the morning, some aillagon KPFT we'd also like to thank Catherine Horton she called in from Mountain Baytown. She is a new subscriber to the station. Let's see said said that she met a nice Parker, who we mentioned on KPFT at the ranch maybe I don't know. Okay, nice. We got you baby. And we'd also like to thank sunny Garza. Sunny, if you're listening, would you call us back? Because we need to get a little bit more information from you, if possible. So give us a call back here at the station. And the number again, is 5265738.

J

Jack Valinski 41:25

So Larry Helens hosts about this premiums. Tell tell her Have you said enough?

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 41:30

And not Well, we still have some more people to say oh, okay, I could tell you about premiums. In the meantime, if you would like to hear about some of the wonderful gifts that Jeff and Chuck and Sarah and Michael and Phillip could tell you about if you give us a call here 5269738. And some of those are, you know, tickets to the Alley Theater, we have tickets to see the mystery of Irma back over at the alley.

J Jack Valinski 41:54  
I was thinking about those KPFT premiums.

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 41:57  
Oh, those premiums? You know, Jack, the rumor premiums just ain't what it used to be,

J Jack Valinski 42:05  
I guess not I got not,

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 42:07  
I'll tell you, they're given a shot here at the old station. And, and so they have come up with a few, you know, ratty old T shirts, and you know, some kind of cheesy little coffee mugs. And you can get one also there's a watch, that probably would work most of the time, if you hit it just right on the one side. No kidding.

J Jack Valinski 42:28  
It's like our transmitter, you gotta hit it on the right part to make it work. It has

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 42:31  
the ever since smallest little hamster inside. And you can get one of those. They're really nice, you know, we kid around,

J Jack Valinski 42:40  
kid around a lot. But one of these days, we got to have a tour bus to go out to the transmitter and really show people how the station keeps on the bus down that road. It's true. That's true. Although sometimes, sometimes you get a boat down there.

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 42:53  
Yeah, so if you could really, I mean, it is way out on the north, west side way outside the loop. Yeah, it's out of the northwest side of town, you got to get down a couple of dirt roads to get there. And, you know, it's it's, it's a wonder HLP goes down, they're not a place where you can really hang out, you know, unless you really like snakes and you know Africanized honey bees and stuff like that. But it does at least served the purpose of getting the signal out to the

Houston area. And we're glad to have what we have. The reason we have what we have is people before you have called in and subscribe to the station, they call him with pledges of 25 or 50 or \$100,

**J** Jack Valinski 43:31

the odds were against the station to be on the air for 25 years, and they're still against the state this station to continue on the air. And it's up to you to make those odds go away and keep us on. And I mean, we're very fortunate to be able to do this type of programming, where else who else would have us,

**M** Mary Helen Merzbacher 43:49

you know, it would be very hard because, you know, if you go on the air, and you say we're gonna put on a show called lesbian and gay voices, it's probably doubtful that Coca Cola or General Motors is going to want to sponsor that program. And as we know, the federal government is getting ready to cut the funding to Public Radio. And you know, you're not going to get the Texas legislature or the Houston City Council to approve funds to pay for this kind of radio is just not going to happen. So what has to happen is each one of us has to chip in 2550 \$100, whatever we can afford, we can put it on a credit card, you can get a send a check in the mail, that's just fine. We'll take your name and address. We don't have to thank you by name, if you don't wish for us to do so we'll be glad to let you remain anonymous. It's very simple, but it's really important and we don't just go tacking on, you know, 10 or 30 cents or \$1 on to every product that you buy, you know to go to public radio like you do when you buy a six pack of Coca Cola, you got to figure 50 cents of that probably went for the advertising or are probably more than that went in the budget. In the packaging of the product. You know, you're really that's what you're paying for.

**J** Jack Valinski 44:57

You know, we're also very lucky to have the show on at 6pm Mark People are driving home. So they're sort of a captive audience in a sense, and they get to listen to us. And it's very convenient for a lot of people listen to us from six to 8pm. And but once a show wants you to show your appreciation that we get such a good time slot on this radio station, by pledging to us at five to six KPFT 5265738 It's only because you make a difference, are we able to help make a difference and

**M** Mary Helen Merzbacher 45:24

people like Becky out Lake City who's called in who's gonna get one of the the T shirts from KPFT. And people like a Mary Edgar, who called in, in, in has supported the station before she's even come down here to be on the station, I believe. Not on this show. But on other ones. We also want to thank a new subscriber, excuse me, somebody that's a recently renewed subscriber, we'd like to thank petrol one rich rodkey, who called in last spring is calling again this year to renew support. He'd been planning to pledge but he was waiting on this program to do it. We've only got Oh, another hour or so in the program. We need your support. We're just



about halfway to our goal of \$1,000. Tonight, we were able to go over the goal last night last Friday night, but we need to forget to do that. We need your help to put us over the goal. And the number you call is 5265738.

 Jack Valinski 46:24

And and you know, we might want to tell people if you don't pledge we might invite you to one of our programmer meetings. If you don't plan. If you don't pledge we're going to invite you to one of the days together to not go to meeting. Yes.

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 46:38

Okay. We have one more person to thank and then and then we'll let you get back to what we really do best. Here are some of the features of the program. We want to thank Cindy Bruning, who called in from out in parallel, and she likes to gnl voices, and we appreciate your support Cindy, you know, it doesn't matter how much you want to pledge, if it's \$25, if it's \$100, if it's \$500, it's all going to go to support the programming you hear on KPFT it's all important. And the number to call is five to 6k P F T, it's five to 657 38. If you're more numerically than alpha, numerically inclined, we really want to hear from you left handed right handed, tall, short, blonde, brunette, even if you have a guy male, straight gay, lesbian. Bisexual, trisexual. Whatever. Okay, go ahead and do it. It's really easy. And the number Jack, the number is

 Jack Valinski 47:37

526-573-8526 KPFT. And we're going to lock Mary Helen back in campaign central to you maybe you could even talk to her if you call it five to six KPFT 5265738. We want to thank everybody who has pledged so far and want to remind you if you haven't pledged, please do call us now. We are going to go back to this interview. It's an interview with Milan Palomo, who's talking about the opera, the Harvey Milk opera.

 48:02

We're speaking with Michael quarry and Stewart Wallace, the librettist and composer for the new opera. They will premiere here in Houston on the 21st of January called Harvey Milk stirred tell us a little bit more about what kind of opera people should expect when they go that I mean when there's people who turn on the radio on Saturday afternoon hear all this screaming and yelling in this in this foreign language. And then there's other operators who are more like Porgy and Bess there were more easy to swallow for people who are not connoisseurs of opera, what where does this fit in? Well, I think the music will be

 48:39

oddly in it in an odd way familiar, not familiar that it's something that they've heard before, but familiar that it grows in the roots of American soil. So growing up here in Texas, it was kind of like growing up in a musical gumbo. And everything was on a layout level playing field, from

classical to rock and roll to blues to mariachi music to continue until everything was everything was available. And so all of that, in a way informs where I come from musically. As a as a teenager, I sang in synagogue as a cantor. And I play rock and roll every Friday every Saturday night. So in a way that combination led me to opera something with or at least my version of what an opera should sound like which is something with very driving rhythmic, aggressive music, and also the opportunity for long soaring vocal lines. I mean, there's a very, I think you saw the duet between Scott and Harvey Harvey, Harvey rubber and himself in bed is a beautiful soaring duet for two men. I'm not sure that that's ever happened on an opera stage before. And underneath it is a kind of moving motion. There's music that's filled with motion and emotion. So I think that what they can expect is something that will be at least culturally familiar, not for Learn something that, along with the issues that are familiar to us, that musically comes from the environment that we all grew up with here in America, this sort of stew of different ideas and different sounds.



50:12

I asked Robert, what's his last symbol or theme? We'll sing that as a part of Harvey Milk. If he had to compare it to, you know, some opera and then the old world or a world of opera? I mean, what would where would he put it? And he seemed, he said, it probably would be closer to Puccini to anything else in that it had so much passion. And Michael, you talked about the passing cycle, how Stewart kept demanding more passion from you. And while this



50:43

is true, this was a broad life. And they were filled with filled with political battles and things that I thought were in quotations importance. And Stewart kept saying, Well, this politics is good, but I want the passion. I need something to write music to hear and encouraged me to bring out the passionate side of harbi his relationships with his lover, and which transmutes into a passion for justice.



51:11

I mean, there's a series of cords in the office, they're very aggressive from when Harvey young Harvey Milk is in the park, and he sees these men having sex in the bushes. And he's very confused because he's drawn to it. And he's also scared by it. And it's there's a kind of outburst in the orchestra that's very, very driving those chords, this sort of frantic sex chords really become the thing that symbolizes politics by the end of the opera. There's a transformation of sex into politics as the opera



51:37

never knew that.



51:40

But want to say one of the things, elia Puccini?

But want to say one of the things, skin Puccini?



51:44

Well, I liked the genie. And what I liked most about this opera is that it really is a story. And that, to me is what opera is. It's the most heightened form of theater of storytelling, and the music brings it just one more level closer. And Stewart nice, I would say sort of got into opera through the backdoor, we didn't anticipate being creators of operas, we were trying to create a very hands on kind of theater, and Opera brought us there. We didn't approach it as classical academics often do, as well. Now it's time to write my opera. It was a natural means of expression for us.



52:26

Part of the passion and this story is more than just about Harvey Milk's homosexuality and his radicalism and his politics. It's also about his Jewishness. And that is a very, very strong core throughout the whole opera is fully positioned



52:42

him, you know, Harvey Milk was, was both a gay person and an ethnic person. And both elements, in fact, played a very strong role in the way that he interacted with communities in San Francisco. It was, in fact, a way that he built bridges. And it goes back to the earlier question, we said, what makes this guy do this? Why would this kid is ordinary kid from Long Island, go off and do the things that he did. And we found in reading first his speeches, then his articles and then researching his life, that Harvey Milk was profoundly affected by the events of the Holocaust and World War Two. And we posited from this, that he learned a very important lesson, first for himself as a Jewish man and later for himself as a gay man, that when you see something that you know, is wrong, and you are silent in the face of it, the consequences are dire. And so this was the thing that sent that moral core the sense of moral outrage that drove him, we think, to achieve the things that he did



53:42

in the past about a dream that you had that helps to sort of move the athlete along when he was when you were at a at a low point. Can you tell us about Yes,



53:53

well, it relates to the point Stuart was just talking about the opera had been in two acts. It was filled with events, and it didn't have the kind of musical or dramatic flow that we wanted, and we were both very dissatisfied. We had recently been to Germany and Stuart had visited some of the concentration camps. We had addressed the community there and found it very highly unfavorable react. As someone who's writing an opera about gays and Jews, I went home and I had this dream. It's the only time I ever dreamt of a concept, but I dreamt of a pink triangle,

which was, of course a symbol very meaningful to Harvey Milk. It was the sign branded on 300,000 gay men and women from the Berlin gay rights movement that were perished in the concentration camps. And then slowly behind this pink triangle, I dreamt of another triangle, the yellow triangle, and they came together and formed a six pointed star. And when I woke up, I said this is the metaphor for heart. you milk a man with a foot in two camps who was whose star is a pair of triangles, one pink one yellow. I told Stuart. And he was very excited. And he told me that actually, this thing had existed. In the concentration camps, the Nazis had given the Jews, yellow triangles and the gays, pink triangle, yellow stars, and the gays being triangles. They also gave different color coded signs for the political prisoners, the gypsies, the communists, the dissidents, and they had a graph where they mixed and matched these things. And a gay Jew was in fact need to wear a pink and yellow triangle. And then I knew that we had hit upon a concept for our understanding of Harvey Milk.



55:48

What would you say to say, conservative, conservative Jewish person who goes to the opera and the CV, you know, sort of combining both elements of Harvey now this homosexuality Jewishness? And so you know, how dare you you equate one with the other?



56:03

We're not acquainting one with the other. I think that's a mistake to say that, what we are saying is that Harvey Milk was a person who has two different Heritage's. And from those He said, I think the mistake is to say, Oh, you're comparing sufferings and all that. And it dilutes both sufferings. It's not about that at all. It's about who is Harvey Milk? He was born in a Jewish family, and he was a gay man. What is the combination of those elements? What happens when those elements are brought together in this one person? And how does that make him? How does that make him run? And we kept asking what makes Harvey Harvey Milk run? What makes him do these things,



56:38

his contradiction was that he could and did stand up for himself as a Jew. And there is a documented Fight For he that he had with a German businessman that's in the opera. But he could not stand up for himself as a gay man in the air of the closet. And when he learned the same sort of standing up the same sort of activist stand, that he uses as a Jew is necessary to be a whole person as a gay man, then he was able to put these two together. I mean, that's, you know, we're not IV milk, we're not equating we're showing how morality is born, and moves on and empowers an individual and then great groups of people.



57:18

I mean, the thing that was inspiring for both of us, I think about Harvey Milk, was that he had a very naive belief, which was that he as a single person, if he faced the world with the courage of his convictions, and faced it boldly, that he could change the world. And this was, was, in fact, in the, in the light of the 80s, in the political climate in the United States, something that

was incredibly moving for both of us, and inspiring for us. And that's what we want to be offered to, to say to people in a way that you can, if you engage yourself make a difference in the world. And it's important to do that.

D

Deborah Bell 57:54

Harvey Milk said, I'm only one person, but I have power. You're listening to KPFT 90.1. FM, you Houston, Texas. This is Deborah Bell.

J

Jack Valinski 58:03

And this is Jack Valinski. And what an incredible quote, when person can make a difference really true.

D

Deborah Bell 58:09

And you yourself right now can make a difference by calling 526-573-8526 KPFT to pledge your support for this kind of broadcasting, where we talk about the issues of the lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual community.

J

Jack Valinski 58:28

You know, I've been living in the city about 13 years now. And I've listened to the station. And it's made a big difference in my life. I don't know whether that's good or bad, but, but it really has there has been things that I've heard on this radio station that I would never heard anywhere else. There's things I hear and other radio stations that I like to I'm going to come back to KPFT. The 100 days of Congress is incredible. It airs

D

Deborah Bell 58:50

at eight o'clock Monday through Friday on KPFT. It's from the Washington what's national Pacifica broadcasting with Larry Verbinski, and Julianne Malveaux, as they're keeping an eye on what is going on with a new Congress that the radical changes that are taking place, but they're also exposing some of the things that are taking place in a big concern for us has been, of course, the possible probable cuts in public funds to public broadcasting that includes television and radio. And, and some of the things that are really fascinating about that are some of the things that are said like it's for the elite is for people, they're privileged. And you know, art is important. It's what makes life worth living, and having open honest dialogue. I mean, it's okay for us to talk about issues one way or another, or both ways Either way, there's not like some people like Rush Limbaugh gets on and he gives his opinion, his viewpoint only. And when what we do when we come here is yes, we don't talk a lot about what other people say and do to talk about lesbian and gay people. while we talk about it, because you get that everywhere else here, it's like a sanctuary. It's a haven, it's where our voices can be heard and can make a difference. And we do talk about it being a positive thing to be a lesbian or gay person, we talk about our family values about

J Jack Valinski 1:00:17

the problems, it is to be gay or lesbian know the issues that we have to do on a day to day basis. And I think

D Deborah Bell 1:00:22

more importantly than that, though, we talk about the things in our community to celebrate the things that we're doing right.

J Jack Valinski 1:00:29

And you know, just like we're talking about the opera tonight, probably a lot of our listeners Hang on, I mean, I hope it will encourage people to go who wouldn't otherwise do that?

D Deborah Bell 1:00:44

Well, the Houston Grand Opera really put itself on the line because this is very controversial.

J Jack Valinski 1:00:49

I spoke to somebody who works down there today and mentioned that a lot of the the subscribers should sort of shied away from that. But now after all the press, they are trying to get tickets, and it's becoming difficult to get those they're

D Deborah Bell 1:01:01

beginning to look at it on a net national basis. I have seen other press that has talked about, well, the premiere taking place here in here, they're very curious to know performance data to bid on it. And the other thing about it is that it's a contemporary opera, which is a break from what a lot of opera companies do. So this will show typewriting and Harvey Milk, he continues to be a leader after all these years. I mean, what, what a loss to our community, but also the gift of his life. And just simple things like the example that he said, as a gay man that was open and honest about his life. Just think we might have someone right here in Houston, we can have a nice Parker sitting on city council and what a difference that can make for us who

J Jack Valinski 1:01:44

want to remind people that listen to KPFT, and Houston, and that this is a station, let us support it and earlier primarily because of our listeners,

**D** Deborah Bell 1:01:52

and you as a listener can support by calling 526-573-8526 KPFT. We have some incredible, wonderful premiums to thank you with. And if you call in now that our volunteers will help you decide which ones to choose from. And we hope that you do we hope that you will call in at 5265738.

**J** Jack Valinski 1:02:16

And if you don't call in Mary Helen may call you. And speaking very Helen, let's go out to marathon Central and see what she's doing with all those volunteers. Most of

**M** Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:02:25

them I have already called them. And they hung up on you in my life some at some time or another. But tonight, we're asking for you to go ahead and call the station week after week you hear lesbian and gay voices in in our voices here on the radio station go out to you. And tonight we're asking you to kind of complete the circle here and call us back and make a pledge of support. And the number to call is 5265738 seems awfully quiet out there. It is quiet. We have four open lines here. We have lines available for you to call. Go ahead you'll hear your phone ring right over the air, you'll know that you you know that you've done your part there you

**D** Deborah Bell 1:03:02

are now. And you know people are not you. But not you,

**M** Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:03:06

Jackie Deborah people are really concerned about the funding cuts that are being discussed in the Congo may reduce

**J** Jack Valinski 1:03:14

ourselves. I'm very concerned about it.

**M** Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:03:16

In all seriousness, you know, the National Public Radio, Public Broadcasting System, everybody is quite concerned.

**J** Jack Valinski 1:03:25

You know, it's very interesting, though they always are saying how leftist National Public Radio

is. And when you listen to National Public Radio, I consider them more center and more to the right than I consider them leftist.

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:03:37

Well, we know where you are. Well, it's true.

D

Deborah Bell 1:03:40

The reality is that we don't get salaries here at KPFT. Because we are volunteers. But what could happen is programming could be cut we might have to do without programs such as fresh air. Or we might have to do away with Dr. Science. Oh, my goodness, That'd be terrible. Maybe we wouldn't have certain programs, I'm going to have to limit our the hours that we broadcast. I mean, there are many things that can happen. And that's why it's so important for you right now to call and support lesbian gay voices. If you believe in this station, if you really believe yes, if you believe and click your heels together three times and make a pledge on your credit card. You not only get wonderful premiums, but you get wonderful radio, what could be better than that. And you can do it just by picking up the phone. I know. I know. They know how to do that. 5265738 We want to thank because I know some people have called in.

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:04:33

We want to thank Tom Robinson for calling in Tom Robinson called the singer. I've never heard of a singer named Tom Robinson but he knows know that much about music. So anyway, Tom Robinson know from here in the local area called and he listened two years ago and just started listening again. He is concerned about the fund funding cuts that are being discussed in our Congress right now. And if you are, we'd like to hear from you tonight. Also, we want to thank KIPP children's who called in Thank you, Kip. He's renewing his No, he's becoming a new member. He likes listening to hearings on Public Radio, and supports public television and radio. And he wants you to call in. And also join him in supporting public radio, and that is community radio, light KPFT. This is live stuff. This is a music and information that comes from the heart ELO gossip. And, you know, I like to compare KPFT to, to a restaurant, you know, and there are a lot of radio stations on your dial that you can choose from. And a lot of them are just the same in every city that you go to, it's sort of like a McDonald's, you go into McDonald's in St. Louis, and you get the same burger that you get right down on Westheimer. And but, you know, KPFT is more like a rosin. OSCEs it's more like, it's more like your weird hamburger, that, that you just can't get anywhere else. It's like the French fries at the skin still on, you know, it's it's like something a little bit different. You can't just go to another city and dollar radio and hear a station exactly like KPFT. Because the other ones like this,

D

Deborah Bell 1:06:15

Mary, Helen, we want to get back to that interview with Juan Palomo and the people behind Harvey Milk. But do we have anyone else to thank,





M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:06:23

we'd like to thank you. We have three open lines, we have one pledge on the line and the number is 52657385265738526

D

Deborah Bell 1:06:33

KPFT. Please call and pledge your support. Now. We're going back to the interview talking about the Houston Grand Opera production of Harvey Milk. Juan Palomo interviewed two of the primary people behind making all of this happen. It's one of the most exciting things that have that has happened in our community this year. We have more things coming up. So stay tuned to lesbian and gay voices to hear about them as we go back to the interview now



1:07:03

to just briefly sort of capitalized what what the opera entails that were three separate acts and so that you can get an idea what we're talking about here. Well,



1:07:14

we decided that there was no way to tell the story of Harvey Milk without understanding the obstacles and walls that he confronted. And it was a piece that would span a great many decades in American history. And in essence, it's the story of the birth and struggle of the rights movement to emerge as encapsulated in the experience of this one man Harvey Milk. The first act is divided into three is called the closet, which covers the years of his coming out, is living in the closet as a closeted Wall Street broker until finally his political to zation in the wake of the Stonewall uprising, where he begins his romance with activism. The second act is called the Castro, where he has given up his Wall Street job his comforts to open a shabby camera store on Castro Street, which was then the gay ghetto emerging in the early 70s. And he becomes very important in the register to vote movement in the come out movement. And with the votes that he registers. He does eventually overcome defeat to win election as an openly gay elected supervisor. And the second act concludes with a massive and a Boolean pride parade that spills into the audience. The third act is we're Harvey, fearing that he doesn't have that long to live becomes very driven. It's called City Hall. And he has an agenda to pass he wants to get his gay rights ordinance through before an assassination that he has predictions predictions of. And eventually he is assassinated by Dan White, who is a fellow worker a fellow's elected official on the board of supervisors, along with Dianne Feinstein who was at that time and other elected supervisor, Dan White assassinates, both George Moscone, and Harvey Milk and San Francisco remembers them in a very moving elegy at the end. That concludes the opera, which Stuart is based on the Hebrew prayer of remembrance, the Kadesh



1:09:21

this is something else that addresses your, your question about you know, well, people, we don't want to see these things. We don't want to see the importance for Harvey Milk and for us of remembering the past, so that you can build on it so that you know where you come from is very, very much a part of this opera, and impact. In fact, people who don't want to see their

past are in trouble for the future. And if people are not looking, you know, you can't always sit there and hope that people will accept you because you're more like them. I mean, I think the lesson of Harvey Milk is that you have to be who you are. And people have to get used to it or adjust to it.



1:09:58

Both of you live in New York. So you're gonna, you're gonna leave here after January and you will not have to face any of the consequences of what you have produced. But this is what the rest of us here had to have to put up with. And this is a letter I received that I wrote a column about Harvey Milk and says, We will people remain in the face of a staggering array of dark forces, you have asked us to straight to the fringe and try to appreciate some show about homosexuals and lesbians, you must be proud to be able to say favorable things about the liberal fringe aberrations in your 45 square inches. It is indeed an advertising for this bit of quote, art, unquote, because your spaces on the Op Ed page discussed about what the reaction might be for the most conservative



1:10:41

we have, you know, Harvey Milk, got hate letters every single week of his life. And in fact, they joked about it in the office, and they had a hate mail OF THE WEEK contest. And they hung them on a wall, right? They were frightened. And that was a way of dealing with our fear. I don't think that we're going to leave the consequences of what we've done behind in Houston. I think that will we have grown during the writing of this piece and will carry what it has given us with us everywhere. There are always letters like that there will always be letters like that all the more reason to do the importance of this piece is remembering our history. And I don't consider this gay history. I consider this part of American history. It's a part of American history that is not taught in the schools and is not taught by families. But what we've learned in going back over the eons, the ages of gay history, is that the same battles we're fighting today were fought many times before the same states that are learning again, that yes, that are starting the anti gay ordinances. were the same people who did it before that a whole movements of gays and lesbians was wiped out in Nazi Germany in 1945. You know, today, many gays themselves don't remember Harvey Milk, or they remember him only through the the knowledge of his death and the injustice of the sentence given to Dan White. They know remember the importance of this life?



1:12:13

You know, I went when I was on the Castro, but it was visiting the San Francisco Opera to discuss this opera. And I went to the Castro and I said, I went around walking around the streets. And I said, Where was Castro camera? Nobody knew. Yeah. So that's why they have gotten a plaque on there. It's a black but at the opera, the addresses of the cameras stories there. But to go



1:12:33

back to this point of remembrance. Harvey Milk lived in the age before aids, which marshaled a

back to this point of remembrance, Harvey Milk lived in the age before AIDS, which marshaled a great activist force in America and the world. And of course, it is commanded all our attention, but there was activism before this era. And it's important for us to know that we keep running into the same brick walls again and again. And I feel that remembrance is a prelude unnecessary preludes to activism. You have to know your history.



1:13:09

The you guys are the artists who are the creators, yet, without one person, at least, you wouldn't be able to do what you're doing. And that person is David Gosling. I mean, he's an amazing. Tell us I mean, hear him and this is a straight man in conservative Houston with a conservative board, I assume. And yet he's constantly and and this is not the first controversial opera he did. I mean, he did was decked out with you guys.



1:13:38

Controversy, I think he seeks a good story. And he saw and there's a story that was about America. And he saw an opportunity for great music that Stewart could write. And I think that is always his primary concern. He was also very moved by the die by by the documentary about Harvey Milk life and the fact that milk managed across barriers, milk appealed to lesbians in a time of feminist separatism. He appealed to the Teamsters, he appealed to Chinese Americans and Latinos and African Americans and children and senior citizens. And this moved to David very much. And he felt that Harvey Milk struggle stood for more than just the struggle of gay rights. It stood for the struggle of against the



1:14:23

forces of conservatism and things that you're talking about, in fact, and I think that the opera company has distinguished itself internationally by the fact that David has been willing to help create new works that are engaged in in the contemporary world, and not just to put up a pretty museum picture in pieces.



1:14:42

I asked David why something like this would originate in a place like Houston and not New York, and he said nothing new comes out in New York anymore.



1:14:50

Do you agree with that? Most of it comes out of Houston. I think that sometimes people don't quite realize the international prominence that the Houston Grand Opera has for creating new American operas.



1:15:04

Frequently the creators are in New York, I mean, the but they go all over the place. And it's true. It's harder and harder to do anything new in New York. And I think the



1:15:13

reason why it's happening in Houston is because David is in Houston. And because David has found an audience that supports his vision.



1:15:20

He said that one of his biggest fears for this opera was that it would be seen as a gimmick piece. It is a serious war gay



1:15:28

equivalency piece. Yeah, right.



1:15:30

What is your biggest fear aside from the flop, and then in the eyes as I wouldn't



1:15:37

be happy if it were pigeon holed because of its world, I feel that every opera has to create a very specific world. You know, Porgy and Bess is an opera that takes place in this small, small hamlet on Catfish Row. And every character is very precisely drawn. And it's specific to that piece on that stage at that time, and yet, it's done all over the world and has great universality. And I think it's because it's so specific. And in the same way, Harvey Milk takes this world of the the gay political world struggling to emerge in the 70s. And we're very specific with it. And I hope, once again, that that will give us a universality.



1:16:20

I also hope that we, you know, we change the way that people look at the world. I mean, we've sketched in white in a very particular way, Dan White was a tricky problem. Because here's a man who we could have very easily caricature toward, or we could have very easily just poked fun at. But I think that the the ideas and things that he's that he expresses, and that he embodied, were things that many people in America feel. So the job for us was to, to start Dan White from a rather sympathetic place for those people in the audience who will feel that way. So that by following Dan White, we can see what happens when you take those ideas to their extreme, and the dangers of that kind of thought. So I think really, I mean, I'm not afraid it's it's

a gimmick piece, because it's not. And the drama is incredibly strong. And really, I think what we want to do with all of our works, I think, particularly this one is make people's lives different by the time they leave the theater.



1:17:18

I know both of you are working separately with other composers, librettist on another project? Are y'all gonna come back together again? Is that a possibility? And



1:17:29

I think that we've learned a lot with Harvey Milk. And that's,



1:17:33

I think we've learned a lot from each other in 10 years. I mean, Michael and I have really gone to school together in a way. And we've challenged each other. It's been it's been an incredible narration. It's true,



1:17:43

my wife has gotten I feel so much better have even wanted to do it. But we did learn in our first three operas, where we really tried to fight city hall, we really wrote anti opera operas, we went against precedent to try and find our own vision. Oddly enough, in Harvey Milk. We went back to the classical format, though not traditional at all the way we handle it of the three act opera with a figure who was both mythic and tragic. And it really made the music leap off the page. And I think that when we do another opera, we're going to make sure that we find a subject that turns us on.



1:18:19

Well, thanks again for being here. We'll say, as I said, I've sat in on a couple of rehearsals and I had been terribly moved and terribly impressed. I mean, it was sort of moved to tears in one scene where I mean, I guess I was supposed to, there was a Harvey Milk, struggling with, you know, his handcuffs and stuff. And but there was this other scene of the Stonewall light. And I guess I should have been moved by Harvey No, but it was what was going on and, and with the riot, as a gay man, which really sort of brought tears to my eyes, you know, and sort of put some pride in my heart. I think he's going to be a very powerful opera. As I said, I'm not I'm not an opera critic, so I can't tell. But I would hope that a lot of people have an opportunity to go see it. And I hope the word opera doesn't scare them off.



1:19:07

I mean, we want people who don't come to the opera to come. I would like everybody, straight

gay to come. And I would like them to come and take over the theater.



1:19:18

What I hope so too. And this has been Juan Palomo with Michael Curry Libertas, for Harvey Milk and Stuart Lawless, the composer. Thank you.



Deborah Bell 1:19:27

Thank you. And thank you one Palomo for the excellent interview. I know most of our listeners to lesbian and gay voices probably have just been glued to the radio listening to that is it's very inspiring and exciting. And more than that, I think it's a call to action. And I think there's no small coincidence. You know, if you believe in fate, or or whatever, that we in Houston have an opportunity this weekend to elect someone to our city government who's openly gay and who offers the quality as a nice Parker does. We're not doing paid political announcement or unpaid political announcements. What we're saying is that if you're informed about being an informed voter and going out and making your voice heard, you do it by voting, and we have that opportunity this weekend. So a call to action. The who was Harvey Milk is a panel discussion that's planned at the wisdom center grand foyer at 550. Prairie at 2pm. Tomorrow, and that is free. And you can contact the Houston Grand Opera at 5460231. The premiere of the opera is tomorrow night, it's at the brown theatre at the World Center at 7:30pm. Tickets are reasonable and up, you can contact For ticket information two to seven RT. And as a call to action as well. Is your pledge of support to this program to lesbian and gay voices to KPFT. All you do is pick up the phone and dial that number 52657038526 KPFT. And you do it if you only had a heart



Jack Valinski 1:21:30

Yes, it's that late night radio show. If I only had a heart, this is fresh air and concerts from why why in Philadelphia, a collection of songs that was recorded live at their studios there, how lucky Philadelphia is to have some great radio stations and how lucky we are to be able to play some of the best of Philadelphia public radio here on KPFT. But most importantly, what's important that was redundant, is the fact that if you want this radio station to continue to do the type of programming that it does, which includes openly gay and lesbian people talking about the issues that affect our lives, and the lives of people we lost, and the lives of people who are going to come after us. You gotta pledge at 526-573-8526 KPFT. That's the number it's very easy to remember at the Montrose number 5265738 asking you to make a pledge for whatever amount you can possibly do from \$35 of suggested beginning all the way on up, and you get some nice premiums if you do that you can talk to our our wonderful operators who are out there can tell you what the premiums are left, and what you can get for your pledge. And hopefully you're pledging because you want this type of radio programming to continue. And not only for Lesbian Gay voices, but for many of the other programs that are on here. And one of the things that we're very glad and very proud to be able to apply to our audience is the news wrap from this way out. This is a program that's produced in Los Angeles with the help of the Pacifica foundation, but a lot of money comes from private donors and it costs money to put up on the satellite is available to all public radio stations around the country. Let's listen to this way out.

M

## Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:23:17

If you get a whiff of this community, you'll know it's a strong community. And you're listening to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT. Our regular feature this way out here on Friday nights, from six to eight with lesbian and gay voices. We're in a fundraising mode here on lesbian and gay voices. And we have been raising money now for the last oh, about hour and 40 minutes. And we're on our way to a goal of \$1,000. We made our 1000 Actually we went over it last week we made \$1,100. We'd like to do that again this week. And we can do it. With your help. We depend on you. And we'd like to thank some people who have been generous enough to call in with their pledges. First thing is I want to apologize to kip Childers because Kip is not a dude. Kip is actually in reality a woman like a muscle. So I kept girl girl kept. And I want to thank Nancy Green, who called him from pair land with a real generous pledge that she's making, in memory of a friend of hers who passed away today who died of AIDS and I'm sorry about your friend Nancy and thank you very much for that honorarium of your donation, that's something that really goes a long way that that you can do in memory of someone who's passed. We also like to thank anonymous from here in Houston, and is was prompted to call in and pledge to KPFT because of Newt Gingrich making their pledge in in the name of Newt Gingrich because he's taking this running away from public radio. And that's the truth. I also want to thank Loretta, thank you so much, Loretta, I enjoyed talking to you. And I know that you're going to enjoy that opera Harvey Milk opera. She was totally fascinated with one Palermo's interview with the people involved with the Harvey Milk opera. And so she's learning all kinds of new things from this great program. We appreciate you listening. And we're glad that it's an educational experience for you. We also want to thank Jackie Dodson, who called in from here in town, and she said she quit listening when gotten screwed up the show, but now she's listening again. Okay, thanks, Jackie. And the thing about KPFT is we are honest, we like your comments, we listened to your comments, and we are full enough to repeat them back on the air. So if you can appreciate that fact, give us a call here at 5265738 Because a lot of people sitting around this table are very gay, and they would love to talk to you. Or some of you also straight right, raise your hand. Okay, I saw you there. We'd also like to thank Greg, Greg, Jew or Joe. I don't know how he says his last name. Thank you, Greg for calling in with a real generous pledge. He Zhi Zhu. Okay, thank you, Greg. He's from outsmart magazine. And he says Keep up the good work and the feeling's mutual Keep up the good work over at outsmart a really welcome addition to the lesbian and gay community. Oh, this is picture. Okay. They're, they're showing me your picture, Greg. Thanks a lot. We really appreciate all that you're doing for the community. It's really, really value. We need to hear from you. We're really close to our goal, we're up to \$920 and we need ad dollars to get to 1000 We'd like to get up last week we made 1125 We'd like to get up to that we really need to make a good showing for the radio station. For this program. In particular, we need your help to do it. Go ahead and turn loose 25 or \$50 You know it's worth it you know it won't be around. If you don't do it and you know that people have done it before you that's the only reason it exists today is it somebody else came up with came up with the ditch kids and you got to do it now it's your turn five to 65738 is the number to call we need to hear a few pledges, you can put it on a Visa MasterCard or American Express you can pick up you know some of the nice thank you gifts, the the t shirt, the coffee mug, we'll be glad to let you have that you can get both of them for \$90. Plus, we'll get you tickets to go to the movies to go to the theater. You get a KPFT watch for \$150 pledge and we'll we'll fix you up to the movies and the theater and some coffee or something with that one. So give us a call as the volunteer what's available in the way of thank you gifts, we'll be glad to describe them to you. Five to 65738 is the number to call. We'd like to hear from you right now. Coming up on lesbian and gay voices we know every week you depend on the calendar of events that is compiled and brought to you by Jack and Deborah. It's a little kind of chore that they do every week out of the 10s and 1000s. And millions of letters in and calendar announcements since

they get the ugly just the very best to bring to you each week. And you're gonna hear it right now. But we need to hear your pledge of support pledge for the calendar. Five to 65738 is the number to call. We love you. We need you to call us.

**J** Jack Valinski 1:28:54

There was something I want to mention just before we go to the calendar there's a thud story in the Houston voice about a person who does a talk show on cable television. And what he's doing. He's a self proclaimed proclaimed right wing religious fanatic. He can no longer read obituaries on his television talk show. And he angered friends of a Denver man who died from AIDS for broadcasting the men's obituary Monday. After reading the obituary. He then showed the man's photograph with the word sodomites. He then says he's not ready to sort of my He's a former sodden might these people and it's just incredible that these people are out there doing things like this.

**D** Deborah Bell 1:29:35

I think one of the things that we try to do on this program on must be engaged voices is to make people aware of what's going on in the world as well as what's going on in our community. And there is so much going on in our community which has made us really have to expand our show. We've gotten more people involved we just were two hours now we've got a whole roomful of volunteers out there waiting for those phones to ring and you know they Call that phone number for Al Bongo. Just think you could be the person to make a Bongo ring if you call 5265738 and pledge your support 526-573-8526 KPFT. One of the ways that we keep up with what's going on in the community is our friends over at the Lesbian Gay switchboard, which have volunteers standing by to answer calls about places to go things to do places to get help, various information that you might be concerned about. Well, just in case, you know, you mean and and it's, it's a wonderful organization has been around quite a while that number is 5293211. If you ever have a need to call, you know, maybe you just need some information or need to talk to somebody, maybe you're trying to come out, and they're there for you. But they also provide us with a calendar that we utilize every week to let you know what's going on.

**J** Jack Valinski 1:30:59

Well, we're also having the volunteers to we're having a training session, which they have a couple times a year. And to become a volunteer, you can get their training begins February 3, in so to weekend type of thing. And it's very good because you get to meet a lot of people, but you get to know how to answer the phones and give out information because sometimes they do get tough phone calls. So if you'd like some more information, the training begins 6:30pm February 3 For more information, it's five to 930 to 11.

**D** Deborah Bell 1:31:32

And I think Mary Helen has some additional words to go we have a challenge match. Oh, by the way, before we go to the challenge, I just want to send a special thank you to Greg Jew because he is a special angel on this earth. And OutSmart is a big supporter of Lesbian Gay voices and



Lesbian Gay voices is a big supporter about sport magazines go to that challenge match.

**M** Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:31:52

And I'm so smart, I got to learn how to pronounce his name tonight. Boy

**J** Jack Valinski 1:31:55

you did in June, you

**M** Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:31:57

have a real generous supporter who has made a very generous offer. But this offer depends upon the listeners to lesbian and gay voices to make it work. This, this donor will match our pledges, what we need to get is, here's what you have to do, you have to go to the phone and you have to call us with a \$60 pledge, we need three \$60 pledges. And if we get those three, I know it's a lot. If we can get those three \$60 pledges in the next 13 minutes, then this donor will match that money. But we have to get all three \$60 pledges, five to 65738 is the number to call. It's very quick. It's hard to do this. And we really need to reach the one to three people that would be willing to make a \$60 pledge to KPFT tonight, put it on a credit card if you wish or will bill you and this generous listener subscriber listener sponsor will match those pledges. So give us a call at 5265738 and say you're answering the Challenge Match at five to six KPFT. That's three

**J** Jack Valinski 1:33:07

\$60 pledges that we need in the next 12 We're gonna come down to 11 minutes.

**D** Deborah Bell 1:33:12

Well, let's make that just a little bit sweeter. Because at the \$90 level, we still have some premiums from Crossroads market available, in addition to the usual premiums, two of the premiums, one of them is called the total zone, which is by Martina, our favorite tennis player. It's a hardcover edition of that new book about well, the professional world of women's tennis. There's also a book that was edited by John Nestle and John Preston. And if you're a reader, you're familiar with those two people is called Sister and brother lesbian and gay man right about their lives together. So pledging at that level, get those books plus getting it meet the challenge,

**J** Jack Valinski 1:33:51

or perhaps so we can find out as those pledges come in how we're doing. Right, who's the first \$60 pledge comes in? Let us know. And we'll let our listeners know as how we're doing. And we talked for about 10 minutes now.

D

Deborah Bell 1:34:02

Yeah, and we also have some more tickets available to the mystery of arm event now playing at the alley theatre. And just check with the volunteers. If you have any special questions, or any special help Laura is out there, standing by to answer your questions so that you know what you'll get a special premiums when you pledge to lesbian gay voices. And I want

J

Jack Valinski 1:34:21

to challenge everybody go out and vote tomorrow. Voting The polls are open from 7am to 7pm. There's gonna be about 500 places to vote within the city. If you live in Houston, you're registered to vote, go out and vote and the person who's running from our community is a nice Parker.

D

Deborah Bell 1:34:35

And we can say that on this show because we can talk about our beliefs and our opinions. They're not necessarily those of the station. There's no paid endorsements here. We're just talking about what we believe. And so if you can take that whatever way you want, but here's your chance to do something, have a powerful voice in the community. And it's a very simple thing to do. It's usually like you know, within a few blocks Walking distance, even though Houston isn't big for walking, to go vote, and let's say on Sunday, after you've voted on Saturday, you can also participate in the community by helping shape the focus of Pride Week 1995. That is gay and lesbian Pride Week for 1995. They're going to have a forum sponsored by the pride committee of Houston. And it's from one to five at the Harvey hotel located at 2712 Southwest Freeway near Kirby, there will be refreshments. And you can RSVP to the pride line at 713-529-6979. They're going to talk about things like should we hold Pride Week at a different time of the year than we do in will usually in June? What time of day should it be? And how can the parade be run more most efficiently? How can the parade festival and attendance being increased? And should the words gay and lesbian appear on merchandise? Why is my opinion ask

J

Jack Valinski 1:36:03

you that next week? Actually, I know I know your answer that we're still waiting for those three \$60 pledges to meet our challenge. We have a challenge match of they're going to they're going to match all three \$60 pledges if we do get the next we get three of them in, in before the show. So that's 180 \$120 times two. So \$180 times two.

D

Deborah Bell 1:36:28

Okay. Oh, why? Right. But I mean, we have to get \$180

J Jack Valinski 1:36:32

Right? We have to get three \$60 pledges in and then they will match that. So

D Deborah Bell 1:36:36

that'll be like 312 Dude, lots of money. Oh, yeah, that's mathematic genius, you can tell? Well, we have wonderful theater in Houston. And we of course, have been talking about the Houston Grand Opera. But one of the things that's coming up is goat song theatre group, which does gay and lesbian theater will be holding auditions for their play Boy Meets Boy, and that's gonna be Saturday, the 21st and Sunday the 22nd at 1pm at Khumba house 3412 Law branch, they need four male leads and one female, you need to say they need a split chorus of six all ages. auditioners will read from a script and should also have one song prepared for the addition. For more information you can call David Cochrane at 4666021. They're also accepting submissions for gay and lesbian things for future production. So that's go song theater group at 4666021. If you've maybe received tickets in the past to some of the theatrical productions in town from lesbian gay voices, maybe you'd like to say thank you by making a pledge and getting some more tickets to other things that we have available. So you can do that by calling 526-573-8526 KPFT.

J Jack Valinski 1:38:00

Five to six KPFT. We're still hoping for those three \$60 pledges because we have a match challenge for that. If we do get those three pledges, it will be matched. Well,

D Deborah Bell 1:38:13

I think we're going to let people call in Balsom polygel surfen.

J Jack Valinski 1:38:18

Well, actually, let's go to the lobby. The lobby, yes. Okay. Well


D Deborah Bell 1:38:21


serve out to the lobby, then. Lobby. Hello, Earth to lobby come in Lobby, please. Earth to lobby come in Lobby.


J Jack Valinski 1:38:30


Hello. Now the lobby is not there.


D Deborah Bell 1:38:33


 Deborah Bell 1:38:33  
Was anyone there? Nobody's


 Jack Valinski 1:38:36  
asking you to go out to the lobby.

 Deborah Bell 1:38:40  
Okay, Dash. Jack is dashing out to the lobby. We just have to do everything around here. And he's going to check to see if we've had any phone calls. I guess he'll have to answer the calls. But while he's answering the calls that 5265738 Call and meet that challenge, we're going to listen to some surf music modifications. Or do a 123 Add Yeah,


 Jack Valinski 1:39:08  
I just went out to pledge central marathon and why didn't they answer it because they were all busy answering the phone all right, you're getting a busy signal call back call back. Unfortunately like the some other stations we don't we're not able to transfer the calls to another location with extra phone banks and stuff like that. But let's go out to the lobby right now. And

 Deborah Bell 1:39:29  
I'm going to St.

 Jack Valinski 1:39:32  
Mary Helen, you

 Deborah Bell 1:39:33  
very Helen. Mary Helen did thank actually pokey Anderson just walked in the door. Our friend pokey Anderson AHA she wants to plug something I should have known where y'all you know her dogs? Hello. I don't know what's happening. Yeah, I know how dikes Darkstar I should do?

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:39:56  
Well what you know the little Dutch boy anyway. She wants weekend.

 Deborah Bell 1:40:00

To talk about who would need to think but Pokey, of course has been a programmer on KPFT very popular breakthrough show, and we tried to substitute with very Helen and her music these days. But apparently Hazel which productions which Pokey is one of the witches goddess as odd. Suzanne Weston Hoffer, the lesbian comic extraordinaire will be appearing Sunday this at 730 at February 12. So we'll tell you more as that gets closer. We've

**J** Jack Valinski 1:40:26

got a lot of people to thank, and I'm not sure exactly where we stand on the \$60 match pledge. But for one, we've made it we have made Oh, thank you. Thank

**M** Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:40:34

you. Thank you. We have to thank to make you weren't ready for it.

**J** Jack Valinski 1:40:37

Okay. Well, we I've got a bunch of people here to also to thank and I'm not sure whether we're duplicating our effort or not, but we'll go at where we got. I got Kathy Horton with a very generous pledge and want to thank yes, they're all names we can say yes, I am looking at that right now. Also, Oh, these are people that we've already thanked, but we're rethinking

**D** Deborah Bell 1:40:58

them at the hearing.

**J** Jack Valinski 1:41:01

With what you got,

**M** Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:41:02

we want to thank Michael Kelly, who's called in he's been planning to donate and heard about this friend that is generously matching pledges and decided to go ahead and make the move by calling up by 265738 is the number we also want to thank Bill Brunson, who called from your Mantrose area says he's given before says it's time to renew pals. And we also want to thank another anonymous who called in from here in Houston to match the pledge. Thank you anonymous, says this is a guilt pledge in wants our lesbian and gay voices to stay on the air is feeling quite guilty. We love it. But you now have PayPal dispensation anonymous. My father plays Dominus better than your father plays Domino's anyway. We also want to thank another anonymous from here in Houston, regrets the loss of Wildenstein on KPFT. And the cutbacks on other gay and lesbian shows. And you know, the current political climate knows that it's going to be tough to keep doing what we're doing here and is pledging it's also hard to stop us. Anonymous is pledging his support to help it keep going, Oh, well, here's here's a generous

supporter over the many, many years. And I think we can say Marion's name, she's got to pick up a watch in Maryam is he's your first name and you know who you are. But she's been pledging to KPFT for probably 20 years. I don't know all the time I was I've been here. She's been involved and very generous to the station. We appreciate it. Marian, thank you very, very, very much. We also want to thank Michelle de Conte. And our D chant, I guess, is how you say your name. Thank you, Michelle. She called him from kind of the south side of Houston. She's gonna get some tickets. She loves us. She likes to hear Laurel Branham also on Tuesdays from 10 to 12. And we want to thank we thank Tom, we want to thank another anonymous in looks like so far kids, our total is up to \$1,320, maybe even more 1380. We have the Challenge Match to add to that. That's going to make it over \$1,500 for lesbian and gay boys. And I thank you very much.

**D** Deborah Bell 1:43:19

We have gone way over our goal. Thank you for your generous support. Thank you for all the people that donate a premium. Thank you for being there and listening and keeping the show alive. And well. Thanks to all Nemo, thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you very Helen, thank

**J** Jack Valinski 1:43:35

you for being out there.

**D** Deborah Bell 1:43:36

I think all the volunteers answering phones ZACHARY And Kevin working before tonight. And Zachary was our producer this week. Don is our executive producer. We will be back next week and we won't have to be asking for money and

**J** Jack Valinski 1:43:47

anxiety. Thank you.

**D** Deborah Bell 1:43:48

Thank you Jack Valinski thank

**J** Jack Valinski 1:43:49

everybody who pledged and we want to send out our greatest love for keeping this show and getting this radio station on the air. You're listening to KPFT in Houston and this is lesbian gay voices. We'll be back next week with a full show. Thanks for helping

