



Henry Crater from Sanibel, FL

Song: "Your World/Safe"

Mentor: Anna K. Jacobs

Musical Director: Anna Ebbesen



Henry Crater is an actor/singer/songwriter. Favorite roles in musicals include Dan Goodman in *Next to Normal*, Jack Kelly in *Newsies*, and Joe Sutter in the *Spitfire Grill*. He has been songwriting for four years, writing both pop and musical theatre, and writes on guitar and piano—you can hear his folk-rock album "The Cycle" in stores now! Henry is a freshman at the University of Michigan getting his BFA in musical theatre. His song "Your World/Safe" is a statement against gun violence and an anthem to the teens who took political action after the Parkland shooting of 2018. He hopes his music resonates with you.

Song Description: "Your World/Safe" is part of a musical about the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The night after the shooting, Cameron, a senior at Stoneman Douglas, grapples with grief and the urge to step into the world and take political action against gun violence. Sofia, another Stoneman Douglas student, consoles her badly shaken younger sister with whom Sofia took refuge in a cramped, dark closet during the shooting. David, a friend of Cameron's, anxiously anticipates the local rally that he and Cameron have organized for the next day—a rally that will mark the beginning of the March for Our Lives.

Crater's mentor Anna K. Jacobs is a Jonathan Larson Award-winning composer, lyricist, and librettist. Her stage works include *POP!* (Yale Rep, Pittsburgh City Theatre, Studio Theatre; book/lyrics by Maggie-Kate Coleman), *Teeth* (NAMT, O'Neill; co-book/lyrics by Michael R. Jackson), *Anytown* (George Street Playhouse; book by Jim Jack), *Harmony, Kansas* (Diversionary Theatre; book/lyrics by Bill Nelson), *Echo* (Musical Theatre Factory), and *Stella and the Moon Man* (Sydney Theatre Company/Theatre of Image; play by Richard Tulloch, co-composed by Adrian Kelly), and she wrote music and lyrics for the movie musical, *Kaya: Taste of Paradise* (NY Film Academy). She also contributed music and lyrics to the multi-

composer song cycle, “Letters to the President” (Berkshire Theatre Group). Currently, she and playwright Anna Ziegler are collaborating on a new musical for Barbara Whitman Productions and Grove Entertainment. Anna is the recipient of a 2018 Eric Salzman Award for New Music Theater Composition and the 2016 Billie Burke Ziegfeld Award. She holds an MFA in Musical Theatre Writing from New York University Tisch School of the Arts, and is a former Sundance Fellow and Dramatists Guild Fellow. As an educator, Anna is passionate about helping the next generation of songwriters develop their voices and craft.

Crater’s musical director Anna Ebbesen has made a career commitment to fostering new voices in the industry. Her orchestrations can be heard on over 20 original movie musicals currently on the film festival circuit, including scores by Zoe Sarnak (2018 Jonathan Larson Award), Anna K. Jacobs (2020 Jonathan Larson Award) and Avi Amon (2019 Jonathan Larson Award). Music Director for the New York Youth Symphony Musical Theatre Composition Program and the Songwriting Challenge in 2018, 2019, and 2020. Recent premieres: *Mary & Max* (Bobby Cronin) at Theatre Calgary and *We Were Everywhere* (Avi Amon) at Princeton.