



The Remembrance Suite

30th Anniversary of Pan Am Flight 103

Tuesday 30th October 2018

17:30 - 19:30

Dover House, Whitehall



**UK
Government**

Syracuse University
London

Program

Welcome from Dr Troy Gordon, Syracuse University London

Remarks from Gillian McGregor, CBE, Office of the Secretary of State for Scotland

Introduction to *The Remembrance Suite* by Allie Westbrook

Movement 1: Traumatic Grief

“Red Bull” performed by Josh Deckard and Ensemble

“Forget About It” by Chloe Mathieu

“The Weight of Emptiness” by Violet Cuerdon

Movement 2: Lingering Sorrow

“Building Extended Family” by Gregory Criscione

“Back here, again, together” performed by Reylon Yount and Michael Poll

“The Spirit of Brook Run Lane” by Steph Hausman

“Smile” written and performed by Kyle Micho

Movement 3: Growing Hope

“Towards Perfectibility” by Emilia Smart Denson

“Beginnings” by Erin Elliot

“I’m Still Here” by Rachel Ackerman

“Crayola Skies” written and performed by Allie Westbrook & Genna Batson

Reception

Remembrance Exhibition

Program Notes

The Remembrance Suite is a collection of student voices reflecting on the impact of Pan Am Flight 103, Lockerbie, and loss. Academic theories of memory, personal narratives of experience, and musical representations of emotion join to take listeners on a journey through the stages of grief.

Movement 1: Traumatic Grief addresses the initial shock of terrorism and death, reflecting on the pain of remembering tragedy.

“Red Bull” is centered around the shock and grief surrounding the crash of Pan Am Flight 103. The instrumentation and vocalization serve to illustrate a story told via spoken word. The harp, cello, yangqin, and vocalists convey the tension and anguish that events like a terrorist attack initially bring. It is uneasy, and there is a silence that serves as a time to reflect and acknowledge that discomfort. Finally, as we work through the grief and ache, we can see there is light. While it often seems that the immediate pain will never go away, that the emptiness and silence last far longer than they should, there is peace at the end of the journey.

Spoken word written and performed by Joshua Deckard

Music composed by Brendan Papz; performed by Genna Batson, Lizzie Elliot, Aileen Henry, Alex Ho, Michael Poll, Reylon Yount, and Allie Westbrook

In “Forget About It”, Chloe Mathieu considers how contradictory to mainstream culture the act of true remembrance is – and reminds us why we mustn’t forget. Chloe is a Television/Radio/Film and Political Science student. Her speech was mentored by Professor Larry Mason, Syracuse University’s first Lockerbie and Remembrance Ambassador.

Violet Cuerdon, a Psychology Major, then helps us understand “The Weight of Emptiness” through an examination of how our brain stores memory and a description of a memorial that takes place on the Syracuse University home campus each year. Her analysis was mentored by Dr Catherine Roberts, who teaches psychology and collective trauma at Syracuse University London.

Movement 2: Lingerin Sorrow considers how, with time, the sadness that comes from missing loved ones becomes bittersweet.

Gregory Criscione, a Finance major, continues to contemplate the power of empty chairs in his speech on “Building Extended Family”. He asserts that terrorism fails when we respond to such acts by celebrating victims rather than immortalising perpetrators. Gregory has been mentored by Dr Lara Frumkin, a forensic psychologist who focuses on eyewitness testimony, stereotyping, and marginalisation.

“Back here, again, together” is an instrumental piece exploring the process of ‘ritualisation’. In times of terror and grief, we as individuals and communities come together at events such as this evening’s occasion for the same reason: commemoration. We all have our own life experiences and our own lives to continue, but we will always be united by this tragic event, and always be - in spirit - back here, again, together.

Music composed by Alex Ho; performed by Michael Poll and Reylon Yount

The Remembrance Suite then takes listeners to a street in Connecticut, where an Advertising student’s life has been indelibly changed by the legacy of a Pan Am Flight 103 victim. The story of “The Spirit of Brook Run Lane” is told by Steph Hausman, as mentored by Richard Tames, a professor whose ability to make history come alive through storytelling has enhanced the student experience at Syracuse University London for decades.

As our final piece about the sorrow of death, “Smile” is a song about coming to terms with mental health. Written by singer-songwriter Kyle Micho, the piece provides a space for those dealing with trauma and loss to acknowledge the pain they feel, even as our society encourages us to pretend all is well.

Movement 3: Growing Hope recognises the possibility of new things, celebrating what has come in the thirty years since *Clipper Maid of the Seas* went down.

The movement begins with Emilia Smart-Denson pushing us “Towards Perfectibility”. Her speech honours the communities of Lockerbie and Syracuse for the ways in which they have responded to terrorism in powerful, productive ways. Emilia, a Drama student, was mentored by Becca Farnum, the Internship & Community Relations Manager at Syracuse University London.

Erin Elliott then rejoices in the friendships created by the Syracuse-Scotland connection, paying tribute to 2016 Lockerbie Scholar Sian McLaughlin. “Beginnings” is about the wonderful things that have grown quite literally from the ashes of this tragedy. Erin is a Public Relations student who was supported by Forbes Morlock, Syracuse University London professor of literature and storytelling.

Our final speech will be given by Rachel Ackerman, a Stage Management student whose father studied abroad with Syracuse in 1988. In “I’m Still Here”, Rachel comes to grips with how to live up to a profoundly tragic yet poignantly beautiful legacy. Thanks to Dr Kate Hammer, Syracuse University London professor, for her mentorship.

Finally, singer-songwriter duo Allie Westbrook and Genna Batson will be singing ‘Crayola Skies’ - a song about reminiscing, holding on to memories, and learning how to love again. The lyrics remind us how we can see and hear loved ones in ordinary things, from clothes and photographs to sunsets and the autumn air. Allie is a Sound Recording Technology student; Genna is in the Bandier Program.

Now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.



Syracuse London Remembrance Committee

Rachel Ackerman
Becca Farnum
Simran Ladhani
Nada Silman

Meghan Callahan
Troy Gordon
Gabrielle Lamarco
Shoshana Stahl

Erin Elliott
Shannon Hope
Chloe Mathieu
Josie Strick

The Syracuse London Remembrance Committee would like to thank the Secretary of State for Scotland, The Right Honourable David Mundell WS MP, for his hospitality in hosting this event at Dover House. Our thanks, too, to his staff - in particular, Gillian McGregor, Nigel Patrick, Charlotte Prothero, Lauren Gelling, and Tony Conte.

Our appreciation is also extended to:

- Brian Asher, Catherine McNay, and Lockerbie Academy for their continued engagement with Syracuse London
- Alex Ho, Michael Poll, and Reylon Yount for their mentorship of student musicians
- Hannah Butler, Cholo Cruz, Erin Elliott, and Simran Ladhani for their graphic design time and talent
- David McMahon and staff for their catering services
- The Syracuse University Office of the Chancellor and Syracuse Abroad for their support of 30th Anniversary Remembrance Events

And most of all, to the community of Lockerbie: Thank you for your grace in the face of tragedy, the doors you have opened to grieving strangers, and the empathy you continually extend to the Syracuse University family. *Forward Lockerbie.*