“I write about outsiders. I write about people who are outside and don’t know quite how to get in because it’s how I’ve always felt.”

Jason Robert Brown has been hailed as “one of Broadway’s smartest and most sophisticated songwriters since Stephen Sondheim” (Philadelphia Inquirer), and his “extraordinary, jubilant theater music” (Chicago Tribune) has been heard all over the world, whether in one of the hundreds of productions of his musicals every year or in his own live performances. The New York Times refers to Brown as “a leading member of a new generation of composers who embody high hopes for the American musical.” Brown is the winner of multiple Tony Awards, Drama Desk Awards, and Outer Critics Circle Awards for his body of work for musical theatre.

“I did musicals in high school, certainly. And then I just kept wanting to do them. I felt at home in the theater.”

Brown was born in 1970 in Ossining, New York. He grew up in the suburbs of New York City. Brown attended the Eastman School of Music in the early 1990s and later pursued his career in professional theatre. In Manhattan, he worked as a piano player for nightclubs and cabarets until he met Daisy Prince, daughter of the legendary Broadway director and producer, Hal Prince. Combining Brown’s songs and Daisy Prince’s direction, SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD, opened on off Broadway at the WPA Theatre in 1995.

“I feel like the point of being an artist is to have your own voice; to do it the way you would do it and not the way anyone else would do it.”

SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD lies between musical and song cycle, but it is neither...it is an abstract musical, a series of songs all connected by a theme: “the moment of decision.” Brown has stated “It’s about one moment. It’s about hitting the wall and having to make a choice, or take a stand, or turn around and go back.” In July 2020, as theatres around the world remained dark due to the COVID-19 pandemic, The Other Palace in London (formerly St. James Theatre) revived SONGS FOR A NEW WORLD. Directed by Sémi Campbell, the digital production was filmed entirely in isolation with contemporary news footage interwoven with the musical numbers.

Source material citation for the informational content of this document includes: THE DRAMATIST (11/99 interview with Jason Robert Brown conducted by Gregory Bossel); the PBS Composers, Lyricists and Writers Archives; www.almusic.com; and www.jasonrobertbrown.com.