



Songs of Comfort: About the artists and speaker

Anjimile is a singer/songwriter (and public school music teacher) hailed by NPR as an Artist to Watch in 2019. Named WBUR's "Wicked Good Boston Favorite" entry to NPR's popular Tiny Desk Contest, the Boston-based musician draws on experiences of racism, homophobia, and other battles to focus on the grace of life, juxtaposing the warmth of an acoustic guitar with biting lyrics. *Rolling Stone* named Anjimile's song "Baby No More" a Song You Need to Know, praising the "lyrics that boast a brutally frank edge." Anjimile's debut album *Giver Taker* will be released September 18.

Emanuel "Manny" Ax is a Grammy-winning American classical pianist who is an acknowledged master of Beethoven and much admired for the elegance of his Mozart and Chopin. The classical superstar is a beloved Tanglewood mainstay, a consummate solo artist who also has one of the closest musical friendships and chamber music partnerships of all time with his friend Yo-Yo Ma. Considered one of the best known concert pianists of the twenty-first century, Ax performs in recital and with major symphony orchestras around the world. He is a teacher on the faculty of the Juilliard School.

Singer/songwriter **Billy Keane**, a founding member of The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow, makes high-energy music with a folk-rock-blues blend. Hailing from Pittsfield, Keane was discovered by the Berkshires' first family of music, Kim and James Taylor. With The Whiskey Treaty Roadshow and as a solo artist, Keane has been covered by *Rolling Stone*, *Relix*, *American Songwriter*, and *No Depression*, and has shared bills with Kris Kristofferson, Trampled by Turtles, Steep Canyon Rangers, The Indigo Girls, The X Ambassadors, the Gin Blossoms, Los Lobos, and more.

Cellist **Yo-Yo Ma**'s career is testament to his faith in culture's power to generate the trust and understanding essential to a strong society. This belief inspired Yo-Yo to establish the global cultural collective Silkroad, and, more recently, to set out on the Bach Project — a six-continent tour of J. S. Bach's suites for solo cello and an invitation to a larger conversation about culture, society, and the themes that connect us all. The Bach Project came to the Berkshires with a concert at Tanglewood and a community table build in Pittsfield in August 2019.

Chantell McFarland is a local artist in the Berkshires. She is the singer and pianist for the Kashmir Souls, an all-female band with a smooth, soulful sound.

Deval Patrick has devoted his life to public service. After Harvard Law School, he joined the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and was later appointed by President Clinton to lead the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In 2006, Deval became Massachusetts' first African American governor, serving from 2007-2015. By the end of his term, the state ranked first in the nation in student achievement, energy efficiency, veterans services, and entrepreneurship. Known as a leader in developing solutions to the challenges we all face, he is now the founder and chairman of TogetherFund PAC, which supports progressive campaigns and grassroots organizations that drive engagement with disenfranchised and marginalized voters.