

Subject: EM: Save the Date! World Premiere of Reason to Be—a student-written musical

Date: Thursday, March 6, 2025 at 4:00:05 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Inform

From: Bill Alves

Sent on behalf of Devon Tao:

Hi all,

To introduce myself if you don't know me already, my name is Devon Tao and I'm a senior computer science and mathematics major at Harvey Mudd. For the past 2.5 years I have been writing and composing my original musical *Reason to Be*.

My musical tackles questions such as:

What makes you, *you*?

What if you didn't have that anymore?

How do we find hope in the face of insurmountable obstacles?

Reason to Be is about a former pianist, Val, who must rediscover the meaning of hope in the midst of climate disaster. In a story inspired by *A Christmas Carol*, Val takes a personal journey through their past, present, and future, where they reconnect with old friends, hang out with ghosts, and rediscover their passion for music. *Reason to Be* is about resilience, it's about hope, and it's about the healing powers of music. It is also "Christmas-y" and features an educational number about "The Greenhouse Effect" — so there's something there for everyone!

We have been working really hard on a production this semester, and we really hope you check it out! This production is entirely student-run, with a cast and crew from the 5Cs. The performance will be at the **Seaver Large Studio at Pomona College (300 E Bonita Ave, Claremont CA 91711)** at the following times:

March 27th 7:30 PM (preview)

March 28th 7:30 PM

March 29th 2:00 PM and 7:30 PM

March 30th 2:00 PM

This event is **open to the public** and **tickets are free** so invite anyone and everyone, even if they don't go to the 5Cs! Don't hesitate to email me at vtao@hmc.edu if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Devon on the behalf of the cast and crew of *Reason to Be*

Bill Alves

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