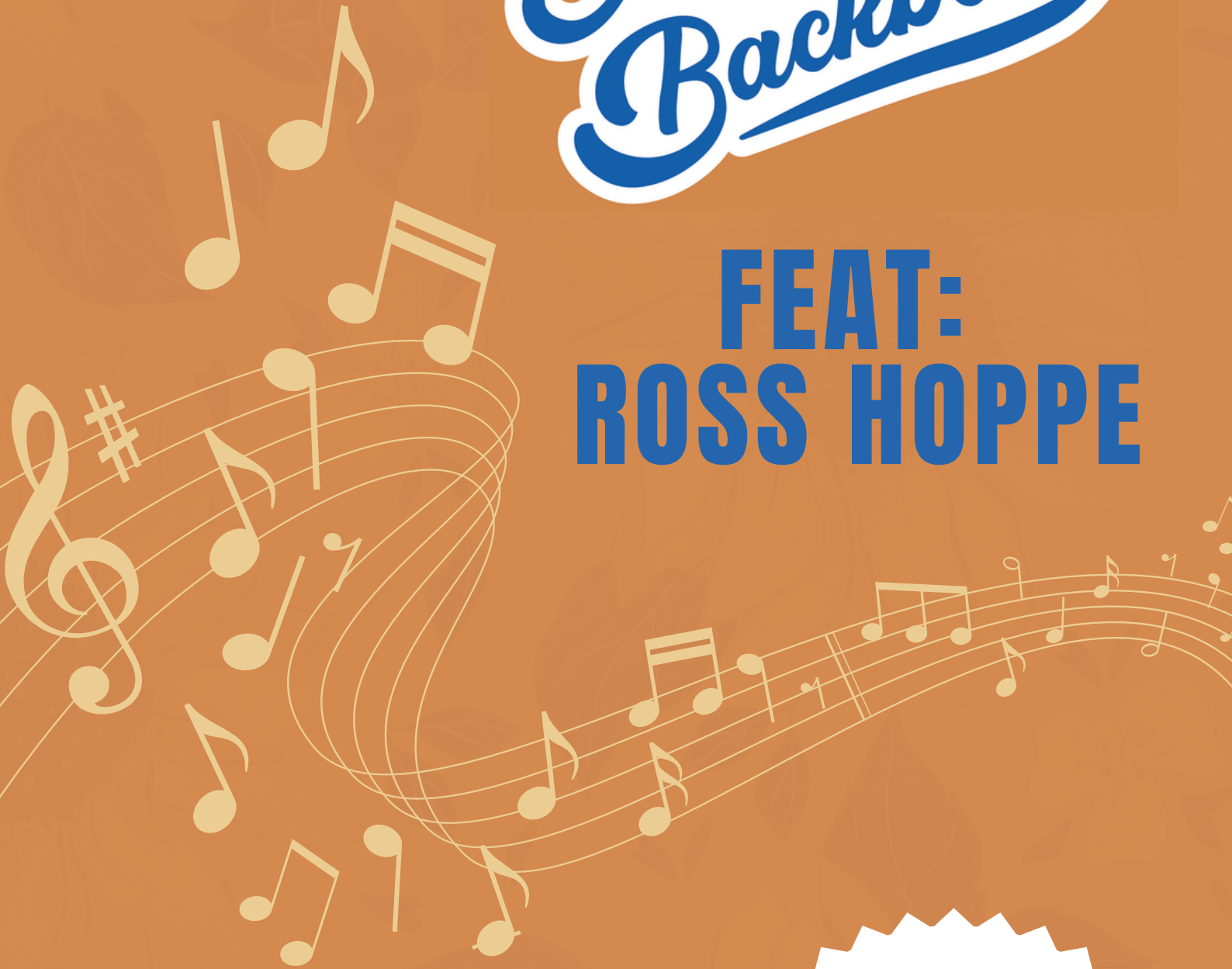


# *KB & the Backbeat*

**FEAT:  
ROSS HOPPE**



**CONCERT PROGRAM**

6/20/2026

**GET  
READY!**



**OPENING SET:**  
**GATHER ROUND**  
**BY KASEY BALL**

**ST JAMES INFIRMARY**  
**TRADITIONAL**

**B.B.B.**  
**BY KASEY BALL**

**FLAVOR**  
**BY KASEY BALL**

**DON'T CALL ME RUBY**  
**BY KASEY BALL**

**MAKE IT DO WHAT IT DOES**  
**(TILL IT DOES SOMETHING ELSE)**  
**BY KASEY BALL**



**INTERMISSION: 15 MINUTES**



**CLOSING SET:**

**ANIMAL FARM FIGHT SONG  
BY CHRIS "KATT" LEE**

**GDG  
BY JARRETT GUSTAFSON**

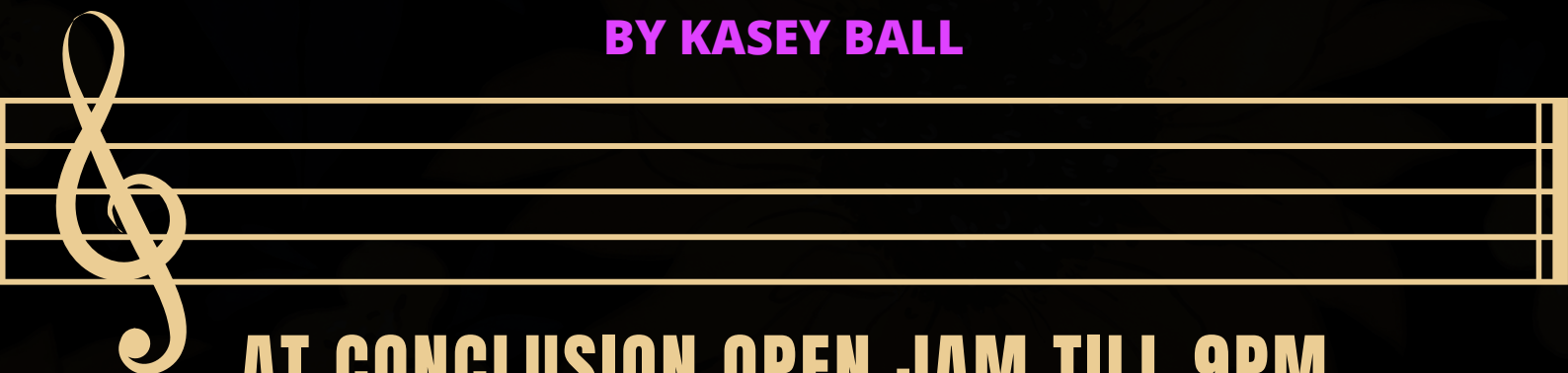
**GREENHOUSE EFFECT  
BY ROSS HOPPE**



**FLAVOR (REDUX)  
BY KASEY BALL**

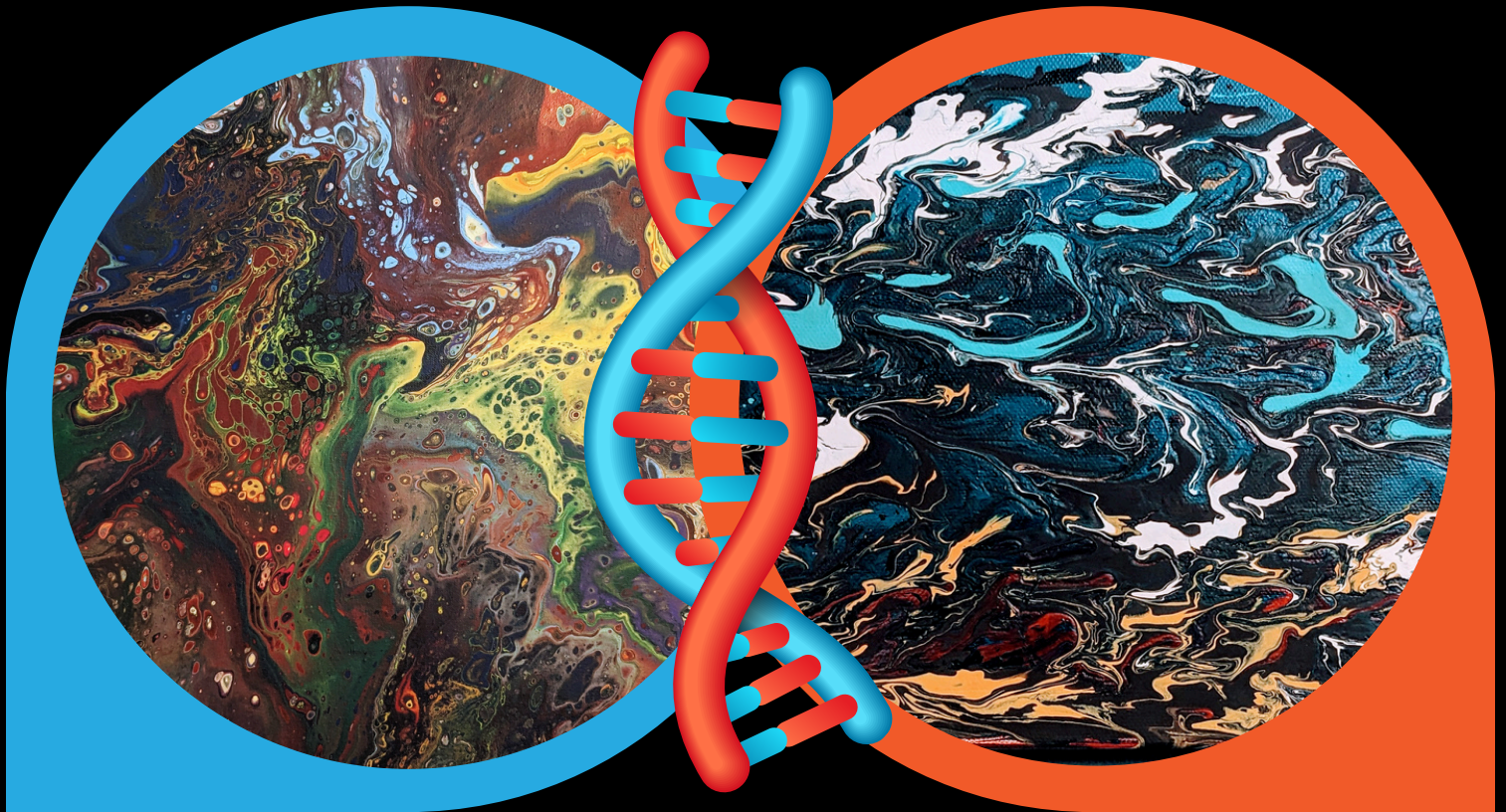
**WHEREVER I GO  
BY KASEY BALL**

**CODE SWITCHING  
BY KASEY BALL**



**AT CONCLUSION, OPEN JAM TILL 9PM**

# Multi-Genre Music



**Tonight, we are putting our musical DNA on display!**

**We are excited to share with you an evening of our original compositions. I am blessed to be joined onstage by musicians who have traveled the world over honing their craft as performers and writers.**

**Enjoy the ride, clap whenever you like, and HAVE FUN!!!**

# Kasey Ball

-Louisiana native  
composer and  
multi-instrumental  
recording artist.

-M.M. Jazz Studies from LSU

-International clinician/ music director/  
performer.



From Kasey:  
Thank you all for coming to our show!

It is a joy to present this music I have prepared for you, and  
thanks for reading my program notes!

I have spent the last few years deeply exploring the merging  
of genres within my writing. I have crafted melodies which  
allow for expression across many soundscapes. Many of the  
selections tonight will feature multiple genres of music being  
utilized to express the same song. I have decided to present  
“Flavor” twice tonight in order to demonstrate the flexibility  
of the ensemble and the composition.

Everything you hear tonight comes from the mind of  
musicians who have dedicated much of their lives to studying  
jazz, but have also delved deeply into commercial and world  
music styles. The compositions are occasionally heady, the  
solos will be long, but the spirit we present is the furthest  
thing away from stuffy we can manage.

Clap, dance, and sing along with us!

Thank you for sharing your spirit with me, enjoy the show!



# Katt Lee

-Baton Rouge Native

-Has a Recorder Album

-Jovin Webb Band Alumni

About Katt's composition "Animal Farm Fight Song":

From the composer:

Animal Farm Fight Song was written in honor of my closest, oldest friends that I think of and refer to as my sworn brothers.

Because about half of us have animal nicknames, and we all display near-superhuman work ethic, we call ourselves the Animal Farm, or simply, The Farm.

# Jarrett Gustaffson

-Touring guitarist and recording  
artist with Grammy-Nominated  
Quiana Lynell

-Baton Rouge Native

-Second generation Baton Rouge musician



From Kasey:

Jarrett Gustaffson is a force of nature on the guitar. He is an accomplished performer and recording artist at an impressively young age, and his apparent talent only continues to grow.

He is the lead guitarist of KB & the Backbeat, and is quickly becoming a staple both the local and touring jazz and R&B scene.

His compositional style blends elements of both West Coast and Louisiana funk with a strong sensibility for the modern jazz sounds of New York. Tonight we are performing his signature brand of funk fusion with the composition “GDG”- equal parts slinking and soaring, with a thundering groove.



# Ross Hoppe

**-Baton Rouge Native**

**-Piano Virtuoso**

**-Featured performer at  
the James Booker piano  
series held at the Maple  
Leaf in New Orleans**

**From Kasey:**

**Ross is a fixture on the Baton Rouge and  
New Orleans music scene. From solo  
performances to his funk big band  
Captain Green, Ross excels as a  
performer, composer, and bandleader.**

**We are very grateful to have him share  
his talents with all of us, and you should  
check him out in New Orleans!**

# GATHER ROUND

Roots country and second  
line funk collide into a  
swamp blues holler like  
nothing you've heard  
before. Our journey  
begins.



# ST. JAMES INFIRMARY

TRADITIONAL

NEW ORLEANS MUSICIANS HAVE A LONG  
TRADITION OF DEVELOPING PERSONALIZED  
VERSIONS OF FOLK SONGS AND I AM NO  
EXCEPTION. TO TURN THE PHRASE IS TO TURN  
THE PAGE—BUT THERE ARE COLLECTIONS:  
WHEN YOU CHASE THE  
FAME OF ST JAMES, YOU'LL LIKELY  
RECEIVE THE FATE OF ST JAMES.

THE TRADITION HAS BEEN HONORED, LETS KILL OUR OWN CHICKEN.

# **B.B.B.B.**

by Kasey Ball

**A cautionary love letter  
to the Northernmost city  
in the Carribean written  
in an Afro-Cuban  
soundscape, somewhere  
between a tale of woe  
and of woah!**

**Hold on tight! This one is  
gonna get LOUD!**

# FLAVOR

By Kasey Ball

Flavor is a composition about Louisiana and its people. We are funky, we are complex, and we know all about FLAVOR!

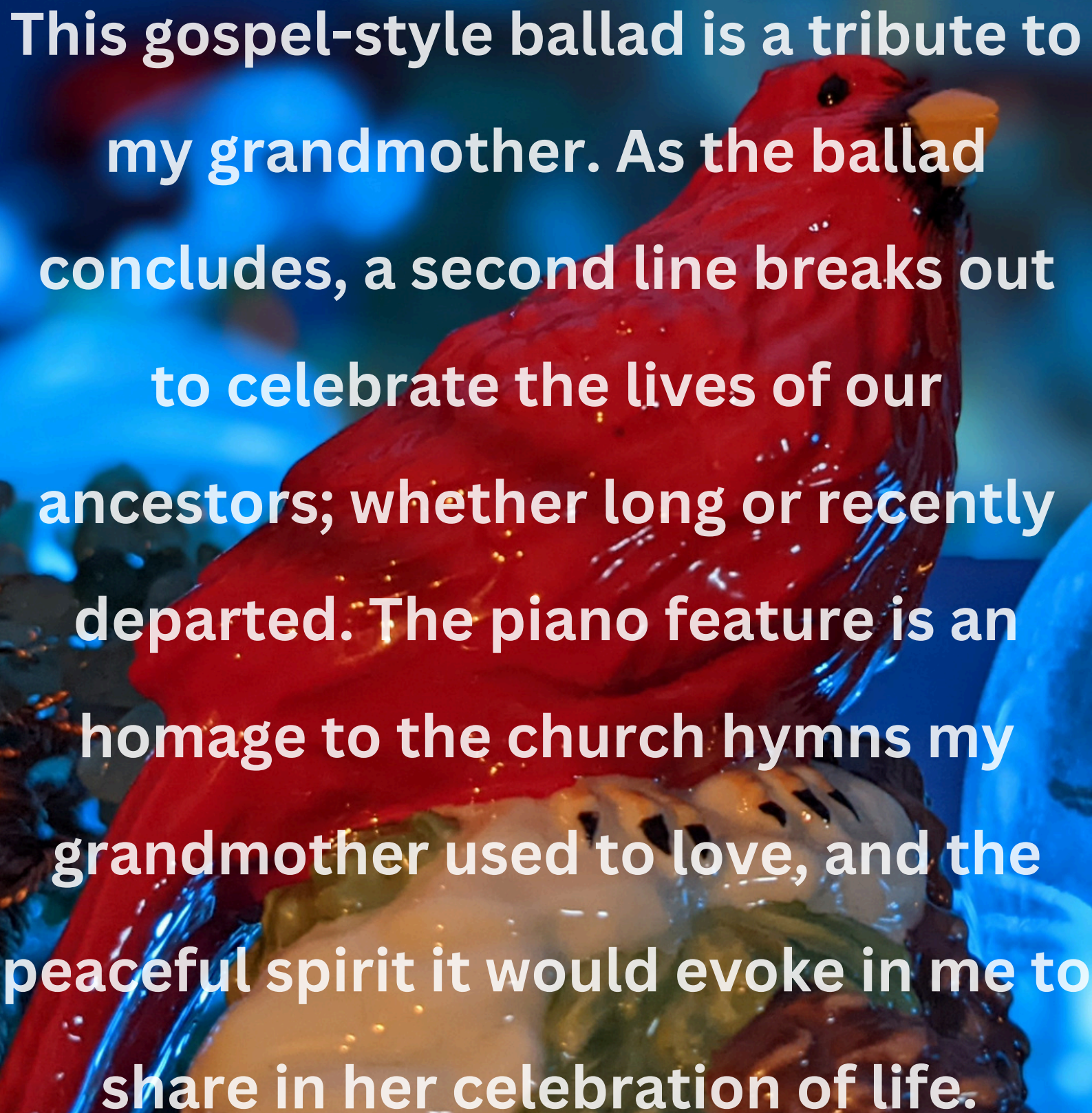
This first serving will start smooth and build to a sweet heat with the backbeat.

Let it simmer a while and we will be back for more later once the spice sets in!

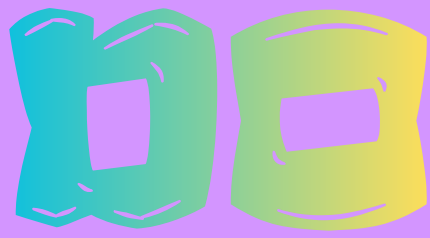
# *Don't Call Me Ruby*

by Kasey Ball

This gospel-style ballad is a tribute to my grandmother. As the ballad concludes, a second line breaks out to celebrate the lives of our ancestors; whether long or recently departed. The piano feature is an homage to the church hymns my grandmother used to love, and the peaceful spirit it would evoke in me to share in her celebration of life.

A vibrant red cardinal is the central focus, perched on a branch adorned with white flowers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue with bokeh light effects, creating a serene and celebratory atmosphere.

MAKE IT



# What it Does

*(Till it Does Something Else)*

Written for my good friend Kirk Britton, this is inspired by something he once told me when I was talking about my clothes being out of date.



Good advice  
then, and good  
advice now.

INTERMISSION

# ANIMAL FARM FIGHT SONG

"ANIMAL FARM FIGHT SONG WAS WRITTEN IN HONOR OF MY CLOSEST, OLDEST FRIENDS THAT I THINK OF AND REFER TO AS MY SWORN BROTHERS."

-KATT LEE





G D G  
BY JARRETT  
GUSTAFSON

# Greenhouse Effect

**By Ross Hoppe**



# FLAVOR

By Kasey Ball

Come with us on a trip into  
psychedelic jazz fusion. We don't  
cook with the recipe down here, we  
season it till it's ready!!!

We've tried the mild recipe, now  
let's turn up the HEAT!!!

# WHEREVER I GO

I WROTE THIS SONG BECAUSE I NEEDED  
TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR THE  
LIFE I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEAD.

MUSIC CONTINUES TO BRING ME JOY AND  
INSPIRATION, AND I APPRECIATE EVERY  
OPPORTUNITY I GET TO PERFORM FOR  
PEOPLE WHO ARE READY TO RECEIVE  
AND SHARE JOY.

A man with a long beard and a straw hat is sitting on a wooden bench outdoors, playing a yellow electric guitar. He is wearing a light blue shirt and dark blue pants. The background shows a garden with yellow flowers and a brick path. The text 'CODE SWITCHING' is overlaid on the top right of the image.

# CODE SWITCHING

A structured improvisation using our shared mind to create an agreeable space for each other amidst turmoil.

This composition is about life, and the necessity of granting each other space as we navigate the chaos together.