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Out of the box - Program Note

Out of the box was commissioned by baritone Gregory Feldmann, pianist Nathaniel LaNasa, and oral historian Cynthia Tobar for the American Icons project in Brooklyn, NY, with support from the Brooklyn Arts Council. The project gathers testimonies from faculty and students in Brooklyn that discuss the role of music in shaping identity as individuals, communities, and as a nation. *Out of the box* was inspired by testimony by Naomi Pierre, with lyrics written by my frequent collaborator Marco Grosse, focusing on the role of music in finding community.