



November 2017

Dear East West Players Family,

I got my start in theatre at EWP, watching rehearsals in an old church basement as a child while my mother played piano as a rehearsal accompanist.

It's hard to believe that almost 50 years have since passed and East West Players is embarking on the largest and most ambitious season ever. More importantly, the 2017-18 season *The Company We Keep* is all about community and relationships. Over the past 52 years, East West Players has built a space where we can gather to respond to our nation and the world. Where we can strengthen existing relationships and a place where Asian American stories and voices have space to be whole human beings, to be safe, to be.

In times of great divisiveness, we need art, and we need community. On behalf of East West Players, we are so grateful to you for being a part of our community, and ask you to join us in making sure Asian American stories continue to be heard by making a tax-deductible year-end gift.

This spring, East West Players will co-produce my newest musical *Soft Power* with Center Theatre Group, marking an artistic homecoming of sorts. This is the 8th production of my work that EWP has been involved in. I've been fortunate to have worked in a wide range of theatres—not-for-profit, commercial, and international—but EWP remains my base and my home.

As funding for the arts comes under greater threat than ever before, EWP continues to champion Asian American writers and performers; advocate for increased representation, equity in the arts and media; impact 17,000 students and youth with unique, culturally sensitive arts education programs; and produce world-class theatre, including the Los Angeles premiere of the Broadway musical *Allegiance*, starring George Takei.

So please don't wait! Once again this year our Board of Directors has generously issued a challenge match of \$15,000—so when you make your donation by November 30th, it will be matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling the impact of your gift! EWP is at its strongest when we are providing a stage for those whose stories have not been told and we cannot do it without your support. Many thanks, and I look forward to seeing you at *Soft Power*!

Sincerely,

David Henry Hwang

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Producing Artistic Director

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