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In January of this year I was gifted the opportunity to attend a performance of Elliott Cherry's work of devotion and love, "A Finished Heart." Elliott has taken the deeply personal and profound life experience of his husband's death and created a work of music and poetry that invites the listener to accompany him through the journey of life's end. It was a privilege and an honor to bear witness to the range of thoughts, feelings, and emotions of both Elliott and his husband Chris, as they navigated the unexpected turn in their life together.

As a professional who works with individuals of all ages who are grieving the death of someone they love, I found Elliott's work to offer insight into the dying process that no training has ever been able to convey. His willingness to share his story with heart, honesty, and integrity is a rare opportunity for learning and deeper understanding of supporting people in grief. I would highly recommend "A Finished Heart" to those who are in the helping professions but also to all individuals who wish to garner a greater awareness of being truly present to the dying and those who love them.

Sincerely,

Valerie Jones LMSW

Program Coordinator

The Center for Grieving Children