Billy Dean Thomas

Thomas has big dreams: after all, the Jamaican Plain-based musician apó the nickname "The Queer B.I.G." playing off legendary rapper Notorious B.I.G. Luckily, his talent is out-sized. They tap with the best of them; check out "Black Bach," an homage to Bach written over a performance of "Prelude, Fugue and Allegro, BWV 998" by B.B. King with guitar chair at the Yale School of Music. They were also among the standout LGBTQ artists in the Theater Offensive's first Of Our Body Residency Program. Thomas's music, infused with social commentary about issues like feminism and male privilege, lives up to hope—in a big way.

American Classics:
"Yip Yip Yaphank"

Boston's very own Benjamin Sears and Bradford Conner are considered among the foremost scholars on the infamous composer Irving Berlin, and back in 2010 the 3rd annual Yip Yip Yaphank! a musical revue written by Berlin when he was a World War II recruit at Camp Upton in Yaphank, New York. Now Sears and Conner, the co-producers of American Classics—an effort focused on the Pan American initiatives and other music genres central to U.S. heritage—are bringing back the 1931-produced show for a celebratory curation. Hear songs like "Mandy" (which appeared in the film "White Christmas") and "Oh, How I Hate to Be Late in the Morning" performed by the foremost Berlin authorities.

What the Dickens!

For its 90th year, the Cambridge Youth Dance Program's annual performance of What the Dickens! moves on up to a new Bay State venue but brings the same holiday spirit to this unique interpretation of "A Christmas Carol" expressed through multiple dance styles—from ballet to tap to hip-hop to flamenco. The enchanting, timeless tale has a special essence thanks to this extraordinary skill of this celebrated pre-professional performance company—but it's a chance to see out, gay Boston dance legend Clyde Vandal's role in the role of Scrooge.

'Scenic' Spirits: David Whitman and Patrick Lenz

'm Fun in the Sun' Sports Tea Dance

Victory Programs teamed up with the FLAG Flag Football to host its eighth annual 'Scene of Sports Tea Dance and Ball to benefit of the work. At the event, "Scott Pratt, co-founder of Over 500 invites the event: 'The grand total of $65,000 to support vital services at Victory Programs' in health, housing and prevention programs.

When: December 14 - Sunday, December 15

Where: John Hancock Hall, Boston

How: Reservations required. Call (617) 265-9414 or visit victor programs.org.