Long-Term Survivors Star in a Handwashing PSA

Combining music and activism to prevent the spread of the coronavirus

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At this point in the coronavirus pandemic, we hope everyone understands the importance of washing their hands for at least 20 seconds to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the new coronavirus, as well as other viral diseases. But if you're looking for a refresher on proper handwashing technique, social media is filled with how-to videos, including this one from Gloria Gaynor singing "I Will Survive."

POZ recently came across the following video posted by the resistance choir Sing Out, Louise! among these online public service announcements (PSAs) and noticed it featured some familiar faces.

Sing Out, Louise! is a spin-off of Gays Against Guns, a direct-action group of LGBTQ people and their allies who are committed to promoting safer gun laws and fighting the gun industry. Mark Leydorf, one of the performers in the video, is a member of both groups; he's also a long-term survivor living with HIV. Leydorf was featured on the October 2002 cover of POZ and wrote that issue's cover story about vitamins and supplements for people living with the virus.

Jay W. Walker is another long-term survivor featured in the handwashing PSA. He appeared on the June 2018 cover of POZ cover and wrote that issue's cover story on how past AIDS activism led to his current efforts against gun violence.

Based in New York City, Leydorf, Walker and the other talented members of Sing Out, Louise! clearly have a knack for combining music and activism. Just check out some of the lyrics from "Bye, Corona!":

Health care is a human right, not outta sight

We can fight a viral blight like Corona!

Work together to be sure we'll find a cure

Trust in science and we can spike Corona!

Share their message, and be part of the singing resistance. And remember to wash your hands!

For the latest HIV-related news and information on COVID-19, click here.

Click here to watch other videos from Sing Out, Louise!

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