Jennifer Burton, Tufts University

For me, this poster image conveys hope by colorfully capturing the beautiful power of music to nurture individual growth while also helping to build something larger than the self. I wrote my dissertation on hope in the arts, and my film and scholarly work is committed to fostering hope, which I define as the belief in the possibility of positive change. Hope is distinct from optimism—the idea that things will definitely get better. Hope requires the acknowledgement of challenges. Hope promotes action. In addition to teaching film at Tufts University, I make films with my four sisters (with Five Sisters Productions). Our latest film, *Somebody to Lean On* (premiering on PBS in April 2027), centers on a men's prison choir in rural Ohio and shows how the efforts of individuals can help create community and build bonds across difference.