

June 19, 2013

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Media Contact: Carol Bauer, Executive Director  
E-mail: [ExecutiveDirector@ovmc.org](mailto:ExecutiveDirector@ovmc.org); Phone: 651-298-1954

**One Voice Mixed Chorus presents:  
Minnesota Voices**

**June 21, 2013 • 7:30 pm • Thompson Recital Hall, BSU, Bemidji, MN**  
**June 22, 2013 • 7:00 pm • The Edge Center for the Arts, Bigfork, MN**  
**June 23, 2013 • 3:30 pm • First United Church, Little Falls, MN**

One Voice Mixed Chorus—Minnesota's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) and straight allies chorus—celebrates the finale of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with **Minnesota Voices**, a concert celebrating all things Minnesota—from the State Fair, lumberjacks and folk-songs to music on a stick!

**Minnesota Voices** is on tour to Bemidji, Bigfork and Little Falls, Minnesota from June 21-23, 2013 and features songs by Minnesota composers from Bob Dylan, Libby Larsen, Abbie Betinis and Rene Clausen to Prince and Semisonic! Minnesota's international roots are highlighted in Ruth McKenzie's setting of *Kalavala*, including her toe-tapping *Give us Room to Roar* and heart-wrenching *Oi Dai*. In keeping with One Voice tradition, the concert includes many light touches including Ann Reed's *State Fair Song* and Benjamin Britten's *Lumberjack Chorus* performed in true One Voice style with live lumberjacks, flannel-wear and saws. The concert also includes "music-on-a-stick"—sing-along moments for the audience with lyrics printed on souvenir fans.



One Voice Artistic  
Director Jane Ramseyer  
Miller

A centerpiece of **Minnesota Voices** is *By the Fireside*, a composition commissioned by One Voice and the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra in 2008 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day. The composition by Christopher Gable, explores connections between issues of AIDS in North America and Africa. In describing the work, Gable states, "I wanted to honor that history and all the great strides we've made, but to keep people from growing complacent. I also wanted to pay homage to what's happening in Africa. It's at the forefront of the battle with AIDS—that's where this fight will be won or lost." He goes on to explain the



Jane Ramsey Miller  
with composer,  
Christopher Gable

significance of fire and light in the composition, noting “there is the wonderful tradition of fireside storytelling in Africa, where the elders share their acquired wisdom to future generations, that really spoke to me. I loved this image of community and heritage.” Near the work’s end, he also draws on the Latin text “Lux Aeterna” from the Requiem mass, a prayer that asks for the recently deceased to be blessed by Heaven’s eternal light. *By the Fireside* was originally scored for chorus, baritone solo, orchestra and an African drum ensemble. One Voice’s June concerts will feature the premiere of the chamber version scored for chorus, piano, oboe and cello.

Cellist Scott Lykins and oboist Steve Humerickhouse are featured in *By the Fireside* and will also perform throughout the concert. “I wanted to integrate these fine players into many elements of the concert and especially programmed music that includes oboe and cello,” explains Artistic Director Jane Ramsey Miller. “These two instruments have such a rich and beautiful color that is well-suited with the voice so I also re-arranged several accompaniments to incorporate them.” One of these is a choral setting of the familiar “Goin’ Home” melody from Dvorak’s *New World Symphony* which Ramsey Miller arranged for chorus, piano, oboe and cello.

**Minnesota Voices** takes the audience on a Minnesota journey of hilarity, beauty, nostalgia and reflection with a wide variety of musical genres for young and old and every music-lover in between. “What’s special about this concert,” says singer Allan Warrior, “is the juxtaposition of the familiar with the unexpected. Whether it’s the fond memories of our state fair, the celebration of our choral heritage so warmly and lovingly displayed in *O My Luve’s Like a Red Red Rose*, or the surprising and exotic beauty of *Oi Dai* and *Naalah* (created by a Minnesota composer from Urdu poetry). This music speaks to a Minnesota that’s big enough for everyone, which to me, has always been the subtext of our mission, our devotion to building community and creating social change.”

While on tour, One Voice chorus members will present **Minnesota Voices** in collaboration with community singers in Bemidji, Bigfork and Little Falls. In the months before the concert, Ramsey Miller will travel to the three communities to rehearse several songs with local singers. This year’s tour is funded by an Arts Touring grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, which also includes support for to produce a documentary with TPT2 about the importance of touring and other One Voice outreach activities. For more information, visit the One Voice website at: [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org).

---

**One Voice Mixed Chorus** unites gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and straight allies to build community and create social change by raising our voices in song. As the largest GLBT chorus in North America, One Voice is known for its musical excellence, diverse programming, and deep commitment to community outreach. The 110 singing members range from ages 17 to 75, and the “Fifth Section” boasts more than 50 non-singing volunteers. Whether performing in schools, at



community events, or on stage for marquee concerts, One Voice inspires transformation through passionate, vibrant, creative and surprising performances. The award-winning chorus, under the direction of Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller, has performed for thousands of people throughout the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and beyond and is described by Chorus America as “one of the region’s best ensembles.” More: [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org).

### **Concert Schedule for Minnesota Voices**

#### **Friday, June 21, 2013 • 7:30 pm**

Thompson Recital Hall, Bangsberg Fine Arts Center, Bemidji State University

Bemidji, MN 56601

**Tickets:** \$10 adult/\$5 student & senior Tickets at Harmony Natural Foods Coop, 302 Irvine Ave. NW, Bemidji or call Respect Awareness Project: 218.760.2415 or [www.servant-hearts.org](http://www.servant-hearts.org)

#### **Saturday, June 22, 2013 • 7:00 pm**

The Edge Center for the Arts

101 Second Avenue

Bigfork MN 56628

(218)743-6670

**Tickets:** Free will donation

Little Falls-Sunday, June 23, 2013 • 3:30 pm

First United Church of Little Falls

1000 1st St SE

Little Falls, MN 56345

###

### One Voice Mixed Chorus is Grateful for Support from:



James B. Linsmayer Foundation • Kevin J. Mossier Foundation • Fredrickson & Byron



This activity is funded, in part, by appropriations from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund, and its arts and cultural heritage fund that was created by a vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.



Funding provided in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and private funders.

###