

January 3, 2013

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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One Voice Mixed Chorus presents:
We Are One Voice - 25th Anniversary Concert

January 26, 2013 @ 3PM and 7:30 PM

The Cowles Center, Minneapolis, MN

One Voice Mixed Chorus—Minnesota's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) and straight allies chorus—begins 2013 with **We Are One Voice**, the chorus' 25th Anniversary Concert. **We Are One Voice** celebrates the rich history of One Voice Mixed Chorus and the GLBT movement over the past 25 years through retrospective music, photographs, video and storytelling. Project collaborators include KAIROSalive! (an intergenerational dance company), local GLBT high school students and an alumni chorus. The concerts take place on January 26 at 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm at The Cowles Center in Minneapolis. For more information, visit the One Voice website at: www.ovmc.org. Tickets range from \$19 – 34 and may be purchased at The Cowles Center box office: <http://www.thecowlescenter.org/calendar-tickets/one-voice>

We Are One Voice includes music that was popular in the early days of the chorus (musicals with lyrics tweaked to switch genders, songs of struggle for belonging) as well as traditional choral music, songs of protest and large doses of humor. One Voice has commissioned more than 20 compositions throughout its history and several of these commissions appear on the concert program along with elements that represent the chorus' unique collaborations with organizations such as Kairos Dance, Teens Rock the Mic, In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater, and the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra.



**One Voice Artistic
Director Jane
Ramseyer Miller**

Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller notes, "While it is not possible to bring back every arts group with which One Voice has collaborated over the past 25 years, their voices and artistic gifts will be present in this concert through photographs and video segments projected for the audience." In collaboration with KAIROSalive! (formerly Kairos Dance), the chorus will perform a new collaboration featuring French Romantic composer, Lili

Boulanger's *Hymne du Soleil* sung by One Voice and choreographed by Maria Genné, artistic director of KAIROSalive! Since 1999, One Voice has also collaborated with metro-area schools providing positive GLBT role models and quality music in an interactive OUT in our Schools program. This outreach will be honored with the participation of high school singers from St. Paul Conservatory for the Arts joining the chorus on stage for several songs near the end of the concert including the Broadway arrangement of *It Gets Better*, a tribute to GLBT youth.

The concert also includes *Summer Nights* from *Grease* (from early One Voice years) complete with choreography and gender swapping for the voice parts, *Big Sky*, a powerful shape-note piece from an environmental collaboration with Eureka Recycling, *Sigalagala*, an African song from a collaboration with percussion ensemble CRASH, an a cappella setting of the Wailin' Jennys' *One Voice* and *Abide with Me* from a concert with the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra. From contemporary to classical to jazz and international music, this concert features the chorus' skill at programming creative, vibrant and unique choral music.

As One Voice celebrates its 25th year, there are incredible changes that have occurred within the GLBT community over the past two and a half decades and these stories have been captured through story-telling and video. Woven throughout the music, audience members will experience video vignettes that feature One Voice singers, volunteers, audience members and community members sharing their connection to the One Voice community. The Cowles Center lobby will display a timeline and memorabilia from One Voice history interspersed with historical events and national GLBT milestones.

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 100 singing members range from ages 17 to 74, 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.

One Voice Mixed Chorus Presents

January 26, 2013 • 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm

The Cowles Center

528 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN

Information: www.ovmc.org or 651-298-1954

Tickets: \$18-\$25; \$10 seniors and students.

Purchase Tickets: <http://www.thecowlescenter.org/calendar-tickets/one-voice>

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Sponsors



James B. Linsmayer Foundation • Kevin J. Mossier Foundation



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.

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One Voice 2013 Performance Calendar

April 6, 2013 • 6:00 pm
Spring Fever Cabaret & Silent Auction
Bloomington Center for the Arts

May 2013
OUT in Our Schools

June 14 & 15, 2013 • 7:30 pm
Minnesota Voices
History Theater

June 20-22, 2013
Outreach Tour to Greater Minnesota
Brainerd, Bemidji, Bigfork

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We Are One Voice - 25TH Anniversary Concert PROGRAM

SET ONE

A Pentatonic Alleluia, Music by Ross Whitney

Sawubona, Zulu greeting, music by Jane Ramseyer Miller

Translation: I see you. I am here. Yes!

Visibility and safety were significant themes in the early years of the chorus. One Voice offered a gathering place where individuals could be out and safe.

VISIBILITY

I Ain't Afraid, Music and lyrics by Holly Near, arr. Steven Milloy
From 2007's "Reclaiming Faith: In the Spirit of Justice" concert.

Miss Celie's Blues (from "The Color Purple"), Music by Quincy Jones and Rod Temperton, arr. J. David Moore;
Words by Quincy Jones, Rod Temperton, and Lionel Richie
One Voice Interim Music Director, Camilla Horne, first conducted this piece in 2002.

LOSS & LAMENT

Lacrimosa, music by Calixto Alvarez

Cuban composer Alvarez has woven a traditional text from the Requiem Mass and with a song of mourning to Oddua, one of the main orishas (gods) of the Regla de Ocho religion of Cuba.

Left Behind, music by Roger Bourland, lyrics by John Hall

A tribute to the community of loved ones who have cared for partners, family and friends with HIV-AIDS.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Abide with Me, music by William Monk, arr. Lucy A. Hirt, lyrics by Henry Lyte

Performed at a 2009 concert with the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra in honor of the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day.

Singing in the Choir (from “Watershed Stories 1:7”)

Music and lyrics by David L. McIntyre

In 2006 One Voice traveled to Winnipeg for a concert with the Rainbow Harmony Project. This composition by Canadian composer, McIntyre was commissioned several years later by RHP.

Walk a Mile, music and lyrics by Pepper Choplin, arr. Mark Hayes; performed by OVation and OVation alumni
OVation is the portable version of One Voice, performing our in the community, often in spaces where the full chorus cannot fit! Formed in 2000, OVation singers have performed over 200 concerts in faith communities, for corporate and community events, schools, and Pride celebrations across Minnesota.

BLURRING THE LINES

The 23rd Psalm (dedicated to my mother), music by Bobby McFerrin, text from Psalm 23

In 2004, One Voice hosted the first ever Transgender Vocal Festival attended by individuals from across the US including NYC and San Francisco. McFerrin’s 23rd Psalm was performed soon after in a concert titled “Blurring the Lines: Music and Gender”.

Summer Nights, music and lyrics by Warren Casey and Jim Jacobs, arr. Jane Ramseyer Miller

Summer Nights first appeared on the One Voice stage in 1996 at one of Jane’s first concerts (“Dawn to Dusk”) and made a re-appearance in 2000 for the sold out “Faerie Home Companion.”

SET TWO

Gay vs. Straight Composers, music and lyrics by Eric Lane Barnes

“While One Voice does not take itself too seriously, it is very serious about its music-making.” - Saint Paul Pioneer Press

CREATING SOCIAL CHANGE

Hymne au Soleil (Hymn to the Sun), music by Lili Boulanger, lyrics by C. Delavigne

With guests, KAIROSalive!, Maria Genné, Artistic Director

Set by Romantic composer, Boulanger, the text is from a French play set in India and depicts a Hindu religious rite. It was performed by One Voice and the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra in 1999 for “Embracing the Elements: Earth, Air, Fire, Water.”

Dirait-on, music by Morten Johannes Lauridson, lyrics by Rainer Maria Rilke

This favorite of audiences and singers alike was performed for “Weaving Wisdom” in partnership with In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre in 2001.

Big Sky, music and lyrics by Seth Houston

This unique vocal sound comes from the New England shape-note tradition where the shapes (Mi-Fa-Sol-La) were used as tools to teach sight-singing. The music has a distinctive bright, embodied sound and is traditionally sung in a square with the four voice-parts facing each other.

Bambelela (sing-along), traditional South African, transcribed by Mairi Munro and Martine Stemerick

Adapted by Mairi Munro and Philip Jakob

A South African song performed to offer hope in the midst of the AIDS epidemic, One Voice also used this song in recent October concerts to fight Minnesota's anti-marriage amendment.

Chameleon Wedding, music by Libby Larsen, poem by Keith Gunderson

In 1998 One Voice performed "Hear Me Roar: A Celebration of Women Composers." We brought this song back this year in celebration of marriage for all!

RAISING OUR VOICES IN SONG

One Voice, by Ruth Moody, arr. by Randi Grundahl Rexroth

From Barry Manilow to Ann Reed, the chorus has enjoyed numerous "One Voice" songs over the years; this version by the Wailin' Jennys has emerged as a favorite.

Sigalagala, Luo Spiritual, arranged by S. A. Otieno

From 2011's "Bang Boom CRASH" concert with percussion artists, CRASH.

Shed a Little Light, music and lyrics by James Taylor, arr. J. David Moore

In 2004 One Voice commissioned this arrangement for a joint concert with the Twin Cities Community Gospel Choir.

LOOKING FORWARD

It Gets Better, music by Jay Kuo and Blair Shepard, arr. by Steve Milloy

Sung in honor of the thousands of students that One Voice has touched in over a decade of singing in schools. These youth are our hope for the future!

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