

May 13, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Scott Chamberlain, Development & Public Relations Manager
E-mail: DevPR@ovmc.org; Phone: 651-298-1954

ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS CELEBRATES WHAT MAKES US ALL UNIQUE WITH “DIFFERENT IS GREAT! A FAMILY CONCERT”

***Whimsical concert series takes place June 4 and 5, 2010 at Avalon Theater, home of
In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre***

Concerts include fully-staged performances of the classic tale, “Ferdinand the Bull”

Free for anyone under 18!

Normal is fine, but different is GREAT! One Voice Mixed Chorus—Minnesota's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) and straight allies chorus—closes out its 2009-2010 season with **Different is Good GREAT! A Family Concert**. Framed by the classic story, “Ferdinand the Bull,” One Voice presents a family-friendly concert celebrating what makes us all unique. The concert includes sing-alongs, puppetry and music ranging from *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* and *De Colores* to highlights from “Carmen.” Performances take place at In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre in Minneapolis on June 4, 2010 at 7:00 pm and June 5, 2010, at 11:00 am, 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Each concert will be approximately 60 minutes in length and will be performed with a short intermission. Ticket prices are \$18 for adults and \$10 for seniors; tickets are available at One Voice’s website, www.ovmc.org.

Different is GREAT! signals a bold new direction for One Voice—this is the first time we’ve put together a full concert especially for kids. As Jane Ramseyer Miller explains, “In planning our seasons, it struck me that we do a great deal of programming for adults and for kids, but too often they’re compartmentalized. I really wanted to create a program that would speak to adults and kids together—ideally something a family could enjoy and share with each other.”

Many of the singers taking part have remarked that while intended primarily for youngsters, the concert has had powerful resonance for them as adults. “These songs and stories just bring such wonderful memories bubbling up,” notes soprano Darcy Juhl. “But better still, as an adult I can hear



**One Voice Artistic
Director Jane
Ramseyer Miller**

their messages with a fresh ear and I appreciate them all the more. I hear them as not just simple, silly songs but powerful messages that shape how we should treat one another and honor the things that make us different from the other kids (even as adults!). Seeing the kids respond, I think of my own grown-up kids and hope that I helped to create a better childhood for them by reminding them that the things that made them unique and wonderful—and I hope that I'm creating a better childhood for the children in the audience, giving them messages of hope and confidence that will stay with them for their whole lives."

She adds, "Plus, I'm having more fun with this concert than I would have thought possible!"

Music selections encourage young listeners to welcome diversity in their lives and be true to themselves. Along with Billy Joel's classic, *Just the Way You Are*, other selections include *I'm Different* and *Don't Dress Your Cat in an Apron*. Music from global cultures includes a stunning rendition of *De Colores* and the delightfully percussive *SikSik Si Batu Manikkam* from North Sumatra.



Cast of "Ferdinand the Bull"

With the help of professional puppeteer, Soozin Hirschmugl, One Voice has created two fully-staged stories: "Ferdinand the Bull" and "Pug Dog." These delightful tales turn gender stereotypes upside-down, and teach kids the importance of being true to oneself. "Ferdinand the Bull" is about a gentle-souled bull who would rather smell the flowers than fight in the bullring. One Voice presents the story with sets, costumes and actors portraying singing flowers, furious matadors and Ferdinand himself. Musically, we tell the story with selections from the beloved opera "Carmen," including the beloved *Toreador's Song*, as well as *Flight of the Bumblebee* and more.

One Voice also presents the story of "Pug Dog," about a loveable dog who would rather roughhouse and get dirty than do anything "ladylike," and ultimately teaches her owner to look beyond stereotypical gender roles. It is a perfect complement to the more familiar "Ferdinand," and likewise teaches that boys can be pretty and girls can be tough. In addition, the program challenges bullying and name-calling through role-playing and chorus-created poetry.

"Different is GREAT! is a highly interactive concert," explains Ramseyer Miller. "Audience members can sing along with well-known classics, and kids are invited to share in the action and movement. In this concert, everyone gets to participate!"

For 20 years **One Voice Mixed Chorus** has united gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and straight allies in working for social change. One Voice is known for its musical excellence, diverse repertoire, humor and strong commitment to community outreach. One Voice's 90 singing members span ages 16 to 70, and its "Fifth Section" boasts more than 50 non-singing volunteers. Together, they dedicate their time and energy to the One Voice mission: "Building community and

creating social change by raising our voices in song." One Voice is the largest GLBTA mixed chorus in North America, and has performed for thousands of people in the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and beyond. More: www.ovmc.org.

One Voice Mixed Chorus Presents

Different is Good GREAT! A Family Concert

June 4, 2010 • 7:00 pm

June 5, 2010 • 11:00 am; 3:00, 7:00 pm

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre
1500 E Lake St., Minneapolis

FREE for youth!

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

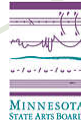
Cost: \$18, \$10 seniors, Free for anyone under 18.

NEWMAN.....	<i>I'm Different</i>
SCHUBERT & MOORE	<i>We Are the Choir</i>
WRUBEL & GILBERT.....	<i>Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah</i>
DARIN & KAUFMAN.....	<i>Splish, Splash</i>
WILBYE.....	<i>Lady, When I Behold</i>
WILDER & ZIPPEL.....	<i>Reflections, from "Mulan"</i>
REXROTH.....	<i>Don't Dress your Cat in an Apron</i>
SHERMAN & SHERMAN	<i>Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious</i>
TRADITIONAL.....	<i>SikSik Si Batu Manikkam</i>
DALE.....	<i>One Dad, Two Dads</i>
JOEL.....	<i>Just the Way You Are</i>
BIZET.....	Selections from "Carmen"
DELIBES.....	<i>Flower Duet, from "Lakmé"</i>
TRADITIONAL.....	<i>De Colores</i>



One Voice Mixed Chorus

Sponsors



LAVENDER



COMPAS Community Arts

Fredrikson & Byron Foundation

One Voice is supported by ArtsLab, a collaborative program of the Bush Foundation, F. R. Bigelow Foundation, Mardag Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, and The Saint Paul Foundation with the administrative support of Arts Midwest.

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.

One Voice Mixed Chorus has received arts employment support from Minnesota State Arts Board made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts through funds allocated from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

This activity funded, in part, by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund as appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the vote of the people of Minnesota on November 4, 2008.