



# With One Voice

MIXED CHORUS

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*Building community  
and creating social  
change by raising our  
voices in song.*

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**With One Voice**

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## From the Artistic Director

THIS HAS BEEN a sobering fall for most members of the GLBT community. I will confess that in the hubbub of the presidential election, the constitutional amendments that passed in eleven states took me completely by surprise. I woke up Wednesday morning in a daze of disbelief.

Three days later, One Voice hit the road on a tour of outreach concerts for schools and community groups in Bemidji, Grand Rapids and Duluth. These performances were some of the most life-changing experiences I've had with One Voice. We found our audience starved for our music and message of hope, and the tears and cheers of those folks in greater Minnesota were profoundly moving and inspiring.

Two weeks later, One Voice performed at the Minnesota American Choral Director's Association, a convention of professional choral directors from around the state. This invitation marks the first time a GLBT chorus has ever performed at ACDA Minnesota, and certainly the first time most people in the audience had ever seen a GLBT chorus. We are creating social change!

But our year has only begun. In January 2005, One Voice hosts a collaboration with Kairos Dance Theater, an intergenerational dance ensemble in Minneapolis. Weaving dance and choral music, the *Building Bridges* concerts will celebrate connections between diverse communities of people.

Our spring programming includes outreach concerts in Twin Cities middle-schools, a new choral commission with Elizabeth Alexander, our April Fools Silent Auction, and our June *Just for Laughs* concerts with guest comedian, Kate Clinton. You're gonna love Kate!

One Voice is offering HOPE this year – come experience it!



Kairos Dance Theater

Kate Clinton



*Jane Ramsey Miller*

## From the Executive Director

GREETINGS! IT IS an honor and a pleasure to join One Voice Mixed Chorus as Executive Director. If you are like me, you don't believe in coincidences, you believe in timing. My journey began in late June with a birthday party invitation to Board Co-Chair Colleen Watson.



Through this conversation I learned that OVMC was looking for an Executive Director. I had recently completed a seven-month contract as the Director of Operations and Development for the Saint Paul Winter Carnival Ice Palace. Having officially retired my vast collection of snow pants, I was ready for a new challenge. Colleen never made it to the birthday party, but I ended up with a new job.

I am working closely with Glen Ackerman, Elaine Voboril and Jessie Eastman, who lead the chorus's fundraising efforts. A new individual giving program called *Dynamic Donors* will begin in December. In November, we submitted a proposal that would enable us to purchase a virtual office and new donor management software. In January, if this funding is approved, we will be able to proceed with *Dynamic Donors*. In 2005, One Voice will also begin a corporate sponsorship program.

I am also working with the marketing committee. Last year One Voice surveyed our audience, gaining insights into our current audience's interests and detailed audience demographics. With the help of a panel of local marketing professionals, we have put a preliminary plan in place.

I also had the opportunity to travel with the choir on our Building Bridges tour. This was a great opportunity to hear the choir perform and to meet some wonderful people. We were met with tears of appreciation, as members of our audience were touched by the music and mission of One Voice Mixed Chorus. The tour shows the chorus living its mission: "Building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song." Many lives were changed on this tour, including mine. ■

*Shannon Pierce*

## Volunteer of the Season: Anita Wheeler



*Twice a year, One Voice selects one person to honor as our Volunteer of the Season. Anita Wheeler, then volunteer bookkeeper, now bookkeeper/Treasurer, was so honored last summer. Chuck Hagel, 2003-04 Treasurer, wrote this appreciation.*

Consistency, concern and a constant smile are but a few of the characteristics that Anita Wheeler brings to One Voice Mixed Chorus. For more than a year, Anita has served on the finance committee, beginning as bookkeeper and succeeding to the position of Treasurer. She is a bona fide asset to the organization who embraces the vision and mission of One Voice.

Anita was first asked to assume the role of bookkeeper in November of 2003. Since then she's been a savior to many in the choir. Finance is an unglamorous job. Usually fiscal matters go unnoticed, until there's a problem. But thanks to Anita, such problems don't happen. Her work is vital to the smooth operations of the chorus. Without the help of people like Anita, we would not be able to rent a venue, dress in costume, pay for musicians or hire ASL interpreters. Her timely work in accounting for our receivables and payables ensures One Voice is looked at as a responsible and professional organization.

Thank you, Anita, for your work with One Voice and congratulations! ■

# One Voice Makes Choral History

LAST MAY, Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller received a phone call from the President of the Minnesota chapter of the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA) announcing that One Voice Mixed Chorus had been one of a handful of choirs selected to perform at the ACDA Minnesota Conference in November. The invitation marks the first time a GLBT chorus has ever performed at ACDA Minnesota.

"I sent in audition CDs several times over the past five years and One Voice has never been selected," said Ramseyer Miller. "When the due date rolled around this year we were in the middle of our busy January concert season and I almost didn't apply. Receiving this news affirmed the hard work and progress we have made as a chorus."

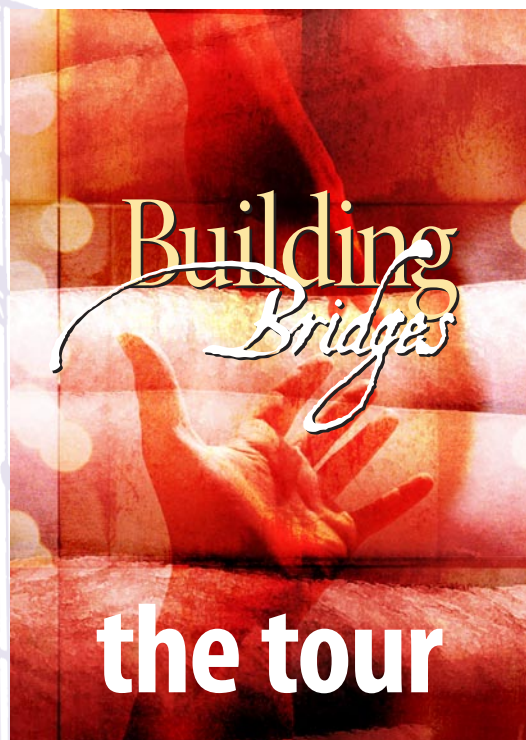
On Saturday, November 20, One Voice singers woke up early for their 8:00 am warm-up call at Ted Mann auditorium. The audience, mostly professional choral directors from across the state, responded enthusiastically to One Voice's 30-minute set. A few conference attendees left the hall as One Voice was introduced, but many more were excited to see a GLBT chorus represented on stage.

"One Voice offers a kind of energy that is unique among the many Minnesota choirs," notes Ramseyer Miller. "The vibrancy and passion that comes from our mission of social change and unique repertoire make us very different from most choirs represented at ACDA. I was overwhelmed with the positive comments from choral colleagues throughout the weekend."

This was likely the first time some audience members had ever seen out an gay person, so the impact of 80 GLBT singers standing proud and singing about community and diversity was profound. One choral director responded, "I just sat in the audience and cried ... at all the appropriate places, of course." Said another, "It is so important that you were here in the aftermath of the November election."

A few years ago, OVMC members set a goal to sing in more places where we were "not necessarily comfortable." We certainly took a huge step in fulfilling that goal with this performance. ■





## Building Bridges tour of Greater

EARLY FRIDAY MORNING, November fifth, One Voice singers boarded a bus for a series of *Building Bridges* outreach concerts in northern Minnesota. Our first stop was in Bemidji at Schoolcraft Learning Community, a charter school in the north woods. As we gathered to warm up, we were introduced to the music teacher, who welcomed us warmly, despite having had an angry mother request her resignation and pull her children out of school that day because of our visit. If this outreach tour was about building bridges, we had just encountered a river.

Our audience of over one hundred fourth- to eighth-graders filed into the hall, a sun-filled activity room that also serves as a cafeteria and a gallery for student artwork. OVMC was introduced as the Twin Cities' GLBT Community Chorus and commenced to sing. Their faces lit up when we reached 'Bemidji' in the litany of cities named in *Minnesota Chapsticks*. In a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. we asked, "What would you do if you were King for a day?" They joined in with improvised percussion when we sang a Brazilian piece, *Trés Cantos*, complete with sound effects from the Amazon rainforest. We dedicated the last song, *We Rise Again*, to the students there.

*Before leaving, I was preoccupied with performance details: memorizing words, being sure of pitch. But when we stood on the risers in front of those kids I was hit with waves of emotion. The songs began to take on a different meaning. Reflected back in the eyes of the audience members I found it hard to sing as the tears welled up. By the time we ended with "We rise again in the faces of our children," I think every teacher had tears in their eyes. I learned that good performance is not just about hitting the notes – it's about connecting deeply with the audience. – Sam Bullington, tenor*

After our Schoolcraft performance, some singers tossed a football with students in the yard, while others toured the grounds. As we entered one of the classrooms, we were greeted by a very excited group of students, who told us how much they enjoyed our music. A girl said, "We need to put a nail in the wall for you." The teacher explained that whenever they experience something important that moves them, they mark it by pounding a nail in the wall.

Friday evening, One Voice performed a full-length concert at Bemidji State University, hosted by a GLBT youth group, a GSA student group from Bemidji, and supporters of RAAN (the Rural Aids Action Network). We were delighted to find the concert hall filled with enthusiastic audience members, including a contingent of Russian physicians in town for a professional conference. In honor of their presence, we performed a Russian folk song called *Po Polyu*. As we concluded, the Russian guests stood and applauded with tears streaming. Again, we found another bridge across a river of language and culture.





# Minnesota a rousing success!

by Cheryl Winch

*I ran into an 80-something year-old woman in the bathroom after our concert in Bemidji and she told me, "I feel like I've just experienced the best church service of my life."  
– Jeanne Landkammer, soprano*

On Saturday we departed for Grand Rapids and a concert at Itasca Community College, hosted by long-time GLBT community activists and a local PFLAG group. Many OVMC members took the opportunity to visit the Judy Garland museum in town. This performance featured more of the *Building Bridges* repertoire, poetry readings and personal stories from chorus members, a couple selections from our small ensemble, OVation; and involved audience participation on *Bridge Over Troubled Water*. At a reception following the concert, we discovered we had acquired a small fan club of five young people from Bemidji, affectionately referred to as OVMC groupies.



*posing with Paul Bunyan and Babe in Bemidji*

*After our concert in Grand Rapids, a woman from the audience introduced herself to me as a musicologist. As we talked about the evening, she told me that this concert was no "performance," it was an "expression." It was obvious to me that "expression" was the highest compliment she could give. – Kevin Reardon, tenor*

Sunday brought us to Peace United Church of Christ in Duluth. As we gathered to warm up, we were delighted to see our groupie friends from Bemidji were still with us. We contributed the music for the kick-off of a national ad campaign called 'God is still speaking...' highlighting the inclusive spirit of UCC churches across the nation.



*resting after dinner*

*Although ostensibly it was our goal to bring hope and inspiration to greater Minnesota, it was, in fact, greater Minnesota that brought hope and inspiration to me. ...Being at the UCC church, hearing their teachings, seeing the commercials was really healing for me of the rejection I felt coming out as a lesbian in a fundamentalist Christian fellowship. – Sam Bullington, tenor*



*at the Judy Garland museum*

We went to the woods of greater Minnesota and encountered rivers that could have divided us, but as we began building bridges we found eager young people, university students, AIDS activists, and church congregations ready and willing to join us in the construction. Many OVMC singers now have their own symbolic nail on which hangs the memory of these communities – the faces of people we met and the bridges we built with them there. ■



*our favorite potluck delicacy*

**Need an antidote to election-anxiety?** Combat those constitutional amendments banning gay marriage by making a donation to OVMC. **We are looking for \$3,000** in donations to cover bus rental and travel costs for the *Building Bridges* outreach concerts. Support our mission of social change by sending a donation in the enclosed envelope!

# Barbara e

by Michael Dodson



ONE VOICE HAS ELECTED two new Barbaras as at-large members of the board. They are Barbara Van Deinse and Barbara Satin. Both women are active supporters of One Voice who share a belief in the importance of its mission. Apparently, they also share a taste in rock and roll legends.

Van Deinse is an entrepreneur and long-time fan of One Voice. Satin is a well-known transgender activist. They answered our request for an interview so that One Voice fans can get to know them.

### What is your favorite musical experience with One Voice?

**Van Deinse:** Every concert has had its own unique personality so it's really difficult to narrow it down to a "favorite." No matter the venue or the material or the presentation, you're guaranteed a good time and a good deal of enlightenment.

**Satin:** I have enjoyed all of the OVMC concerts: their imaginative presentation and their willingness to explore new ideas. I would have to place the spring 2004 concert in a special place. OVMC's willingness to take on the issue of gender and discover new approaches to a very difficult concept was a really important step, for the chorus and for the GLBT community.

### How long have you been familiar with the chorus?

**Van Deinse:** I've known a long-time chorus member, Colleen Watson for about 8 years. She has been such an enthusiastic ambassador that I could never resist buying tickets from her. It's been amazing to watch the growth and development of the chorus over that time.

**Satin:** I have been going to OVMC concerts for about five years. It was one of the first things I did when I came out.

### What do you bring to the board?

**Satin:** I bring passion and, hopefully, some wisdom honed through years of experience. I also bring an activist's perspective on gender and aging.

**Van Deinse:** I hope to be involved wherever the board needs me. Most of my professional experience has been in sales and client services management. I am also a business and personal coach.

### Why did you decide to offer your services?

**Satin:** I felt flattered to be asked to be on the board, but it was more than flattery that made me say "yes." I believe that OVMC makes a statement to our GLBT community and to the broader community about how lives of diverse orientation and identity can and should be lived.

**Van Deinse:** OVMC has impressed me throughout the years. This is an organization with a mission I personally believe in and wholeheartedly support. I am eager to step up and serve!

### If a genie offered to fulfill one of your wishes for the chorus, for what would you wish?

**Van Deinse:** A broader, larger audience. Knowing how much of an impact OVMC has had in my life, I think our world would be better when more people get the message. But don't take my word for it – come to a concert!

**Satin:** I think OVMC needs to continue exploring new ideas about orientation and

# Barbara

identity and bringing them forward in new and imaginative musical ways for others to respond to.

## How have you seen One Voice achieving its mission of building community and creating social change?

**Van Deinse:** Attend a concert and you'll know instantly that you have stepped into a healthy community of people who have come together for a common cause. The OVMC experience comfortably conveys pride.

**Satin:** I go back to the spring concert around gender, where OVMC did more than "talk the talk." They put in the time, energy and resources to come to an understanding of gender and all its fluidity.

## What other activities keep you busy?

**Satin:** I am deeply involved in a variety of issues surrounding the GLBT community. I serve on the boards of OutFront Minnesota, the Aliveness Project and GLBT Generations – of which I am one of the founding members. I am also Moderator (Chairperson) of the United Church of Christ Coalition for LGBT Concerns. I also stay active by going to music venues throughout the Twin Cities to enjoy Cosmopolitan martinis and jazz music.

**Van Deinse:** My work is personal and business coaching. I get enormous satisfaction from the diverse people and projects I work with. I am also co-authoring a book about coaching your ego to share control with your soul.

## Who is your family?

**Satin:** I have three children and seven grandchildren. I am proud of my family and they are an important part of my life.

**Van Deinse:** My family of origin is not altogether enamored of my lesbian "lifestyle." But I get all the support I need now from my family of choice – a circle of friends who keep me in a state of appreciation.

## If you could be stranded on a desert island with Georg Friedrich Händel, Ray Charles or Janis Joplin, whom would you choose and why?

**Van Deinse:** Janis Joplin. I admire her for breaking new ground as a woman in rock and roll, for having the courage to flaunt her own fashion sense, and for the passion she put into her music.

**Satin:** If stranded, I would pick Janis Joplin. I would be assured of good music and an ample supply of Southern Comfort to help pass the time until rescue. ■



*Barbara Satin, April 2004, taken during preparation for the Transgender Voices Festival.*

*A picture of Barbara Van Deinse was not available in time for this printing.*

## January Concert: One Voice and Kairos Dance Theatre – Building Bridges

by Jane Ramseyer Miller

Last March, I found myself in Monticello with forty other staff from non-profit arts organizations gathered to address audience development. The drive was long and I hoped the day would be worthwhile. Then I met Maria Genné, Artistic Director of Kairos Dance Theatre. Kairos is an intergenerational dance company informed by modern dance, folk dance traditions, stories and improvisation, whose dancers range in age from four to ninety years. They create dance that is inclusive of all ages, shapes, sizes and abilities.

Maria's enthusiasm was infectious and I became caught up in her energy as we swapped stories of dance and music, working with volunteer artists and programming ideas.

Then was my turn to talk about One Voice, our mission and our strong community base. When I mentioned that I programmed our January 2005 concerts on a theme of "Building Bridges," Maria nearly burst. They had just choreographed a setting of Bill Staines' powerful song, *Bridges*. A collaboration was born.

In October, One Voice hosted Kairos dancers for an afternoon of singing, movement and dance. While One Voice singers got the chance to dance, Kairos dancers experimented with their voices.

Kairos dancers will join One Voice on stage January 28, 29 and 30, along with One Voice dancers and children from the One Voice community. The *Building Bridges* concerts explore connections between diverse communities and cultures, weaving music from Russia, Romania and North America, writings by Langston Hughes and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and a hilarious look at gay marriage in a song called *I Do*. The performances also include stories from our outreach tour in greater Minnesota, an event that truly built bridges of social change in those communities.

### Wish List



- New laptop w/ Windows XPPro and Pentium III processor or higher
- Plastic containers suitable for storing paper goods
- Printing paper or copying services
- Blank recordable CDs and jewel cases
- Costuming services/fabric

## Want to work with One Voice?

ONE VOICE IS HIRING a **Resource Development Manager** (PT) to begin January 1, 2005. Duties include volunteer recruitment and training, database and administrative management, development and marketing assistance – [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org) or 612-332-1302 for more information.

### Volunteer Openings

OVMC is seeking volunteers for the following positions. If you are interested, please contact our Resource Development Manager, Marya Hart at [info@ovmc.org](mailto:info@ovmc.org)

#### Rehearsal Manager

The volunteer in this position will assist the Artistic Director, accompanist and chorus leadership in setting up and running rehearsals.

#### Personnel Committee

One Voice Mixed Chorus is searching for volunteers with experience in non-profit management or human resources skills to serve as members of our Personnel Committee.

### Marketing Committee

We are looking for committee members with an interest in networking within communities of color, the GLBT community, youth and seniors and beyond.

### Special events positions

One Voice relies on volunteers to assist with our fundraising events, such as the annual Silent Auction.

### Fifth Section chair

The Fifth Section chairperson organizes other volunteers in the Fifth Section. This group makes sure the non-singing work associated with putting on a concert gets done, for example, ushering, ticket-taking and other production-related jobs.

### Grant Writer

The grant writer works with One Voice's Major Gifts committee and the Executive Director to write proposals for general support of the organization and for special projects.

## Transvoices Choir News

Sam Bullington

The Transvoices choir, formed last year under the tutelage of One Voice, is still going strong. We began meeting again in August and have twelve singers, including one new member, Michelle. We performed at the Gender Blur cabaret at the end of August and at Spirit of the Lakes Church for the November 20th Transgendered Day of Remembrance, in honor of all trans folks who were murdered in the last year. Upcoming performances include the PFLAG holiday party on Dec. 19 and a joint concert with One Voice at the University of Minnesota in late March.

We are working to formalize our organization, and One Voice has agreed to serve as our fiscal sponsor in the interim. We have applied for a PFund grant and are awaiting the results.

We have had a guest director for the last six weeks, but the real reason we have been able to continue singing is because of the generosity of the incredible Dorothy Williams, who has volunteered her time to accompany our rehearsals and performances, to arrange pieces, to help us learn new music, and to generally encourage and inspire us. We are grateful for all of her efforts and kindnesses, and for her faith in us.

We meet on Sundays from 5-7 pm at Spirit of the Lakes in Minneapolis and are looking for singers and a director. Contact [bull0030@umn.edu](mailto:bull0030@umn.edu) if you have any prospects. ■



### got gifts?

**Enjoy One Voice at home!**  
Purchase a copy of *Songs of the Soul*, our first CD. (\$15)

**One Voice Cooks!**  
Over 140 tried & true delicious recipes with great stories behind the dishes and people who make up One Voice. (\$20)

To purchase CD, cookbook or concert tickets, contact One Voice at 612-332-1302 or [info@ovmc.org](mailto:info@ovmc.org).



## News and Notes

### Note the concert time change!

One Voice subscription concerts now start at 7:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays. Sunday concerts begin at 3:00 pm.

### Upcoming Concerts and Chorus News delivered right to your home!

One Voice recently started an e-mail program to remind you of upcoming concert dates, outreach performances and other chorus events. Would you like to be kept abreast of these dates? If so, please fill out the enclosed information card and return it in the envelope provided. By completing the card, you're helping the chorus ensure we have the correct information in our database. *(Your privacy is important! One Voice has a strict policy against sharing any of your personal information, such as name, address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, with any other company or organization.)*

### Need a reason to laugh?

Kate is the key! Join us June 17 and 18 as Kate Clinton, comedian and political commentator, joins One Voice in concert at the Great American History Theatre. Tickets go on sale in April. A limited number of audience members may also purchase tickets to a private reception with Kate before the show. See [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org) for more information.



Kate Clinton



Building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song.

presents

# Building Bridges

JANUARY 28, 29 & 30, 2005  
7:30 pm Friday & Saturday, 3:00 pm Sunday  
Sundin Hall, Hamline University, St. Paul

TICKET PRICES: \$15 advance  
\$18 at the door • \$13 student and senior discount  
For tickets call 612-332-1302 or visit [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org)

"One Voice sings with pure joy and is pure joy to experience. The group truly has the ability to bring people together — accomplishing the most important and noble of musical goals."

— Libby Larsen, founder of the American Composer's Forum



Our *Building Bridges* concert series explores the connection between choral music and dance through a collaboration with **KAIROS DANCE THEATRE**



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## One Voice Calendar 2004-05

**Put these dates on your calendar and join us!**

### **OVation performs at District 202 Fundraiser**

Friday, December 3, 7:00 pm  
Trikkx, 490 North Robert St, St. Paul  
Tickets at door or 612-871-5559, ext 13

### **Unity Church Unitarian**

Sunday, January 16, 9:30 am & 11:00 am  
732 Holly Avenue, St. Paul

### **Building Bridges collaboration with Kairos Dance Theatre**

Friday, January 28, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, January 29, 7:30 pm  
Sunday, January 30, 3:00 pm  
Sundin Hall, Hamline University, St. Paul

### **One Voice Auditions**

February 7 & 8, 6:00 – 9:30 pm  
Unity Unitarian Parish Hall, 732 Holly Ave, St. Paul

### **One Voice in concert with TransVoices**

Thursday, March 24, 7:00 pm  
Sponsored by the U of M Women's Studies and  
Gender Studies programs

### **April Fools Silent Auction Concert**

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 pm  
Unity Unitarian Parish Hall, 732 Holly Ave, St. Paul

### **Outreach concerts**

Friday, April 22, daytime –  
Twin Cities' Middle Schools  
Collaboration Concert: One Voice and  
the CPA Academy Choir, 7:00 pm  
Community of Peace Academy, St. Paul

### **Just for Laughs – with guest comedian, Kate Clinton!**

Friday, June 17, 7:30 pm  
Saturday, June 18, 7:30 pm  
Great American History Theatre, St. Paul

*Our calendar often changes – please check the Web site  
for the most up-to-date information!*

**[www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org)**