



# With One Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS • FALL 2005

## MIXED CHORUS

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

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PO Box 2290  
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### HOTLINE:

612-332-1302

info@ovmc.org

www.ovmc.org

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## With One Voice

EDITOR

Marya Hart

DESIGNER

Rick Sachwitz

• • •

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jane Ramseyer  
Miller

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Shannon Pierce

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Sherene Judeh

ACCOMPANIST

Phillip Everingham

## From the Artistic Director



*Never underestimate the power of a small group of individuals to change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

— Margaret Meade

Three weeks ago, when I discovered that 85 singers and Fifth Section volunteers had signed up for our *Journeys* outreach tour I was blown away. Performing five concerts in three days, these singers paid their hotel costs and took a day off work in order to support the visibility and work of GLBT people and allies in southern Minnesota.

A staff member at the LGBT Center at Mankato State University told me, “this is not a good time to be gay in Mankato.” Funding for GLBT programs has been cut in public schools. Youth programs, which were just becoming active five years ago, have nearly vanished. Concerts like ours offer these communities renewed energy and support. We are changing the world, one concert at a time!

On the home front, come join us for a January performance of Randall Thompson’s *Frostiana*, a delightful and popular multi-movement composition based on seven Robert Frost poems. The set features a new instrumental arrangement by Joseph Schlefke. His setting for piano, chorus, cello, violin, clarinet, oboe and flute expands the color and warmth of Thompson’s writing. The concert challenges the audience with its themes of taking a stand

for justice, speaking one’s mind and making choices that question the status quo.

On April 20, One Voice returns to the classroom with *Just as I Am*, a series of concerts designed to address issues of body-image and self-esteem for middle and high-school students.

And, speaking of bodies, you won’t want to miss the pulsing rhythms and choreographed movement of Mu Daiko, a Taiko drumming group that joins us in June. Get the date on your calendar — or better yet, reserve your season tickets now.

See you in the audience! ■ *Jane Ramseyer Miller*

## Welcome, Phil!



THIS SUMMER ONE VOICE bid farewell to our accompanist of eight years, Paul Kovacovic, and to our interim accompanist, Dorothy Williams. We knew the one to take their place would have big shoes to fill. When Philip Everingham applied for the position, we knew we had the right person.

Philip is a dissertation shy of a doctorate in Accompanying and Coaching at the University of Minnesota. His resume includes coaching and accompanying for choirs, opera companies, recitals, soloists and instrumentalists all over the United States and internationally. An intuitive and accomplished accompanist, Philip has eased into the position with skill, grace and perhaps most importantly, a great sense of humor. Welcome, Philip!





## From the Executive Director

GREETINGS! ONE VOICE kicked off our season in a big way by singing for 1,300 guests at the annual Human Rights Campaign dinner on September 24th at the Minneapolis Convention Center. We closed the program with “We Rise Again,” a beautiful song that reminds us that the future of our country lies in the hands of our children.

We invite you to join us at an open house with the chorus. These one-hour events, *Hearts in Harmony*, provide a glimpse into the mission and daily operations of One Voice, as well as an opportunity for attendees to watch the chorus rehearse. The only thing you’ll be asked to give is an hour of your time. *Hearts in Harmony* is held on the second Monday of every month from 6:30–7:30 PM at Unity Church — Unitarian, located at 732 Holly Avenue in St. Paul. More information can be found on our website at [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org) or by calling 612-332-1302.

The search for office space and funding is on. We wish to secure office space by next July. We need a St. Paul or Minneapolis location, with room for three staff members and conference room availability. If you have any ideas or information regarding space or equipment, email [executivedirector@ovmc.org](mailto:executivedirector@ovmc.org), or call us.

And on a final note, the 2005 fall tour of Minnesota and Wisconsin was personally very rewarding for both the chorus and the attendees. Last year I worked the Marketing booth and turned pages for our accompanist, so I didn’t have as much time to talk with our guests. Thanks to a stellar production crew this year, I was able to spend time taking in the concerts and visiting with attendees. At our New Ulm concert at the UCC Church, I watched people who were sitting with arms folded across their chest, blossom like flowers as they listened to the music, hearing the messages of acceptance and love that were so prominent in the musical selections. By the end of the service, there wasn’t a dry eye in the church — or on stage.

*Shannon Pierce*

### The Road Not Taken

by Robert Frost

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference

## Frostiana Featured in January Concert

WHEN AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS commissioned composer Randall Thompson to write a piece for their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Thompson, a friend of American poet Robert Frost, chose to set seven Frost poems which depict the simple, everyday experiences of rural New England life. The result, *Frostiana: Seven Country Songs*, has become one of Thompson’s most popular compositions. A common thread unites the poems, emphasizing the small but significant choices we are called to make and the impact of those choices on our lives.

Thompson originally composed *Frostiana* for chorus and piano in 1958, and it was not orchestrated until 1965. One Voice will premier a new *Frostiana* setting by Joseph Schlefke, an arrangement for chorus, piano, flute, oboe, clarinet, violin and cello. His

arrangement maintains the clarity of the original piano, but features the color and warmth of Thompson’s instrumental writing with the use of additional instruments.

The *Frostiana* bookends, “The Road Not Taken” and “Choose Something Like a Star,” are utterly exquisite with their flowing melodies and alluring harmonies. They are composed for mixed chorus while the inner pieces feature compositions for men and women’s choruses. The middle composition, “The Telephone,” is a dialogue for a seven-part mixed chorus.

In addition to *Frostiana*, One Voice audiences will enjoy a unique composition by Jeannie Brindley-Barnett. *A Word to the Wise* features parts for hand bells, Orff instruments, percussion, piano and vibraphone. This performance of her piece, first commissioned and performed by One Voice in 2000, will feature a high school

(continued on page 3)



# Frostiana: A Gay Walk in the Woods

by Michael Kiesow Moore

I CAME OUT when I was fifteen years old in 1975. This was only six years after Stonewall and back then there weren't any Straight Gay Alliances, the wide range of GLBT organizations we have today, nor positive GLBT role models. We were demonized by the culture and about the only depiction of gay life I could find was the horrendously awful *Boys in the Band*. The message I got then was that I'd be better off dead than gay.

I took some measure of hope during that difficult time in poetry like "The Road Not Taken." As I was deciding whether to start putting into words the truth I knew about myself, I reminded myself what Robert Frost tells us in his poem, that the road not taken, though "less traveled by," would make "all the difference." I thought that this road not taken would be a solitary one, that I would be the only one on it. Not only did taking the road make all the difference, it has been anything but lonely. Today, I can't imagine any other choice.

If the poem "The Road Not Taken" represents where I started my journey as an out gay man, the poem "Choose Something Like a Star" represents where we are today. Take the words, "When at times the mob is sway'd/To carry praise or blame too far." We know too well what the sound of a mob sway'd sounds like. In the thirty years I've been out, I have never seen anti-gay animosity taken to the pitch that we now endure. And it's likely to get worse with the screaming meanies demanding an anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment on the 2006 ballot.

Robert Frost offers a route to sanity and perhaps even salvation: in such times "We may choose something like a star/To stay our minds on and be staid." The star we choose can be freedom, full equal rights, social justice. It is up to us to decide what we choose to stay our minds. In the poems that make up *Frostiana*, the poet gives us the metaphors, but we give them their meaning. ■

## Silent Auction News

Mark your calendar! This year's silent auction, "Spring Fever," will be held at St. Joan of Arc Church in South Minneapolis on March 25, 2006, beginning at 6:30 PM

In an effort to make our silent auction an even bigger success, the Fundraising Committee is creating fun new ways for the entire chorus and One Voice community to participate. Throughout the year we will be looking for donations of items such as vacation spots, plane tickets, gift certificates for services, theater tickets and more. The members of the committee will be available to accept your donations on rehearsal nights or anytime throughout the week.

For more information, contact Elaine Voboril at 952-593-5250.

We hope everyone will donate a few items to the silent auction and help make this the biggest and best auction to date. ■

### Frostiana Featured in January Concert (cont.)

instrumental ensemble from the Community of Peace Academy on Saint Paul's East Side. We were honored to work with these students in a joint concert last spring and are happy to have them join us again on stage in January.


Entitled *The Road Less Traveled*, One Voice's January concerts explore the challenges people experience when standing for justice and making unconventional life choices. Choral selections include pieces by Gwyneth Walker, James Taylor, Fred Small and local composers Jeannie Brindley-Barnett and J. David Moore. The program will also include a healthy dose of humor — an important One Voice tradition. ■

Take a journey with us on...

*The Road Less Traveled*

Featuring the world premier of a new arrangement of Randall Thompson's beloved *Frostiana*, a song cycle based on the poetry of Robert Frost

January 27, 28, & 29, 2006  
Friday/Saturday 7:30 PM • Sunday 3:00 PM  
Sundin Hall, Hamline University, St. Paul



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



*Sherene Judeh,  
Resource Development  
Manager*

## Volunteers of the Year

by Sherene Judeh

THIS YEAR, ONE VOICE honored two dedicated volunteers, John Sorlien and Elaine Voboril.

Although John Sorlien has been a singing member of the chorus only four years, he has rapidly assumed musical leadership. For two years, John was Assistant Director of One Voice and has served as the director of our small ensemble, OVation, for three years.

In addition to this tremendous service, John was also instrumental in our recent collaboration with Community of Peace Academy where St. Paul teenagers, many for the first time, got to know and work with members of GLBT communities. The countless hours John spent on this collaboration culminated in a sold-out concert where Community of Peace and One Voice singers performed together. Because of John's tireless dedication to the chorus, this collaboration was a highlight of a very exciting season for One Voice.

Elaine Voboril has sung with One Voice since 1999. She serves on the Board of Directors and is past Chair of the Fundraising Committee.

Elaine is always willing to step in when a job needs to be done. From planning and executing our silent auction which netted record proceeds last year, to mailing out chorus merchandise, keeping statistics, recruiting volunteers and selling program ads, there is hardly a job in this chorus that Elaine has not had a hand in. One Voice members know we can always count on Elaine to have new ideas for the chorus and help us reach our full potential. It because of Elaine's boundless commitment to the chorus that our Fundraising Committee is thriving.

Our dedicated volunteers have made One Voice the great chorus we are today. Our sincerest thanks and appreciation go out to Elaine, John and all our ardent volunteers. ■



*Volunteer of the Year  
John Sorlien*



*Volunteer of the Year  
Elaine Voboril*

## Kate Clinton Concert and Building Bridges CD a Big Hit

ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS hit two home runs this past June. We had record attendance and glowing reviews of the *Just for Laughs* concert and a very successful release of the new CD *Building Bridges*.

"I laughed so hard at the concert I thought I might wet my pants!" exclaimed concert attendee Denise Bowyer. "The integration of the chorus' music with Kate's comedy monologues was seamless. You could take this show on the road."

Bill Wright, another audience member, said, "The music quality was absolutely outstanding. This was my first One Voice concert ... and I guarantee you I will be back."

*Building Bridges*, the chorus' latest CD, was released at the concert. A combination of beautiful songs like "Psalm 23" and "We Rise Again" mixed with comedic selections like "I Do" and "Bittersweet Chocolate" make the CD a favorite with listeners. With the holidays just around the corner, a CD makes a great stocking stuffer. ■



## New CD Now Available!

Did you enjoy our June 2005 concert with Kate Clinton? Many of the selections from our concert with Kate are featured in our newly released CD, *Building Bridges*. Order your copy today, or take advantage of our holiday special and order copies for your whole family!

*Building Bridges* tracks include that tribute to gay marriage, "I Do," the ode to chocolate and love, "Bittersweet Tango," and OVation's own a cappella "William Tell Overture."



The Twin Cities' GLBT Community Chorus

**One Voice**  
MIXED CHORUS

# Annual Silent Auction & Raffle

# Spring Fever



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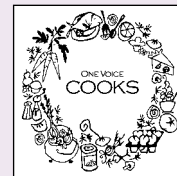
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## From Spaetzle to Spam ...

by Cheryl Winch

LYRICS TO SONGS have a way of sticking in my mind. As we set out on Friday morning, November 4 for our fall outreach tour to southern Minnesota, it was these words that kept running through my head: "Only as we choose to reach can we expect to grow..." After cramming to memorize new music and squeezing a week of work into four days, I wasn't sure what to expect from the weekend's travel and music making.

At our first stop in Northfield, One Voice had the honor to work with choral clinician Anton Armstrong, St. Olaf's legendary choir director. He encouraged us to sing what comes

commented, "We hear a lot of great choral music here, but you bring something extra." Our mission and passion for social change was evident to audiences throughout the tour.

An audience member in La Crosse commented, "You look like you are having fun and enjoying one another." Others were delighted to have One Voice journey east of the Mississippi and are eager to join us in the Twin Cities for our January concert. When we described our experience at the 2004 GALA festival in Montreal, another fan remarked, "Where is that big chorus event thing going to be next? We should just charter a bus from La Crosse and all go."

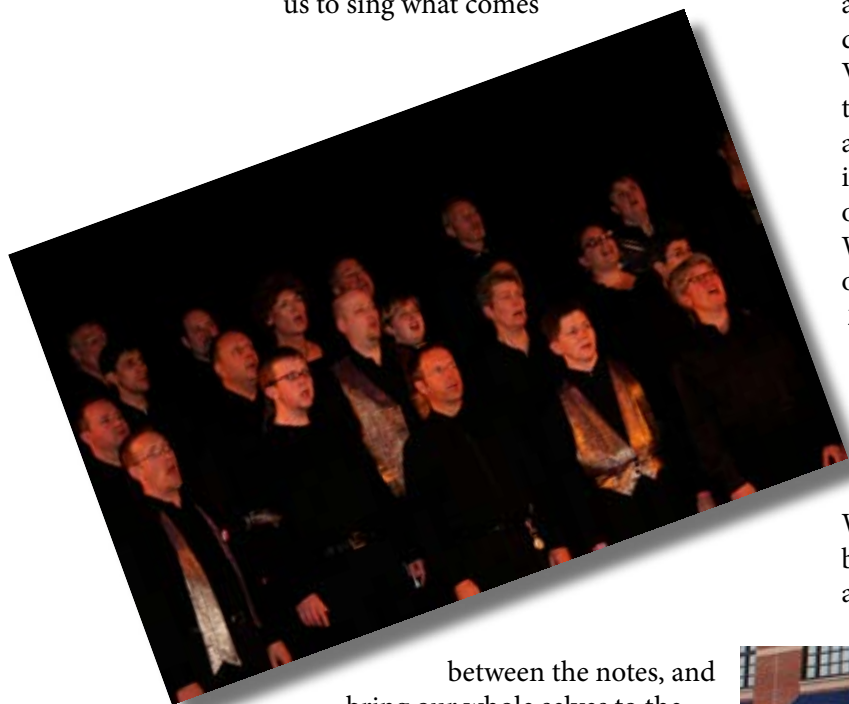
between the notes, and bring our whole selves to the music. At the end of our rehearsal he emphasized the importance of our mission with the advice, "Come with your music as a gift — as part of your soul. If you do that, even the most cynical audience members will be touched." Later that day we gave a concert for the St. Olaf College LGBT student association and members of the community. One of the attendees from Northfield



*Our ray of sunshine and grace*



*One Voice warming up before*



*Members of One Voice stop for a photo in front of the Spam Museum in Austin, MN.*



# ... on the Road with One Voice



Graphic designer, Keith Campbell.

While in La Crosse, chorus member Michael Mlinar met up with some local friends. One talked about the struggles he experienced in coming out to family members and how his isolation from a supportive community made it even more difficult. Michael reflected, "I found myself smiling inside, knowing that I had found and now count myself among the One Voice community. I feel the support not just through music, but through the camaraderie of a group that so passionately conveys a message of love and acceptance for all."

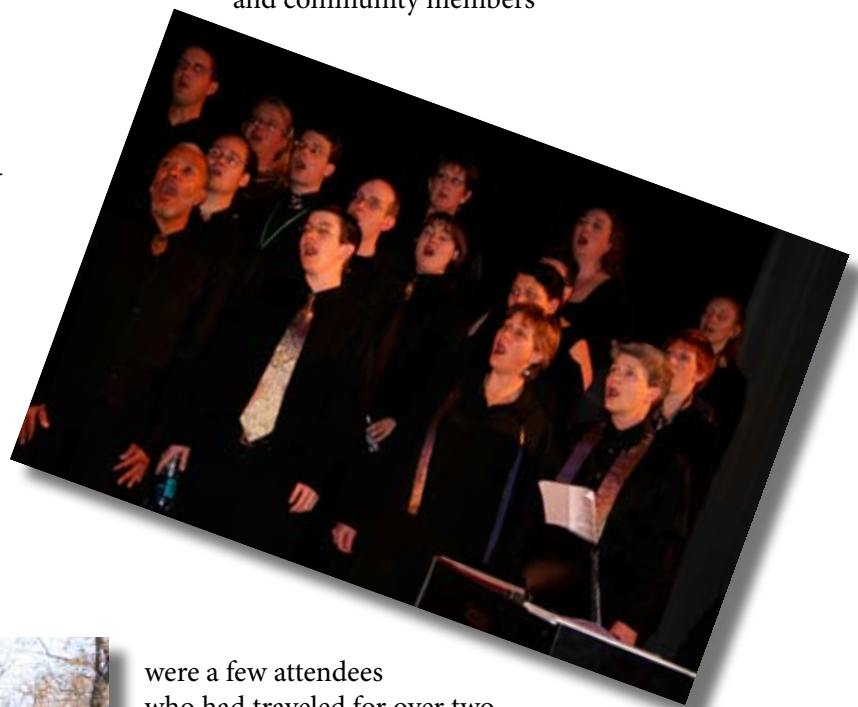


Before the concert in Mankato.

On Saturday morning, the bus took scenic route Hwy 16 through bluff country heading west. After a tour of the

mystery cave in Forestville, we made a quick stop at the Spam Museum in Austin. During lunch a man introduced himself to us as a pastor of a local church. He said, "I'm so excited you guys are here — I used to sing with the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus and really miss the singing and community. This is the largest group of homosexuals EVER visit the town of Austin, Minnesota!" He stood with us as we gathered to board the bus and waved as we pulled away.

The Mankato State University LGBT center hosted our concert Saturday evening. Among the students, faculty and community members



New Ulm

were a few attendees who had traveled for over two hours to attend the concert, returning to their home in Iowa that same evening. One audience member said, "I was reminded when I was watching the funeral of Rosa Parks, and then again tonight when you sang "With One Voice," that one person can make a difference in the world. I know it may not always be as evident or profound as that of Rosa Parks,

*(continued on page 8)*

## From Spaetzle to Spam ... on the Road with One Voice (continued)

but we need to start by living our radical lives within our own communities. Living as who we are can make a difference.”

Sunday morning we sang at New Ulm United Church of Christ. As we sang “I Come from Good People,” the congregation and chorus members had tears in their eyes.

“I was overwhelmed with the thought that each of us has a story to tell about where we come from, our journey, and where we are headed,” explained one chorus member. As we met with members of the church over the lunch they had prepared, church members thanked us for bringing our music to the hinterlands. One said, “While it is good that you sing in the Cities and at colleges, out here we really *need* you. This is a small town and your music has an incredible impact on our community.” Another couple confessed that they were



*One Voice performing at QMC concert in St. Paul.*

not from the UCC church but had played hooky from their Lutheran church to be able to hear us sing that morning.

We concluded the tour by singing in a joint concert at St. Paul United Church of Christ with the other Twin Cities groups that make up the Queer Music Consortium (QMC). One of our newest singers was blown away to experience for the first time, a huge sanctuary packed with several hundred GLBT musicians and hundreds more audience members. We found the

contrast profound—from the isolation of GLBT folk we had just met as we traveled from smaller towns to our homecoming among the masses in St. Paul. Once again, we found that in reaching out to build community and create social change we returned with hope and new connections with GLBT and affirming people who are making a difference in the communities where they live. ■



*QMC groups singing finale together at benefit concert in St. Paul.*



With the many parents singing in One Voice, we wanted to find a way to make our outreach tour accessible for families. Fifth Section volunteers jumped in eagerly, providing childcare for six One Voice children during all of our rehearsal and performance times. When parent Ginger Kranz asked her four-year-old daughter, “What was your favorite part of the tour?” Ceci exclaimed, “My babysitters!”

## Thank you to our 2005 Fall Tour Sponsors, Partners and Hosts

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St. Olaf College and G.L.O.W. (Gay Lesbian or Whatever)  
UW-La Crosse Pride Center  
Minnesota State University, Mankato LGBT Center  
New Ulm United Church of Christ

## Volunteers Needed

One Voice is looking for committed individuals to volunteer for our organization. We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities including serving on our Board of Directors, working on our Development Committee, helping with concert production, leading our Marketing Committee, helping with chorus mailings, ushering at concerts, and doing research. If you have an interest in being part of the chorus, we would love to have you on board.

One of our most exciting new volunteer opportunities is Chair of the Marketing Committee. This volunteer should be able to commit five to ten hours per week. Duties include hosting monthly marketing committee meetings, recruiting and training committee members, working with the committee's board liaison to create annual budget, managing the annual marketing budget, and facilitating long-term marketing planning to coordinate with One Voice's strategic plan. This volunteer works with a timeline to coordinate all event marketing including posters, email, post cards, flyers, ad sales, community outreach.

Please contact our Resource Development Director, Sherene Judeh, at 612-332-1302 or [info@ovmc.org](mailto:info@ovmc.org) for more information and to get involved.

## Wish List

- New laptop with Windows XP Pro and the latest Pentium processor
- Printing paper or copying services
- Plastic containers suitable for storing paper goods
- Blank recordable CDs and jewel cases
- Large file cabinets with working locks
- Office furniture (desks, chairs, conference table and chairs, bookcases)
- Copy and fax machines

## Make a Contribution to One Voice

We need and greatly appreciate your financial support of our work and mission to build community and create social change. Please visit us online at our website [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org) to make a contribution.

*In the perennial song of the urgencies, art is always expendable... yet there's never a moment when we cannot name something more essential to support than a song or a picture or a story. — Donald Hall*



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Enjoy performances by *OVation* & *One Voice*. Catch the Fever!

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Prize must be redeemed between April 1 and July 31, 2006. Subject to availability.

**TICKETS \$50**

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## One Voice Performance Calendar

### **The Road Less Traveled**

January 27, 28, & 29, 2006

7:30 PM Friday & Saturday, 3:00 PM Sunday  
Sundin Hall, Hamline University, Saint Paul

### **Spring Fever — Silent Auction fundraiser featuring OVation and One Voice**

March 25, 2006

7:30 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM)  
Saint Joan of Arc Church, 4537 3rd Avenue S.,  
Minneapolis

### **Heartbeat: Celebrating Rhythm and Body — with guests Mu Daiko**

June 17 & 18, 2006

7:30 PM Saturday, 3:00 PM Sunday  
Great American History Theater, St. Paul

*Season tickets and reserved seats available on our  
website [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org) or 612-332-1302. Reserve  
your tickets now.*

### **One Voice Outreach Concerts**

#### **OVation concerts in Willmar**

Late February, 2006

One Voice's octet, *OVation*, partners with *OutFront  
Minnesota* for a series of outreach concerts in  
western Minnesota.

#### **Hearts in Harmony breakfast**

April 20, 2006

7:30–8:30 AM  
Location TBD

#### **Just As I Am**

April 20, 2006

9:00–3:30 PM

Metro-area schools

#### **Queer Music Consortium Pride Concert**

June 5, 2006

7:00 PM

Como Park Pavilion  
1360 Lexington Pkwy North, Saint Paul