



With One Voice

MIXED CHORUS

A PUBLICATION OF ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS • SPRING 2005

*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

IT SEEMS THERE IS NEVER a dull moment with One Voice. Our January *Building Bridges* concerts with Kairos Dance Theatre exceeded all expectations. Thanks to you, our audience, we sold out both our Saturday and Sunday concerts and sold more tickets for this concert than any in our seventeen-year history.

We had such strong auditions the first week of February that I decided to add fourteen new voices to the chorus for our spring season. One Voice's outreach this spring includes a series of school concerts and a special collaboration with the Community of Peace Academy, a charter school in St. Paul. Add April 22 to your calendar and join us for a joint concert with the school's Academy Choir. This free concert will include a new piece by St. Paul composer Elizabeth Alexander, with text by students at Community of Peace.

But that is only the beginning. On April 2, One Voice performs our annual Silent Auction concert, this year entitled *A Fool's Paradise*. Hosted by Rachael Kroog, the evening will include music of a foolish nature, delectable desserts, and a treasure of silent auction items to arouse your bidding frenzy.

Of course, this concert is just a warm-up for our June 17 and 18 *Just for Laughs* concerts with guest comedian, Kate Clinton. If you haven't seen Kate you won't want to miss this concert. If you have seen her, we know you'll be there. Kate's blend of political humor, sardonic cultural commentary and reflections on American life will have you in stitches. One Voice's musical contributions to the evening include selections by PDQ Bach, a tribute to gay marriage, our own political commentary on the November elections — "Am I Blue" and "The Acme Forgetting Service" — and more irreverent hilarity.

We look forward to seeing you in the audience this spring! ■



Jane with composer Elizabeth Alexander and John Sorlien, One Voice Asst Music Director and music teacher at Community of Peace Academy.

Kate Clinton, guest humorist for our June concert, Just for Laughs



Jane Ramseyer Miller

From the Executive Director

ON THE EIGHTH OF NOVEMBER, our \$6,000 Organizational Development grant proposal was due to the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC). One Voice toured Northern Minnesota November fifth through seventh, so in between concerts and visits to the Judy Garland Museum, I was often seen in a corner with my laptop, madly writing the last section of our proposal.



Of twenty grant applications, One Voice's scored second and was awarded the full \$6,000 we requested. MRAC panel discussions are open to the general public, so I was able to listen to several of the grant applicant reviews. It's a little like being on trial. They review your proposal while you listen to their discussion, but you can't say anything.

One Voice will be using this grant to establish our "virtual office." We will move all of our databases to one single location and work with an Application Service Provider, which provides database management software and a host site. Staff and volunteers will have access to information by simply logging onto the site. This technology is critical to the success of our Dynamic Donor program.

In addition to the great news of this grant, we are thrilled that Board Co-Chair Colleen Watson and her partner Mary McDougal have offered a \$5,000 matching donation to help One Voice reach our goal of \$30,000 in individual donations before July 31, 2005. This is your opportunity to double your contribution to One Voice. Your help is needed to support our mission of social change. We've included donation envelopes in this newsletter. Mail your donation or visit our website at www.ovmc.org and contribute online.

We have also been hosting monthly "Lending Your Voice" events, which are designed to give people an introduction to One Voice. We hold them on select Monday evenings at Unity Church, which is where the chorus rehearses. Check our website for dates and times. It's an exciting time to be part of One Voice. Come join us! ■

Shannon Pierce

One Voice welcomes our new Resource Development Manager, Sherene Judeh



MY NAME IS SHERENE JUDEH and I have recently joined One Voice as Resource Development Manager. It's clear that I have big shoes to fill, but, luckily, I have a lot of help and support from everyone involved in the chorus. I am thrilled to be joining the chorus at such an exciting time. I was introduced to One Voice in a "trial by fire" at the January concerts, which were outstanding!

I have a history of social justice work and organizing around queer rights, and a lot of experience conducting volunteer recruitment. Mostly, though, I like getting the message out, and I like to see people doing what they love to do.

One Voice has an experienced group of artists and a diverse array of talents, and we have the support and commitment necessary to make an even greater arts organization. I believe that with the help of our communities, we can expand our current volunteer base and enlist even more dedicated folks to help us reach our goal of social change.

I am really looking forward to working with all these people who have such passion for their art and strong belief in their mission. I am enthusiastic about working to expand our audience and to bring One Voice to more diverse communities and I am delighted at the opportunity to work with such an exciting organization. ■

Building Bridges CD Release

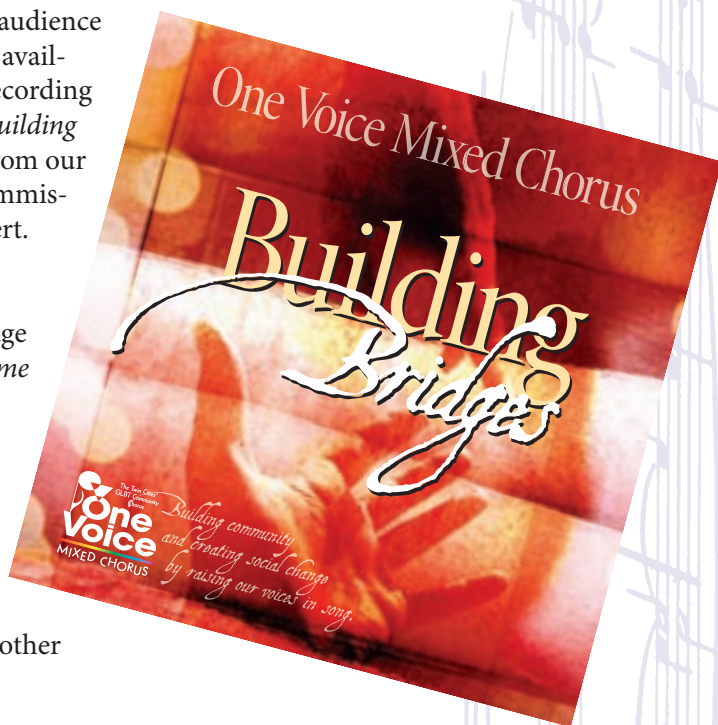
YOU ASKED FOR IT — WE'RE DOING IT! For several years audience members have asked when the next One Voice CD will be available. Thanks to very generous donor, we have begun the recording process and our new CD will be released this June 2005. *Building Bridges* will include both live and studio recorded tracks from our January 2005 concert, in addition to several One Voice commissions and selections from our Fifteenth Anniversary concert.

The preliminary list of songs for *Building Bridges* includes:

- *I Do* — Eric Lane Barne's hilarious tribute to gay marriage
- *Anthem* — an arrangement combining *We Shall Overcome* with Holly Near's *We Are A Gentle Angry People*
- *I Dream a World* — with poetry by Langston Hughes and music by Rosephanye Powell
- *Bridge Over Troubled Water* — Paul Simon's hit song with audience sing-along
- *We Rise Again* — the stirring anthem that closed our January *Building Bridges* concerts.
- *Psalm 23* — Bobby McFerrin's beautiful tribute to his mother
- *Bright Morning Stars* — a traditional song arranged by former One Voice director, Paul Siskind
- *Três Cantos Nativos* — a Brazilian piece with rainforest sounds

Want to support the project?

As part of our matching donor campaign, anyone who donates at least \$2,000 before May 1 may dedicate a CD track. Track dedications are on a first-come basis so get your donation in early in order to select your favorite track. See www.ovmc.org for more information about track dedications or to pre-order your *Building Bridges* CD. ■



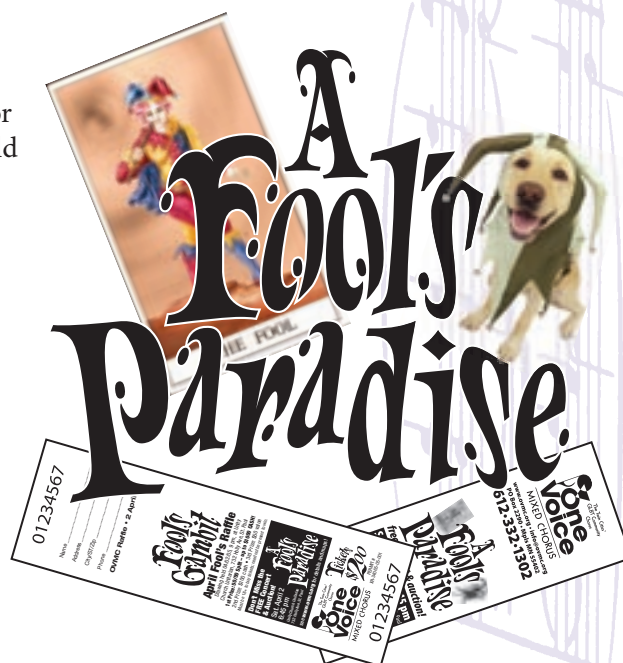
Silent Auction: Just Foolin' Around

Join One Voice Mixed Chorus, OVation and MC Rachael Kroog for *A Fool's Paradise*, our silent and live auctions, Saturday, April 2, held at Unity Unitarian Church in St. Paul. The doors will open at 6:45 for early bidding, and the free concert will begin at 7:30.

The "Fool's Gambit" raffle drawing will be held at 9:00 p.m. You need not be present to win. First prize will be a 50-50 cash split with a top prize of \$1000, second prize \$100, and third prize \$50. Tickets will be sold in advance by chorus members, Fifth Section volunteers, and staff. You may also purchase raffle tickets online at www.ovmc.org.

Do you enjoy great shopping, fabulous music and the chance to win big on the raffle? You'd be a fool not to participate.

Are you an artist? Do you own a condo? What are your talents? If you have anything you would like to donate to our "Fool's Paradise" silent auction, please contact Elaine Voboril at fundraising@ovmc.org or call 952-593-5250. ■



One Voice Builds Bridges wi



The Community of Peace Academy Choir with OVMC Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller, CPA Music Director/OVMC Assistant Music Director John Sorlien, and local composer Elizabeth Alexander.

SEVERAL YEARS AGO, Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller asked One Voice chorus members what kinds of performances would enhance the chorus mission of building community and creating social change. One response from members was clear: we need to take our message of tolerance and acceptance into public schools.

On April 22, One Voice will spend the day singing in schools across the metro area. In addition to performing music about justice, tolerance and acceptance, One Voice is working with OutFront Minnesota to train a team of non-singing volunteers who will assist teachers with classroom discussions following the concerts.

“Our concerts in schools always generate plenty of conversations among students,” said Miller, “but this will be the first time we will take the next step and provide resources for discussion within classrooms.” This kind of outreach exacts a real commitment from singers, most of whom will take the day off work to sing in the schools.

“Taking a vacation day to participate in this kind of social change is not even an issue,” said soprano Cheryl Winch. “If I had experienced a gay choir singing in my school as a youth, my whole coming out experience would have been different.”

The day concludes with a special collaboration concert with the Community of Peace Academy, a charter school on the East Side of St. Paul. The school, which draws mostly from Hmong, African American and Hispanic communities, has a strong music program.

John Sorlien, Assistant Music Director for One Voice and veteran teacher, offers music for grades K-12 including music theory and history, Orff and recorder ensembles and several choirs. “Community of Peace Academy was founded with a mission of peace and justice, which includes tolerance and a positive regard for all people,” said Sorlien. “This collaboration is a perfect next step in moving toward those goals within the school.”



The activities of One Voice Mixed Chorus are made possible in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board with support from the

Minnesota State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts, and funding from The Wallace Foundation, as well as the support of the following sponsors: American Composers Forum American Express Foundation Compass Community Arts Xcel Energy Foundation St. Paul Companies Foundation

th East Side St. Paul School

Miller believes that collaboration works when people make real connections with one another. So Dr. Karen Rusthoven, Community of Peace Academy's principal, invited John Sorlien and Ramseyer Miller to tell their coming out stories to high school students.

"I was nervous," Miller said, "John was terrified. After all, he had to show up for school the next day with these students." But the speech to the student body went well. Students were respectful, engaged and enthusiastic about the idea of a collaboration concert with One Voice. In fact, within a week, twenty-eight new students had signed up to audition for the Academy Choir and participate in the concert.

"In working with these students, I wanted to create something concrete together," said Miller, "so we decided to commission a piece of music for our two choirs." With a grant from the American Composer's Forum, One Voice commissioned St. Paul composer Elizabeth Alexander to compose a song especially for One Voice and the school's Academy Choir.

Alexander worked with students to generate the text for the piece. "I began with images of life as a garden and asked the students to write about what that might look like," said Alexander. The process was going well until one student remarked candidly, "I don't think life is like a garden at all". Students talked about the pressures and struggles of life as a young adult in the Twin Cities. "I didn't want to go in this direction at all," said Alexander, "but as the conversation progressed I knew it was exactly right for this commission."

The piece, now titled *Life is Not a Garden*, will premiere on Friday, April 22 at a 2:30 PM concert for the student body. The Academy Choir and One Voice will then perform a free evening concert for the public at 7:00 PM at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in St. Paul.

The concert will feature individual sets from each chorus, a performance by the Community of Peace Academy staff choir and several combined numbers including Paul Simon's *Bridge Over Troubled Water* and a tribute to today's youth, *We Rise Again*. Come join us for this free concert. Families, children and youth are especially welcome. ■

Volunteers to speak in Schools

One Voice is looking for volunteers to participate in OutFront Minnesota's Effective Educator training.

These volunteers will accompany One Voice when we sing in schools and will team up with an experienced educator to provide resources and conversation for teachers and students.

Contact Sherene Judeh at info@ovmc.org or 612-332-1302 if you are interested.

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



got gifts?

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Our new CD *Building Bridges* will be available June, 2005.

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To purchase CD, cookbook or concert tickets, contact One Voice at 612-332-1302 or info@ovmc.org.



Kate Clinton:



Kate Clinton, veteran funny woman, will join One Voice for two concerts in June. Kate has been doing comedy for over two decades. She describes herself as a “faith-based, tax-paying, America-loving political humorist and family entertainer.” She has appeared in hundreds of comedy clubs, in movies, on records, television and several off-Broadway runs. She also writes monthly columns for *The Progressive* and *The Advocate*.

We caught up with Kate by telephone, and asked her a few questions about her life and work.

Have you played Minnesota very much? Do you have any memories of appearances here?

I remember playing a women’s coffeehouse really early on, not being allowed to play at St. Catherine’s, and performing at Gay Pride in Minneapolis. I didn’t realize it got hot in Minnesota. It was the hottest day ever, and the stage was a flatbed truck. People kept keeling over and falling off the sides.

Aren’t you worried about being upstaged by an eighty-voice choir?

Oh, I’m shaking in my choral boots! Actually, I performed with the Seattle Men’s Chorus a while ago. I was up there doing my thing, but the chorus couldn’t hear me because there were no monitors. So they were standing there behind me, not laughing, in their lovely cummerbunds, and the audience was getting mad because they weren’t laughing. At the intermission, they put some monitors in, and that was better. Is there any chance One Voice could perform “Jagged Little Pill?”

What the Critics Say:

Kate Clinton cuts through ten thousand miles of badness with a single brilliant insight, complete with punchline. — Tony Kushner

A savvy, witty observer of American life... — Boston Herald

Quick-witted, clear-spoken... She has developed a bizarrely logical, seemingly free-associating style of delivery [and] had this critic in tears from laughing so hard. — New York Times

Her terrific new show has a reassuring air of order [and] her gleeful slant cuts across all party lines. Clinton’s appeal runs deeper than quotable lines, to a buoyant, bemused attitude that can connect seemingly distant dots. — SFO Chronicle

Not Just for Lesbians Anymore

I'll see what I can do. How did you get to be so funny? Some people say lesbians don't have a sense of humor.

That is such a lie. We're fairly hysterical. I mean, go to any party and the lesbians will be standing around the refrigerator laughing like crazy. I think somebody felt left out — probably a man — and made up this lie that we're not funny.

What made me funny? Well, I had three brothers, all of whom played football, so in the off-season it was "tackle Kate" time. I figured if I could keep them laughing they'd be too weak to pick on me. And then I went to Catholic school, where I was really bad, but looked angelic, and of course, there's being an outsider.

You've been doing comedy for more than two decades ...

It'll be twenty-five years soon.

What's changed for you over that time?

My memory, for one thing. I go to some place I've played before, and I can't remember a thing about it until I recognize some weird doorknob in the theatre.

There's been a big change from the lesbian-separatist community I came from. Lesbians and gay men started coming together in the eighties because of AIDS, so I started seeing a "gay mix" in my audiences. Now, as I do a lot more political material, I see more of a gay/straight mix. Straight people are a lot less homo-ignorant now, and culturally more aware and accepting.

How about that election?

Well, I had a skewed view living here on the tiny island nation of New York City, but I travel a lot, and I could see it coming. This political situation gives me a wealth of material. It's great for me, but it's bad for us. In times like these, comedy is more important than ever.

What should the audience expect from you?

Absolutely no juggling, especially of food products. And no animal acts. They should expect to laugh for forty-five minutes. ■



**Check her out online:
www.kateclinton.com**

Want to volunteer with One Voice?

OVMC is seeking volunteers for the following positions. If you are interested, please contact our Resource Development Manager, Sherene Judeh at 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 the Major Gifts committee and the Executive Director to write proposals for general support of the organization and for special projects. ■

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. You may also send us your contact information via email at info@ovmc.org. *(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.)* ■

DOUBLE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO ONE VOICE!

Individual donations up to \$5,000 received by July 31, 2005 will be matched through the generosity of Board Chair Colleen Watson and her partner Mary McDougal. *Your help is needed to support our mission of social change.* Use the donation envelope in this newsletter or contribute online at our website:

www.ovmc.org



One Voice Mixed Chorus

WITH SPECIAL GUEST

Kate Clinton



Just for Laughs

Friday & Saturday

June 17 & 18 • 7:30 PM


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One Voice Calendar 2005

Put these dates on your calendar and join us!

A Fool's Paradise: April Fools Silent Auction & Concert

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

OVation in Concert with Mila Vocal Ensemble

April 9, 7:00 pm
Prairie Star District Unitarian Church Annual Conference
"Unity and Diversity: Source of Hope & Courage"
Radisson Riverfront Hotel, St. Paul

OVation in concert: "Opening our Doors, Opening our Hearts"

April 15, 7:00 pm
Pilgrim Congregational UCC
2310 East 4th Street, Duluth (218-724-8503)

Outreach concerts

Friday, April 22, daytime –
Twin Cities' schools
Building Bridges through Song – 2:30 pm
One Voice & the CPA Academy Choir
Community of Peace Academy
471 Magnolia Avenue East, St. Paul
Community performance – 7:00 pm
Dayton Avenue Presbyterian
217 MacKubin Street, St. Paul – FREE!

QMC Como Pride Concert

Monday, June 6, 7:00 pm
Como Park Pavilion
1360 Lexington Parkway North, St. Paul
FREE!

Just for Laughs – with guest comedian, Kate Clinton!

Friday, June 17, 7:30 pm
Saturday, June 18, 7:30 pm
Great American History Theatre
30 East 10th Street, St. Paul

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

www.ovmc.org