

## Upcoming Events

**December 8, 2008, 7:30 pm**  
**Ovation in Concert**  
Healing Spirit Metropolitan Community Church  
3703 County Club Road West, Rochester, MN  
Info: 507-252-5016

**January 25, 2008, 1 – 2 pm**  
**Uncommon Light: Brahms and the Beauty of Shadow**  
With Grammy Award-winning conductor Vance George and the Central High School Concert Choir  
Central High School  
275 Lexington Pkwy. N, St. Paul  
FREE CONCERT

**January 25-26, 2008, 7:30 pm**  
**Uncommon Light: Brahms and the Beauty of Shadow**  
With Grammy Award-winning conductor Vance George and the Central High School Concert Choir  
Central Presbyterian Church  
500 Cedar St., St. Paul

**April 19, 2008, 7:30 pm**  
**Spring Fever — One Voice Cabaret & Auction**  
Zurah Shrine Center  
2540 Park Ave., Minneapolis

**June 9, 2008, 7 pm**  
**QMC Pride Concert**  
Como Park Pavilion  
1360 N Lexington Pkwy., St. Paul  
FREE CONCERT

**June 21, 2008, 7:30 pm; June 22, 2008, 3:30 pm**  
**Old New Borrowed Q: Celebrating 20 Years**  
Hosted by Dan Chouinard  
History Theatre  
30 E 10th St., St. Paul

**July 12-19, 2008**  
**GALA Festival VIII in Miami**  
Carnival Center for the Performing Arts, Miami

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



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and creating social  
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Tom Becker

ACCOMPANIST  
Philip Everingham

OVATION COACH:  
Randi Grundahl  
Rexroth



## With One Voice

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# With One Voice

A PUBLICATION OF ONE VOICE MIXED CHORUS • FALL 2007



One Voice had it name in lights at the Englert Theatre, a beautiful restored theater in Iowa City. The concert was part of the community-building tour to Iowa in November.

## From the Artistic Director



One Voice Mixed Chorus turns 20 this year. What an incredible milestone! Who would have thought this fledgling organization that went through five music directors in its first seven years would become the largest GLBT chorus in the world with 80 singers and a much envied Fifth Section of more than 40 active, non-singing volunteers? I am so proud of who we have become.

There are moments that I wonder about One Voice's relevance as an agent of social change as we enter our third decade. But then I hear youth talk about the bullying of GLBT students in St. Paul schools, or we perform a concert in greater Minnesota, or I experience the pain of a One Voice singer who was fired from her job because she came out as transgender. Our work is not done.

In early October I was asked to give a speech for GALA Choruses' (an association of GLBT choruses) 25th anniversary banquet in Denver. I told stories about our outreach work and reminded the audience of nearly 400 singers and

music directors that our GLBT choruses have an *obligation* to go beyond the concert hall and into the community. We need to know where our music and mission is most needed and invite ourselves in. And, we must begin to move outside our comfort zones and sing in places where we are not comfortable.

My speech wasn't remarkable – but the response of the audience was. They leapt to their feet with a roar and a standing ovation. I discovered that in that setting, my message was *unique!* Our concerts in schools, rural outreach and community collaborations are a model and inspiration for queer choruses across the globe who are beginning to reach out in very exciting ways.

As we launch our 20th year, we hope that in 20 more there will be no more work left to do; but until every queer child is welcome in their own home, until the word fag is erased as derogatory speech in schools, until our churches and synagogues embrace GLBT people and our relationships, we will continue to *build community and create social change by raising our voices in song.*

*Jane Ramseyer Miller*



## One Voice Mixed Chorus Turns 20!

In honor of One Voice's 20th anniversary, we're introducing a new home, a new look and two new faces.

After years of being managed from multiple home offices scattered around the metro area, we finally have a home of our own – a brand new office suite at Unity Church Unitarian in St. Paul, set up especially for us with assistance from a St. Paul Cultural STAR Grant. We're excited to have all our operations based at one central location, and we encourage guests to pay us a visit.

To become more visible in the community and to better explain who we are and what we stand for, we've created a new logo that proudly announces we are Minnesota's GLBTA chorus. Many thanks to the branding task force and our marketing committee for all their hard work on this project.

To top it off, we hired two new staff members: our new Development & Public Relations Manager, Scott Chamberlain; and our new Operations Manager, Tom Becker. Tom and Scott



join our artistic staff, which includes Accompanist Philip Everingham and OVation Ensemble Coach Randi Grundahl Rexroth, who are in their third year with the chorus. "I am thrilled to work alongside such a creative, committed and hard-working staff," says Artistic & Executive Director Jane Ramseyer Miller, now in her 13th year with the chorus.



### Tom Becker

Tom Becker, a native of Minneapolis, is delighted to renew his association with One Voice. He was a One Voice singer in the early days and served as Co-Moderator of the One Voice board and in various other leadership positions from 1988-1994. More recently, he has worked in the business and financial departments at Target as both a corporate trainer and a Business Team Lead in accounts payable. He also worked for CIGNA Companies supervising claims handling and managing facility functions, reporting and data processing. Tom has worked as an office volunteer for Open Arms of Minnesota, the Minnesota Council of Churches Refuges Committee, Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus and several other non-profit organizations.

### Scott Chamberlain

Before joining One Voice, Scott Chamberlain worked in both public relations and development for the Minnesota Orchestra. He also served as the communications director for the Resource Center of the Americas, a local think tank dedicated to promoting social, economic and political justice in Latin America. Prior to that, he taught Latin American history at the University of Kansas and Spanish at Vanderbilt University; he has also lived in Spain and Costa Rica. An active musician himself, Scott is a member of the Minnesota Chorale and can be heard on their recent CD of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, recorded with the Minnesota Orchestra under Osmo Vänskä.



## FOUNDATION & SPONSORS


## Fundraising Breakfast Hit The High Notes!

Thank you to everyone who helped make our fundraising breakfast a resounding success! With the help of our table captains we doubled last year's attendance! More than 180 guests took part in the event, which featured moving personal stories from Jane Ramseyer Miller, chorus member Darcy Juhl and local composer Elizabeth Alexander. The chorus itself took the stage to perform a series of inspiring songs that touched everyone in the room. In the end, we brought in roughly \$6,000 in gifts and \$26,000 in pledges, surpassing our goals. Great work everyone!



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## Participate Now!

### Become a Dynamic Donor

The end of the year is approaching, but there is still time to make a charitable gift before the clock runs out! One Voice is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization and we welcome contributions in support of our mission. The easiest way to make a contribution is online at [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org), or mail to 732 Holly Ave, St. Paul, MN 55104-7125. No gift is too large or too small!

### Volunteers Rock!

One Voice is looking for committed individuals to volunteer as members of our **Fifth Section**. We have a wide variety of short-term and ongoing opportunities. If you are interested in being a part of the Fifth Section, we would love to hear from you! Please contact our Operations Manager, Tom Becker, at 651-298-1954 or at [info@ovmc.org](mailto:info@ovmc.org).

### Office Equipment Needed

We are looking for several donations of office equipment for our new office including a laptop computer (internet compatible), a paper cutter, and roller mats for office chairs. Also, if you have weekdays free we would love to put you to work as an office volunteer. Give Tom a call if you have something to donate or want to join our fabulously fun staff in our new office.

## Why We Sing

The Pew Research Center found a high correlation between knowing someone who is gay, and supporting fair treatment of gay and lesbian people. It is this all-important factor of familiarity that One Voice offers as a natural component to working with youth on an artistic endeavor.



## Meet the Composer! Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)



Johannes Brahms has been so thoroughly enshrined as one of The Great Men of Western Art that it's easy to overlook the fact he was one of the nineteenth century's most colorful characters.

Fated to always be in love with the wrong person, the composer was infamous for consoling himself with regular visits to the red light district of Vienna. Brahms violently opposed religious dogma, but in private he was a believer who kept extensive notes in his collection of bibles. Devastated by the death of his mother and great friend Anselm Feuerbach, he expressed his grief not through musical thunder, but rather the gently consoling "German Requiem" and *Nänie*. Never one to disdain "low" music, Brahms avidly collected and arranged popular tunes throughout his career; as a young man, he arranged waltzes for "two *thalers* and all the beer he wanted."

This quirky personality is wonderfully present in his music: lilting melodies, light humor, themes of unfulfilled longing and a deeply religious spirit.

## Old Masters, New Friends

Over the last few seasons, One Voice has tackled a wide range of musical styles and traditions, including spoken word, American spirituals and Japanese *taiko* music. We have another treat in store for our audiences on January 25 and 26 with **Uncommon Light: Brahms and the Beauty of Shadow**. As part of an inspiring program that explores the imagery of light and darkness, the singers will perform choral masterworks by Johannes Brahms, giving concert-goers a chance to revel in the lush melodies and burnished harmonies of one of the greatest Romantic composers.

These concerts also feature new collaborations that welcome two new friends to the One Voice family. Dr. Vance George, a four-time Grammy winner and former artistic director of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus, joins the chorus as guest conductor. "We are thrilled to work with such an incredible choral musician and Brahms expert," notes Artistic Director, Jane Ramseyer Miller. "Vance worked with the chorus over three days in October and it was inspiring to hear our sound grow and blossom under his leadership."

**Uncommon Light** also features a choral collaboration with St. Paul's Central High School Concert Choir, conducted by Martha Coventry Graber. "Reaching out to Twin Cities' youth is a central element of our mission," notes Board Co-Chair, Earl Moore. "Creating relationships through shared music is one of the most effective ways One Voice can break down barriers of homophobia." In addition to the evening ticketed concerts, the combined

choirs will perform a free Friday afternoon concert for Central High School and other Twin Cities middle and high-school students.

January's **Uncommon Light** concerts feature some of the most beautiful and poignant choral music written to honor the sacredness of night and the wonder of light, with compositions by Palestrina, John Rutter, and St. Paul composer Elizabeth Alexander. Brahms' achingly beautiful *Nänie* serves as a centerpiece. Performed by the combined choirs, *Nänie's* poetry

### MEET OUR GUEST CONDUCTOR! GEORGE VANCE

George Vance, recognized as one of America's great choral conductors, served as choral director of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus for 23 years.

Under his leadership, the SFS Chorus won four Grammy Awards, including Best Choral Album (for Brahms' "A German Requiem" and Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana") and Classical Album of the Year. A noted clinician, Vance has led master classes and workshops around the world. In 1999 Chorus America presented him with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Vance is delighted to work with the chorus. "Beyond the high musical standards, I was immediately drawn to One Voice's mission. That level of community involvement is unique among GLBT groups, and I'm honored to take part in these concerts."

evokes Greek

mythology to mourn

the death of one of Brahms' dear friends. Central HS conductor Martha Coventry Graber notes, "The themes of youth, beauty and loss are relevant to us all, but especially to the youth involved in this project. We are honored to have the chance to perform this exquisite and powerful music with One Voice." The concert concludes with *How Lovely Is thy Dwelling Place* from Brahms' luminous "German Requiem" sung by both choirs with over 140 singers!

Don't miss these exciting concerts!



Vance George conducts One Voice Mixed Chorus and Central High School chorus.





# OUTREACH TOUR to IOWA

“Your programming is so authentic. There’s a real sense of community here.”  
 — One Voice member

“After the Des Moines concert we went to a local watering hole where we were immediately embraced.”  
 — member of Iowa City’s The Quire

“The Lavender Song. You guys get to sing songs like that all the time? Awesome!”  
 — audience member



One Voice in Plymouth Congregational Church, Des Moines



The Amana Colonies are under siege



St. Luke's Episcopal hosts our buffet brunch



A sign from our arrival?



Our youngest fans and roadies!



One Voice and the Quire in Iowa City



Tara, Karen and Sara

On November 9, 2007, 75 One Voice singers, roadies and kids boarded two buses, heading out for a series of concerts across eastern Iowa. Our mission: to bring our music and our message to our neighbors to the south, especially to communities where GLBT organizations have traditionally been less visible. We sang with the Des Moines Gay Men's Chorus in Iowa's capital and The Quire in Iowa City, and rounded out the tour with a solo performance at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Cedar Falls.



Our bus drivers, Dave and Dwight

Tours are always a great deal of fun – when else do you get to join your friends for madcap adventures in the middle of the night? Legally? This year we saw our name on a brightly lit marquee, took part in collective songwriting while riding on the bus, learned a lesson on the interchangeability of *Amazing Grace* and *The Gilligan's Island Theme Song*, and witnessed a young judge crown herself winner of the brown bag contest—but refuse to accept the prize (clearly, a diva in training).



Marisa, Kim and AP



One of the Quire's conductors, Linda Kroon

Singers from Iowa City's The Quire joyfully embraced us after the concert, thanking us profusely for coming to town. Singer after singer gushed about the caliber of our singing and the difficulty of our repertoire, remarking on how they saw us as a model for their own development. Both groups loved singing in the massed chorus at the program's end. One Iowa singer remarked, "The sound just kept building all around us, filling us up and flooding the hall. In the end, it felt like we weren't *making* music, we had simply *become* music."



Singers of the round table

But we didn't just have fun—we had an impact. After the Des Moines concert, an audience member greeted us with tears in his eyes. He was thunderstruck by the experience of men and women singing and working together for social change. "In the Des Moines community the men and women's communities are completely separate," he marveled. "There are no settings where we connect. I watched the interactions between your singers and I could see your mission come alive in their care and enjoyment of each other."



Practicing at the St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Cedar Falls



The Quire hosts our dinner

A pastor who drove in to Cedar Falls from the small town of Waverly said it best: "You have come at the right time. We need your message of hope and your mission of social change so deeply right now."



Jay, Lane, Marnie, Earl, Jane, Jim