

2007 Spring Calendar

Thursday, May 3
 OVation
 Lavender Graduation ceremony
 University of Minnesota
 Minneapolis

Sunday, May 6
 Unity Church Unitarian
 732 Holly Ave • St. Paul
 9 am and 11 am services

Monday, May 21
 Hearts in Harmony
 Unity Church Unitarian
 732 Holly Ave • St. Paul
 6:30 pm

Monday, June 4
 Queer Music Consortum Concert
 Como Park Pavilion
 1360 Lexington Pkwy N, St. Paul
 7 pm • FREE!!

Saturday, June 16, 7:30 pm
Sunday, June 17, 3:30 pm
 Generations ROCK! with Teens Rock The Mic
 History Theatre
 30 East Tenth Street, St. Paul

Saturday, June 23
Sunday, June 24
 Twin Cities Pride Festival
 Loring Park, Minneapolis
 Come visit us at the QMC/One Voice Booth



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

Generations ROCK!

Generations ROCK! explores the unique wisdom of youth and elders through a weaving of choral music and spoken word, and features a new commission by performance artist Mankwe Ndosii

June 16 & 17, 2007
 History Theatre, St. Paul
 Sat June 16 • 7:30 PM • Sun June 17 • 3:30 PM

Jane Ramseyer Miller
 ARTISTIC DIRECTOR
 Phillip Everingham
 ACCOMPANIST

with Twin Cities urban youth spoken word ensemble Teens Rock the Mic

\$5⁰⁰ TICKETS for Seniors & Youth! Order online now!

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With One Voice

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The Wit and Wisdom of Generations ROCK!

- Jane Ramseyer Miller, Artistic Director

The first time I heard Teens Rock the Mic I sat forward in my seat spellbound by the passionate energy and articulate message of the young woman in front of me. Her cadence reminded me of a southern preacher, the energy felt like rap, her poetry was raw and real and unabashedly honest. An ensemble of urban youth poets, Teens Rock the Mic strives to impact society by giving voice to those without through story, experience and the art of spoken word. What began as a chance meeting at a community outreach performance soon grew into a collaborative relationship as I invited these youth to join One Voice in concert.

Our spring concert, **Generations ROCK!** explores the wit and wisdom of youth and elders through a fusion of choral music and spoken word. As I tackled the primary challenge (designing a unified concert that gives justice to both art mediums) I was determined to find a way for our groups to perform simultaneously. Through a grant from the American Composer's Forum I met Twin Cities' artist, performer and musician Mankwe Ndosii and she took up the challenge - composing a new work of art for a spoken word ensemble and GLBT chorus!

Mankwe, who composes through improvisation, began working with OVation, our a cappella ensemble, last fall utilizing their voices in a collaborative, organic process to create the music. As she guided OVation in creating melodies, colors and sounds, Mankwe

worked simultaneously with youth from Teens Rock the Mic on the spoken text that moves in and out of her sound-scape. OVation Coach, Randi Grundahl, remarked, "Composing is so personal, but Mankwe has opened this process up. She has been willing to incorporate our voices to offer feedback - vocal and spiritual."

This collaboration has really pushed the envelope for us as singers. I have discovered that I am better off learning Mankwe's pieces if I don't look at the music but rather feel the rhythms in my body. My body understands before my brain does. - Darcy Juhl, soprano



Jane with Composer Mankwe Ndosii

Titled Definition Suite, Mankwe Ndosii's five-movement composition chronicles life experiences of the teens involved in the project. Baritone James Gottfried reflects, "One of the most appealing elements is that we are creating a composition that speaks

directly to teenagers. We are translating emotions by using choral music and spoken word into something you don't hear every day. We get to see it come to life note by note like a new language being born. While the poets speak the chorus sings a unique 'atmospheric' melody in the background that makes sense through the teen's words." Britt Abel adds:

"This process been particularly intense because of the beauty and honesty of the spoken word pieces."

In addition to the *Definition Suite* premier, the concert includes music from an African coming-of-age ritual, texts by Langston Hughes and Armistead



Brittany at Neighborhood House

...Continued on Page 3

One Voice News and Notes



~ Ann Follett,
Operations
Manager

This year continues to be a full one for One Voice. From new singers in February to a new office space this summer, One Voice is on the move!

In January we reached an audience of 1200 people for our Reclaiming Faith concerts in four different venues. Town Hall meetings after the concerts gave people of faith and compassion an opportunity to discuss ways to build bridges with one another and confront injustice. Rabbi Joshua Lesser from Atlanta, Georgia, Imman Daayiee Abdullah from Washington D.C., and Representative Keith Ellison joined us in concert and for these conversations.

In February, we welcomed nine new singers to One Voice. New basses Jim Stratton, and Dick Van Deusen, sopranos Jeni Klotz and Sonya Boeser, and altos Danielle Boor, Cathy Geist, Jessica Eastman, Lisette Schlosser and Nancy Edwards are now a part of the vocal mix of One Voice.

In March, audiences heard some of the finest voices in the Twin Cities in an extraordinary evening of music, with Emcee Jerry Rubino for our

annual Cabaret and Silent Auction fundraiser. The \$18,000 we raised helps to fund the many free concerts and community performances of One Voice and our small vocal ensemble, OVation. We so appreciate all of our donors and sponsors!

In April, One Voice also celebrated the emergence of our own Dr. Phil! Philip Everingham, our marvelous accompanist, received his Doctorate in Musical Arts. Congratulations to Philip! We are so proud of you.



Dr. Phil!

In May, we begin the exciting process of renovation of our new OFFICE SPACE! Shari Pleiss, an alto and woman of many talents is heading up the process. We will be moving into a new space in Unity Church Unitarian in St. Paul, in the same building where we now

rehearse. See our website for more information about an upcoming "Rent Party" in July!

And through it all, our volunteers continue to do all the things necessary to maintain a healthy and stable chorus. Our singers learn, practice and memorize music to ensure musical excellence. And our donors and ever-amazing audiences continue to nurture us.

It is an exciting time at One Voice, both musically and behind the scenes. If you would like to lend your time and talents to the One Voice organization, you can contact me at any time. Our next auditions are in early fall and volunteer opportunities are both short term and longer.

I look forward to hearing from you!



Imam Daayiee Abdullah and Representative Keith Ellison with Jane at a Reclaiming Faith town meeting

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May is Magnificent in Minnesota - June is PRIDE MONTH!

This is a perfect time to support your GLBT community chorus. There are many ways that you can support One Voice. You can give of your time and your talents, purchase tickets, CDs and cookbooks, or give a financial contribution or an in-kind donation. We appreciate the many ways that our broader community sustains us. We literally could not do it without you!

For Your May Baskets, Rockin' Rhythms and Recipes

CDs and Cookbook - only \$15 each!

Songs of the Soul, our first CD with music from spiritual traditions around the world.

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To purchase, contact One Voice at 612-332-1302 or order online at www.ovmc.org

Become a Dynamic Donor

You can assist with the cost of our many free concerts and outreach projects. One Voice Mixed Chorus 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 on line at www.ovmc.org, or mail to PO Box 2290, Minneapolis, MN 55402. No gift is too large or too small.

Volunteers Rock!

One Voice is looking for committed individuals to volunteer for our organization. We have a wide variety of short term and ongoing opportunities. If you are interested in being a part of the 5th section, we would love to hear from you. Please contact our Operations Manager, Ann Follett, 612-332-1302 or at info@ovmc.org.

QMC Concert, Express your pride outside!

Monday, June 4th, please join us for the Queer Music Consortium concert at the Lake Como Pavillion. The Queer Music Consortium (QMC) consists of The Minnesota Freedom Band, the Minnesota Philharmonic, Calliope Women's Chorus, The Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, TransVoices, and One Voice Mixed Chorus, your GLBT community chorus. This outdoor concert is free and promises to be a wonderful time.

Hearts in Harmony

Monday, May 21st, come learn more about One Voice Mixed Chorus: come to Hearts in Harmony. There is only one more Hearts in Harmony gathering this season. See the One Voice video, hear more about our mission and history, and sit in on a rehearsal.

Generations ROCK!

And of course, we will see you on June 16th or 17th at the History Theatre.

mankwe • teens rock the mic • tish jones



When we talk about youth culture these days we seem to focus on the difference, perhaps in order to understand how they are unique. But as I've interacted with the Teens and the younger singers in One Voice we find a way to see and talk about how our journeys have common ground--the questions that we ask and the things that we find disturbing--we share. — Cheryl Winch, alto



Wit and Wisdom Continued from Page 1...

Maupin, and the Jamaican inspired *Don't Bend Down* with a message from elders about standing firm against oppression. Humor plays a prominent role in this concert through Dar Williams' *Teenagers Kick Our Butts* and a delightful setting of Lewis Carol's *Jabberwocky*.

The songs in this concert are about generations, about parents and children, and I'm finding it challenging at times to hold myself together since my mother died last fall. The first time we sang Ysaye Barnwell's "Wanting Memories" all I could do was weep. I'm still not sure I'll be able to perform it without tears, but I'm grateful that the music has allowed me to feel my loss, but also to feel how lucky I am to have had my mother, and that some part of her continues through me and through my children. — Britt Abel

Generations ROCK! will be performed at the History Theatre in downtown Saint Paul on June 16 & 17. In honor of our "generations", youth and seniors may purchase tickets for a reduced price of \$5. Complete ticket prices can be found on the One Voice website.

We look forward to seeing you in June!



Mankwe Ndosi is a Minneapolis-based vocalist and multidisciplinary performer of Tanzanian & Midwestern descent. She's been working for over a decade in the mediums of theater, dance, music, spoken-word and improvisation. She currently serves as Artistic Director of the Center for Independent Artists in south Minneapolis.

MEET THE COMPOSER

Join us 30 minutes before each performance to learn more about Mankwe Ndosi and the composition process for her *Definition Suite*.



Outreach Touches Youth and Elders

Music and poetry are powerful tools in linking communities to one another. Even so, there is perhaps nothing more intimidating for a GLBT chorus than performing for a student body of “cool” high school students. On Thursday, April 19 we took **Generations ROCK!** into the community beginning with a performance at Saint Paul Creative Arts High School and the response from these students was tremendous. St. Paul Creative Arts is a charter school on University Avenue.

“You’re going to sing from here? Wow!” remarked a young man as we circled the auditorium for our opening number – a South African song that is part of a coming of age ritual for youth. The students cheered at *Pride’s Child*, the story of a young man growing up in a queer family, and joined in with gusto on the chorus of Dar William’s *Teenagers Kick our Butts*. “I didn’t know how they would react to choral music,” said Artistic Director, Jane Ramseyer Miller, “but even the more serious songs seemed to strike a chord with students.” During *Wanting Memories* which recalls the loss of a loved one, the packed room

grew silent and a young woman covered her face in her hands and sobbed.

Three teenagers from Teens Rock the Mic joined us for the entire day of outreach concerts and they were an instant hit in each venue. Gayle, Kelley and Brittany performed original poetry addressing issues of dreams, labels, fitting in, inner beauty, homophobia, suicide, drugs, gay marriage, poverty and war. Ramseyer Miller remarked, “Their poetry is so raw and real. It touches the listener deeply. These youth are older than I will ever be.”

In honor of our theme of “generations”, the next stop on our outreach tour took us to Cerenity Residence, a large housing complex for seniors on Saint Paul’s Westside. A number of chorus members admitted to being nervous about singing at a retirement community, given the raw emotional power elicited by Teens Rock

the Mic, coupled with the edginess present in our music. But as we started singing, the residents came from their rooms and soon the balcony area above the lounge was filled with elders.

OUTREACH



Our own phobias were obliterated when a woman sitting up front exclaimed, “That was amazing! Your music and poetry are different from anything we usually hear.”

Jim, a One Voice bass singer commented, “For me, change comes out of interaction - being in places that stretch us and feel uncomfortable. I have never gone into a senior residence as a gay person. Change is important in both directions.”

The outreach tour also took the chorus and our roadies to GLBT Lobby Day at the State Capitol and concluded with a free evening concert at Neighborhood House – the new Wellstone Center for Community Building. Located in a neighborhood that has traditionally been home to new immigrants, the community center operates a large youth program and multiple social

services, serving clients that speak several different languages.

“I think a big part of the outreach that we do is not only about helping people change their attitudes and views about GLBT people”, said Kevin, a One Voice tenor, “but it is also a way to validate the GLBT people in the audiences who may feel alone.” Cathy, an alto in One Voice added, “Making music together is a different kind of outreach. I stick my neck out a lot at work in the teaching that I do, but singing together for other people is so powerful.”

Reviewing how the days’ events played out, Jane offered enthusiastic congratulations to One Voice and Teens Rock the Mic in saying “It was inspirational to see our mission in action with such unique audiences. These concerts make our mission of building community and creating social change come alive!”

~ Jen Rivera and friends

