

*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



Why AIDS? Why now? A year ago the Star Tribune ran an article on Minnesotans with HIV-AIDS. As I read, what seemed like a bygone issue shifted in my consciousness. I learned that many individuals who have “survived” AIDS are now experiencing devastating quality-of-life issues due to the toxic drugs that have kept them alive. The number of HIV+ Minnesotans has increased by 30% in the past five years and, according to the Minnesota AIDS Project, 74% of new HIV cases among females occurred in women of color. Complacency about the disease is a serious issue. Experts estimate that 2,500 Minnesotans are believed to be living with HIV but do not know they are infected.

With the 20th Anniversary of World AIDS Day this December, I wanted to find a way that One Voice could educate our audiences about the current status of AIDS and honor Minnesota

organizations working with HIV-AIDS. Our beginnings as a chorus are closely connected to the issue of AIDS, as this disease was one of the elements that united our mostly separate gay and lesbian communities in the mid-1980s.

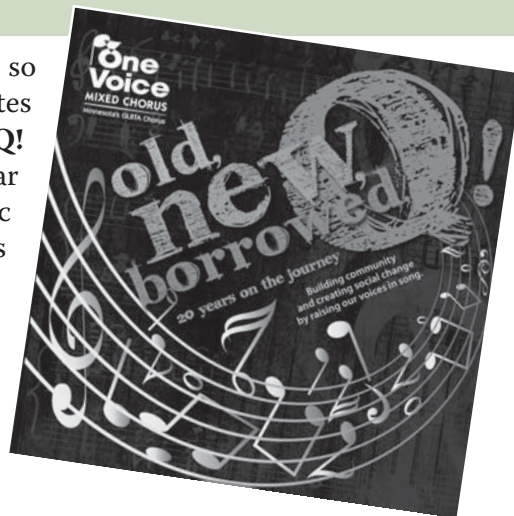
Artist and AIDS activist T. Mychael Rambo was eager to work with One Voice on this project and we are excited to partner with him as emcee/host for a free community forum on Monday, October 27, **The Face of AIDS Today**.

Our December 5 and 6 concerts with the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra commemorate those who have died of AIDS, honor individuals living with HIV-AIDS, and pay tribute to the friends and families who have struggled with this disease as caregivers. I hope you can join us for **Many Voices, Many Songs: Hope for a World Beyond AIDS**.

I look forward to seeing you this fall!

## Music and Memories

No birthday party is complete without music, so One Voice has recorded a new CD that celebrates our 20th season! **Old New Borrowed Q! 20 Years on the Journey** is a mix of familiar favorites from past seasons, and new music of today. Songs include John Rutter's visionary *Distant Land*, “West Side Story's” *Somewhere*, German waltzes by Johannes Brahms, OVation's rendition of *The Lavender Song*, *We're Everywhere* and the luminous *Bismillah*. Eclectic—just like One Voice. Visit our website to hear music samples or to order yours today!



## Hot off the Presses!

### A Grand GALA!

This year's GALA (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) conference in Miami was a huge success, with One Voicers getting the rockstar treatment everywhere we went. In addition to performing before a sold-out crowd of 2,700, One Voice made headlines when Jane Ramseyer Miller received the prestigious GALA Legacy Award in honor of our shared commitment to community-building and educational outreach. Congrats to all!



### OVation/NEWVation

OVation is proud to announce its new line-up of singers. The faces may have changed, but its commitment to vocal excellence, quirky programming and community outreach remains the same. The singers: Andy Kedl, Darcy Juhl, Douglas Munro, Jen Rivera, Katrina Johnson, Marisa Geisler, Owen Hand, Shari Pleiss.

### ArtsLab Is Launched

Last spring One Voice was awarded one of the highly coveted spots in the ArtsLab program—a three-year project designed to strengthen visionary arts organizations and create arts leaders of the future. As part of the program, One Voice receives extensive face-time with national consultants, workshops and peer learning opportunities.



Curious about ArtsLab? Visit [www.artslabonline.org](http://www.artslabonline.org).

### A Fond Farewell

It is with mixed emotions that we bid farewell to our beloved accompanist, Philip Everingham, is leaving One Voice to start a new job in Ohio. Thank you for all your devotion to One Voice, and we wish you all the best!



### Spark24

We're everywhere! One Voice made a splash with a special performance at the Spark24 media event as part of the Republican National Convention.

As one observer put it, "You guys know how to put on a show!"



## FOUNDATION & SPONSORS



The John Sullivan Fund of the Minneapolis Foundation





## The Healing Power of Music

In an elegant piece of symmetry, this year marks the 20th anniversary of both One Voice Mixed Chorus and World AIDS Day. Since the scourge of AIDS played a key role in the formation of the chorus, it's only fitting that we honor AIDS Day with a special concert, **Many Voices, One Song: Hope for a World Beyond AIDS**, held on December 5 and 6 at the Hopkins High School Auditorium.

Presented in collaboration with the Minnesota Philharmonic and community AIDS organizations, the concert combines music and education to honor those lost to AIDS, provide solace to those living with it, fight complacency, eliminate stereotypes and encourage the community to take action in the fight against the disease.

One Voice and the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra will each perform on their own, in addition to performing several large works for chorus and orchestra. One Voice's set, sung in languages ranging from Haitian Creole to Latin, includes the stirring gospel piece *Ain't No Grave Can Hold my Body Down*, a powerful setting of the familiar hymn *Abide with Me, Home Is Where the Heart Is*—a ballad that tells the story of a family of caregivers for two men with HIV/AIDS—and a new composition arranged for One Voice by Australian composer Sarah Hopkins complete with aboriginal melodies and overtone singing.

A centerpiece of the program is the world-premiere performance

of *By the Fireside* by Christopher Gable, a composition that explores connections between issues of AIDS in North America and Africa (see page 7). African elements are woven into the fabric of the entire concert, with music by South African composer Bongani Magatyaya, gospel tunes and an African drumming ensemble that performs throughout the evening.

Another highpoint is Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Toward the Unknown Region*, a visionary work with a text by gay poet Walt Whitman. Composed for chorus and orchestra, the work dreams of a soul released from the harsh constraints of the world, moving to a land without time, gravity or bonds.

The Aliveness Project, a community leader in the fight against AIDS for more than two decades, has played a pivotal role in helping shape the concert experience and will sell their their popular Holiday Baskets in the lobby. Executive Joe Larson explains the

importance of the project: "We are excited about working with One Voice on this very important topic of HIV/AIDS. The epidemic affects everyone—old, young, straight, gay, rich and poor. It is important to get the word out there, so people can learn and protect themselves."

In addition to the Aliveness Project, all our community partners will staff information booths in the lobby, and Minnesota AIDS Project will present a 12- minute slide show titled "Am I, Are You?" Projected before the concert and at intermission, this series of professional photographs features 25 HIV-positive and 25 HIV-negative individuals that challenge stereotypes and myths about the disease.

One Voice is thrilled to perform this collaborative concert at the new Hopkins High School Auditorium, a stunning new venue located 10 minutes west of downtown Minneapolis, giving us a chance to reconnect with our supporters in the western metro area. Don't miss this inspiring, healing concert.



**Joseph Schlefke**  
Music Director of the  
Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra



One Voice Mixed Chorus

## The Face of AIDS Today: A Community Forum on October 27

As part of its commitment to community-building, One Voice is excited to partner with a group of amazing organizations to present **The Face of AIDS Today**, a free community forum held on October 27. “In preparing for our December concerts I wanted to create avenues for One Voice and

the broader community to explore ways that HIV-AIDS impacts individuals right here in Minnesota,” explains Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller. “In working with our AIDS community partners I have been incredibly impressed by the variety of services that these organizations offer. This forum will provide a first-hand opportunity to meet these individuals and understand the impact of their work.”

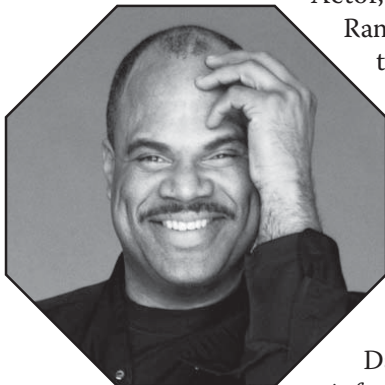
Hosted by local artist and AIDS activist T. Mychael Rambo, the forum features readings and performances by artists living with AIDS, as well as a panel discussion on the current state of AIDS treatment, quality-of-life concerns, the social impact of AIDS and the relevance of AIDS in Minnesota today. A Q&A session follows, along with a good dose of social time. The event will be held at Unity Church–Unitarian in St. Paul at 7:00 pm.

Host T. Mychael Rambo is excited at how everything has come together for this project: “I’m thrilled to be working with One Voice! Through its work, it gives a voice to those who might not otherwise be heard, and lets them share the great light of their souls. This program will enrich us all, and open hearts around the topic of HIV-AIDS.”

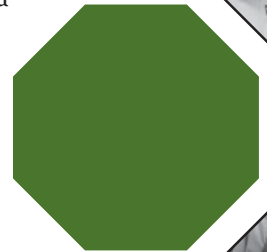
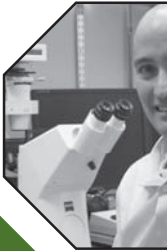
Participating AIDS organizations include: The Minnesota AIDS Project, Rural AIDS Action Network, The Aliveness Project, Building Bridges and the African American AIDS Task Force. Together, we’ll explore the continuing ways AIDS impacts our GLBTA community, but also African immigrants and the African American community as a whole.

We hope you’ll be able to attend—it promises to be not just an educational experience, but a profoundly moving one as well.

### Our Host, T. Mychael Rambo

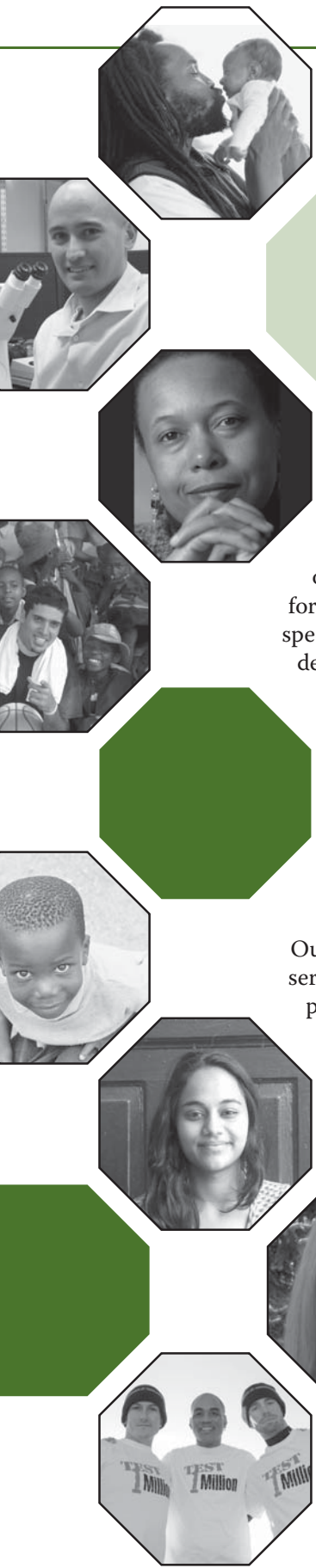


Actor, singer, AIDS activist, educator... T. Mychael Rambo is a true Renaissance man. His associations with the Twin Cities’ top theaters are legendary—including performances at the Penumbra Theatre, Guthrie, Park Square Theatre, Mixed Blood Theatre and others. He’s a notable singer whose most recent concert abroad, the Gershwins’ opera “Porgy and Bess” toured throughout France and Switzerland. In addition to his many performances, T. Mychael is an associate professor and recruitment coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts, Theatre Arts, and Dance at the University of Minnesota. For more info, visit [www.tmychael.com](http://www.tmychael.com).





“Am I? Are You?”  
“Am I? Are You?”  
“Am I? Are You?”



## Meet our Community Partners

The **African American AIDS Task Force** was instrumental in organizing and promoting this community forum. A powerful force in the community since 1995, its mission is to provide culturally specific prevention, education and services to people of African descent who are living with or at risk of HIV/AIDS. To learn more, visit [www.aaatf.org](http://www.aaatf.org).

In 1985, **The Aliveness Project** was founded by the HIV community with a mission: to provide men, women and children with a source of empowerment, services and support in their efforts to live well with HIV AIDS. Its services include hot meals, food shelf, complementary therapies, counseling and many other offerings. To learn more, visit [www.aliveness.org](http://www.aliveness.org).

Our “youngest” collaborator, **Building Bridges**, is a new non-profit primarily serving African immigrant women. The group brings a unique perspective, providing information on HIV-AIDS in the Minnesota African American and African immigrant communities.

For more than 25 years, the **Minnesota AIDS Project** has envisioned a world free of AIDS. In partnership with over 1,000 volunteers, it provides compassionate, confidential and non-discriminatory services, including practical, emotional and social support, to thousands of Minnesotans living with HIV. To learn more, visit [www.mnaidsproject.org](http://www.mnaidsproject.org).

**Rural AIDS Action Network** assists persons living with, affected by, and at risk for HIV in Greater Minnesota through a network of volunteers and professionals. RAAN also offers community meetings in most regions of the state, support programs, speakers, HIV-related referrals and resources, prevention education and volunteer support. To learn more, visit [www.raan.org](http://www.raan.org).



THE ALIVENESS PROJECT



## A Truly Dynamic Donor: John Sullivan

Asked when he became a One Voice fan, John Sullivan warmly replies, “Shannon Pierce and I were working together for the Human Rights Campaign when she invited me to a One Voice concert. I was immediately struck by what I heard—not just the incredible singing, but the powerful message that was rising up from the stage. This idea of changing the world through music absolutely inspired me.” He’s been a supporter ever since.

It was this commitment to One Voice’s music and mission that led John to present the Chorus with an extraordinary gift, allowing us to commission and premiere a major new work by composer Christopher Gable, *By the Fireside* (see opposite page). The work will be performed in collaboration with the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra and a local African percussion ensemble this December.

“This project resonated with me in so many ways,” he explains. “On the one hand, I’ve involved in the fight against AIDS for years—from serving on the Board of Grace House to the AIDS rides to Chicago. But I’ve also been a huge advocate of getting our community’s GLBT organizations to work together toward shared goals. We do this in the political arena, but fall short of that goal in the cultural arena.”

John sees this project as way to “build bridges,” not just within the GLBT community but between the GLBT community and the larger world. “This will be a great moment of unity that will transform all of us who experience it. It’s my sincere hope that this transformative moment will stay with us and lead everyone to say ‘look what we can accomplish by working together.’”

On behalf of the entire One Voice family and all our collaborators, thank you, John, for helping bring this powerful work of art to life.



## Your Support Is Appreciated

Over the last 20 years One Voice has tackled many important issues in our drive to build community and create social change—but we still have work to do! This year we explore issues of AIDS and the environment, and continue to fight against discrimination, bullying in schools and unequal access to marriage. Through our music and outreach, One Voice will continue to press for solutions to these and other problems. We invite you to support our mission with a donation made at our website, [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org). Thank you for your support.



## Outreach Efforts

On Thursday, April 23 One Voice will perform a day of environment-focused concerts throughout several metro area schools. If you know of a classroom or school (grades 4-12) that would be interested in hosting a concert, call the One Voice office at 651-298-1954!



## Meet the Composer

### A “Fireside Chat” with Christopher Gable

*In honor of World AIDS Day, One Voice and the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra commissioned a new work by local composer Christopher Gable, By the Fireside. The powerful new work, which examines issues of AIDS in both North America and Africa, receives its world premiere at our December concerts. Chris recently spoke to us about the piece:*



#### **As you began composing, what about the project really resonated with you?**

For one, this is an important date in history—the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day, this incredible moment when we as a global community really came together to face this terrible disease. I wanted to honor that history and all the great strides we’ve made, but to keep people from growing complacent. I also wanted to pay homage to what’s happening in Africa. It’s at the forefront of the battle with AIDS—that’s where this fight will be won or lost.

#### **Tell us about your vision for this piece.**

I was drawn to the image of fire and light as rich metaphors. For example, there is the wonderful tradition of fireside storytelling in Africa, where the elders share their acquired wisdom to future generations, that really spoke to me. I loved this image of community and heritage. To express this, I turned to a poem by Odia Ofeimun, the elder statesman of Nigerian poetry, that speaks of those gatherings. I was also moved by “Women and Children First,” by South African poet Ingrid De Kok, which specifically addresses the social impact of AIDS, the suspicion it breeds, the fraying of community ties. The work ends with a setting of the *Lux Aeterna* from the Requiem mass—a prayer for the recently deceased to be blessed by heaven’s eternal light. What a powerful image to envision the light of the soul rising up and mingle with the light of heaven!

#### **You’ve mentioned Africa often. How else is the spirit of Africa present?**

I’ve also scored the work with African percussion to give it authenticity. I’m thrilled that we’re going to collaborate with a local percussion group for the concert—it should really help bring together our communities.



#### **What do you hope to achieve with the work?**

I want this work to celebrate the victories against HIV/AIDS and build cross-cultural understanding. At the same time I hope it inspires us to action, as we still have so much to do in the global fight against AIDS.

*Southern California native Chris Gable currently teaches music theory and composition at Macalester College in St. Paul. His music has been performed across the country, from Los Angeles to Moose Lake, Minnesota, and frequently includes references to and variations of all kinds of popular music. He has written in many genres, including orchestra, band and chamber, but has a special love for vocal music.*

Don’t miss a beat—purchase your season tickets TODAY at [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org)!

# One Voice

## MIXED CHORUS

Minnesota's GLBTA Chorus

One Voice Mixed Chorus  
732 Holly Avenue, Suite Q  
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## Upcoming Events

### **The Face of AIDS Today**

Join us for a community forum featuring local AIDS organizations. Hosted by T. Mychael Rambo. Unity Church–Unitarian, St. Paul

**October 27, 2008, 7:00 pm**

\*\*\*FREE EVENT!!\*\*\*

### **Many Lives, One Song:**

#### **Hope for a World Beyond AIDS**

One Voice & Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra  
Hopkins High School Auditorium, Minnetonka

**December 5 and 6, 2008, 7:30 pm**

### **Spring Fever Cabaret & Silent Auction**

Zurah Shrine Center, Minneapolis

**April 4, 2009, 7:30 pm**

### **School Outreach Concerts**

One Voice performs in area schools  
in honor of Earth Day!

St. Paul and Mendota Heights

**April 23, 2009**

### **QMC Como Pride Concert**

Como Park Pavilion, St. Paul

**June 1, 2009, 7:00 pm**

\*\*\*FREE EVENT!!\*\*\*

### **Lavender Green:**

#### **Thinking Globally, Singing Locally**

History Theatre, St. Paul

**June 13, 2009, 7:30 pm**

**June 14, 2009, 3:30 pm**

You may have noticed that our performance calendar looks a bit different for our 2008-2009 Season. Our usual January concert has been moved to December in order to coincide with the World AIDS Day anniversary. Also note that **The Face of AIDS Today** community forum which was listed for November in our fall season mailer will occur on October 27. We hope to see you there!

For tickets, accessibility and other information,  
call us at 651.298.1954

or visit our website: [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org)

