

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



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## With One Voice

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One Voice in 1990 and today

1988 - 1989 - 1990 - 1991 - 1992 - 1993 - 1994 - 1995

## From the Artistic Director



I can hardly believe that this year marks One Voice's 20th anniversary—and my own 13th season with the group. How time flies! I was hired in mid-August of 1996 as the fifth Music Director for One Voice Mixed Chorus. Rehearsals were scheduled to start in three weeks, but

no music had been chosen or ordered, and I was informed that the chorus was lined up to perform in late September at the Guthrie! My initial anxiety decreased substantially when I discovered that we were singing in the Guthrie lobby and not on stage!

The mid-nineties were years of tremendous growth for One Voice on all fronts. The Board began to welcome members from outside the singing membership, and singers began embracing more diverse, global music. Better still, outreach became a central core of the One Voice mission. In searching through old files this week I discovered that our first outreach

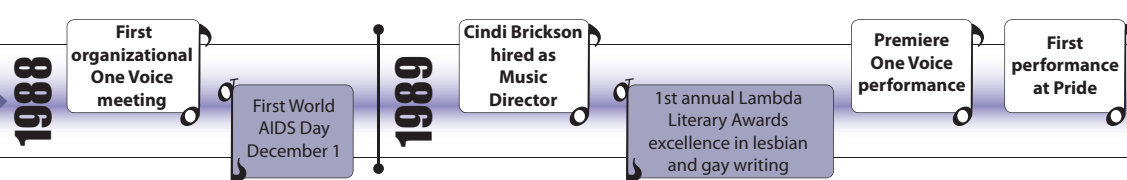
concerts in public schools occurred a decade ago, in the spring of 1998! Sixty singers took off work that day to perform in schools—and I had to convince the administration in each school to let us in the door to perform our songs about diversity and peace. A decade later we are not able to keep up with the many requests for performances that come our way; we performed 28 concerts last year alone.

Creating the timeline that runs through this issue provided a profound stroll down memory lane. In our two decades, One Voice has commissioned over 20 new compositions, performed over 250 concerts (many of them free) and has worked with dozens of incredible guest artists, schools, faith communities, collaborating organizations and arts groups. We thank you, our audience, for your part in keeping One Voice growing and strong.

See you in June for an incredible celebration of the past two decades!



## One Voice Mixed Chorus & GLBT TIMELINE



## A Chorus Is Born!

*Ah, the 1980s. Madonna had turned underwear into outerwear, Pac-Man ruled the arcade, and through his fundraising shenanigans, bedroom peccadilloes and over-the-top TV productions, Jim Bakker caused the word "charlatan" to lose all respectability.*

*But for the GLBT community, times were challenging—discrimination was rampant and the scourge of AIDS was rearing its head. Worst of all, the GLBT community was marginalized and divided. Paul Petrella, One Voice's founder, explains that this division made the foundation of a group like One Voice imperative:*

In the mid-1980s, as I was in the early stages of coming out as a gay man, I saw a problem: gay men and lesbian women stayed mostly separate, and there were few opportunities to find common ground and understand each other. I believed then, as I do now, that we could not make significant strides towards human rights for GLBT people unless we worked together. As a musician, I also knew the power of music and how it can move hearts and minds.

These realizations inspired me to create One Voice Mixed Chorus.

In December of 1987 I placed a classified ad in Equal Time (a GLBT newspaper), proposing the idea of a GLBT mixed chorus. Interestingly, a number of the people who called were actually not singers, but simply liked the idea of this kind of organization. In February I convened a meeting at Annie's Parlor in Uptown, inviting those who had responded to the ad, as well as some friends and colleagues who also expressed interest. One Voice was officially off the ground! We began rehearsing in the fall of 1988 and performed our first concert on March 4, 1989.

Our early years were a whirlwind. I served as Board Chair for the first three years, establishing the infrastructure of the organization, working to develop our board, singers, staff, volunteers, audience and donor base. Some highlights included hiring our first two conductors, and launching our very first fundraising campaign. I also worked with performer Ann Reed on our very first



Founder Paul Petrella

choral commission (Ann's first as well), which started a long-time association with Ann that continued for years into the future.

After taking a hiatus, I returned to sing in 2002 and also currently serve on the board of directors. It has been thrilling to perform

with the chorus again and an honor to serve in the leadership. In rehearsals, performances and business meetings, I see that One Voice has clearly become the bold, diverse, professional and dynamic organization I hoped it would be. It is wonderful to see so many people embrace opportunities to work together toward the common good through singing. Our musical selections are also a great source of pride for me. Not only do we entertain with a wide variety of genres in our performances, we partner a social justice message with musical excellence to bring our artistic endeavors to the highest level possible.

Happy Birthday One Voice!  
May you have many more!

## Foundation & Sponsors

- 1990** First commission: One Voice by Ann Reed
- 1991** MN Court of Appeals awards guardianship of Sharon Kowalski, a lesbian injured in a car crash, to her partner
- 1992** First GALA Festival participation: Denver, Colorado
- 1993** Levi Strauss & Co. makes domestic partners of gay and lesbian employees eligible for health insurance coverage
- 1993** One Voice ads "Bi" to its mission statement
- 1993** Tony Kushner's Angels in America wins the Tony Award



One Voice at State Capitol on Lobby Day

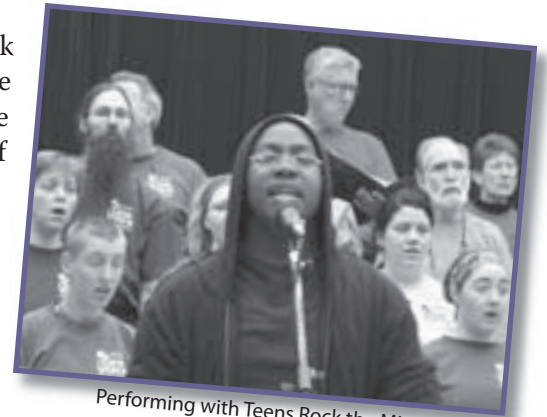
## Celebrating 20 Years of Outreach

One of the ways One Voice stands out in a crowded field of community choirs is its strong commitment to outreach. In the 2006-2007 season alone, we performed 28 concerts across the region, including our first-ever tour to Canada. Over the past two decades, One Voice has performed in rural communities, churches, schools, senior centers—as the song says, “we’re everywhere!”

The rewards for this work are immense. Not only have we brought hope and healing to our listeners’ lives, we have inspired people to see the world in new ways and to build more welcoming communities. And of course, we’ve shown them a rip-roaring good time.

We’d like to celebrate this commitment to outreach by sharing a few memories with our supporters.

*“Dear One Voice, Thank you for coming to our school today. I especially like the dancing! You were right, that song did make me want to snap and clap!” —Sue, Twin Cities Friends School (elementary student)*



Performing with Teens Rock the Mic

*“The collaboration provided our students a real life opportunity to take a stand for justice. We teach peace and ethics every day. The collaboration gave our students a unique opportunity to walk the talk. Most importantly, having raised a son who is gay, I was fully aware of the collaboration’s tremendous potential for good in the lives of young people.”  
— Dr. Karen J. Rusthoven, Principal of Community of Peace Academy (St. Paul’s East Side neighborhood)*



Assistant Director AP Hopper on tour in Iowa

*“I saw your bus pull in and felt overwhelming excitement. Then, when your singing began it ripped into my very soul. It called up in me one of the deepest joys and a most powerful connection to the human consciousness. The tears would not stop along with a deep sense of pride. Thank you for coming out to Greater Minnesota - for being seekers of change and creators of awareness. Today you bestowed many gifts on this community. Your being in Marshall, MN was simply meant to be. I am a grateful, re-energized PFLAG mom on the prairies and I plan to see you perform again.”*

*—a PFLAG mom in Marshall, Minnesota*



With Community of Peace Academy choir

*“I have very different feelings now than I did before. At first, I thought it was going to be a bit unusual to hang out and sing with them (One Voice). But by talking with them (One Voice) and getting to know them, I learned that they are just a bunch of normal, very friendly adults! It was a great experience getting to work with One Voice.”*

*—Student at Central High School, St. Paul*

1994

Tom Hanks wins an Academy Award for his role in Philadelphia

1995

One Voice sings at **Holidazzle**

Bill Clinton signs an executive order forbidding the federal government from denying security clearances based on sexual orientation

1996

Jane Ramseyer Miller hired as Artistic Director

Rent opens on Broadway

Mission statement identifying One Voice as a gay/lesbian chorus is changed to Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual & Transgender

## An Anniversary Concert 20 Years in the Making

Goofy, soulful, exuberant, healing, campy, passionate—One Voice is all of these together. So it comes as no surprise that our 20th birthday bash mixes all these elements in a concert that honors our past while looking ahead to another two decades of expert music-making, community outreach and positive social change. **Old New Borrowed Q: Celebrating 20 Years!** really is a concert with something for everyone!

In creating this anniversary program Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller wanted to include retrospective audience favorites, but also wanted to illustrate the ways GLBT culture has changed in two decades—and how One Voice has helped make those positive changes happen.



Divas Darcy Juhl rehearses her solo for *Musical Risotto*

Naturally, a party needs special guests, and this concert has them in abundance. Hosting the evening is Dan Chouinard, a musician and storyteller made famous by his appearances on Minnesota Public Radio. Throughout the evening, Chouinard will use his trademark humor and trusty accordion to weave stories of the chorus' history into the program. Kairos Dance joins One Voice for two numbers, including a vivid portrayal of a Brazilian rain forest. And in a special treat, One Voice alumni singers join the Chorus for the first set finale.



Solo coaching with Jane; percussion ensemble for *Três cantos nativos*; One Voice Dancing



## A Man and His Accordion

One Voice extends a warm welcome to Dan Chouinard, who serves as host for our 20th anniversary extravaganza. Dan has been working diligently with One Voice singers to compile and write the chorus' history, which he'll present at the concert. Dan explains his enthusiasm for the project: "What a privilege it's been to sit back and listen to these inspiring stories so familiar to GLBT people—the struggle for identity, respect, freedom and community—and to be reminded of the special power of music to forge bonds, ease pains and lift spirits."

1997

First SOLD OUT concert: *Faerie Home Companion*. One Voice founder Paul Petrella was turned away at the door because he didn't buy a ticket in advance!

1998

Fifth Section emerges: Our non-singing volunteers

Matthew Sheppard murdered in Wyoming

1999

60 singers perform first concert in St. Paul schools

Website launched: ovmc.org

*The Hours* wins Pulitzer Prize (novel about AIDS)

Commission by deaf composer Wendy Harbour



## What should audience members expect? Well...



Selections from "West Side Story": *I Feel Pretty*, *Maria*, and the One Voice dancers "rumble"

### WHAT'S

## old

In a nod to its past, One Voice presents several beloved works from previous seasons, including the popular *We Rise Again*, and the return of "choralography" and One Voice dancers. We're also thrilled to welcome back our alumni singers (none of whom, of course, could ever be considered "old"!).

### WHAT'S

## new

One Voice is proud to present the world premiere of a new work by Minneapolis composer Craig Carnahan, *It is the Song*. This work, which perfectly encapsulates One Voice's mission, will be performed later this July with a massed chorus comprised of 14 mixed choruses at the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) conference in Miami. Plus, *I am Flying*, sung in Mandarin Chinese to the accompaniment of hand-clapping, champagne cork-popping and other wild effects.

### WHAT'S

## borrowed

Besides the "borrowed" members of Kairos Dance, One Voice is excited to present the ballad *One Voice*, written by Ruth Moody of the Wailin' Jennys. "Singin' with love and the will to trust... this is the sound of one voice." Based on their overwhelming success, can you blame us?

### WHAT'S



Our very own *West Side Story* medley with a GLBT twist! *Distinctions*, by local composer and One Voice singer Kevin Wojahn, looks at the constructs of gender identity. And of course, our ongoing commitment to the GLBT community.

celebrating  
**20**  
years!

## Welcome Back, Kairos Dance!

Kairos Dance joined One Voice on stage for our 2005 Building Bridges collaboration, and the chorus and dancers will perform two audience favorites from that concert this June. Founded in 1999 by Artistic Director Maria DuBois Genné, Kairos is an intergenerational dance company committed to sharing the joy of dance and unleashing its power to nurture and heal. Its award-winning "Dancing Heart" program improves flexibility, energy, balance, memory and socialization of older, frail adults through movement, dance and storytelling—transforming lives through movement and story. For more information, visit [www.kairosdance.org](http://www.kairosdance.org).



Kairos Dancers Jesse & Moses  
photo by: MMNelson

|      |  |      |   |      |  |
|------|--|------|---|------|--|
| 2000 | OVation, our traveling ensemble, is formed       | 2001 | Songs of the Soul is released! Our 1st CD!                                    | 2002 | Homosexuality is decriminalized in China |
|      | Vermont, 1st U.S. state to legalize civil unions |      | The Netherlands is 1st country to grant same-sex couples full marriage rights |      | Concert with In The Heart of the Beast   |

## Leaving a Legacy of Music and Social Change

For 20 years, One Voice has pursued its mission of building community and creating social change by raising its voice in song. And through those years, the financial support of our donors has made this possible. We're humbled by your generosity, and honored to acknowledge your gifts in our program books.

Some gifts, however, are going unrecognized.

Recently, several donors have notified us that they are including One Voice in their **estate planning**, and we would like to honor these deeply personal gifts. In this historic season, One Voice is inaugurating a **new planned giving club** that recognizes donors who provide for the chorus in their wills or estate plans.

**Please contact the One Voice office today if you have made estate plans**—we will provide you with special recognition in our programs and invite you to special events during the season in honor of your generosity.



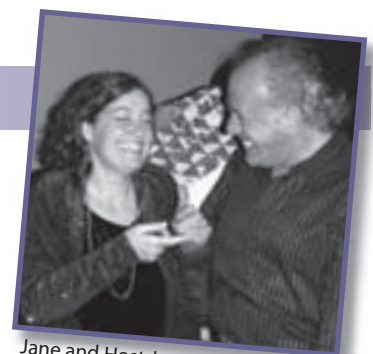
If you have not done so already, you are cordially invited to consider leaving a lasting legacy for America's largest GLBTA chorus—your gift to future generations could be planned now. Contact Scott Chamberlain, Development & Public Relations Manager at 651-298-1954 or [DevPR@ovmc.org](mailto:DevPR@ovmc.org) for information.

## Support One Voice's mission — We're not done yet!

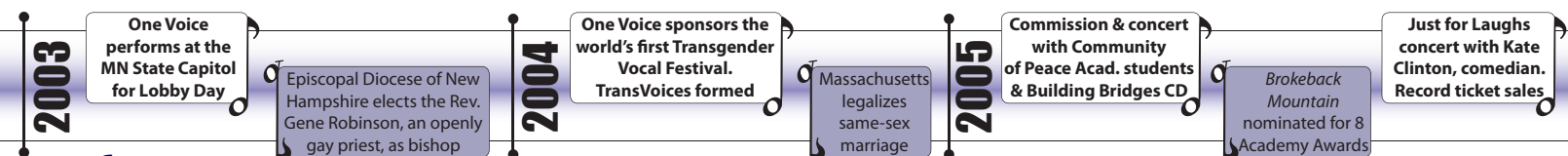
As we celebrate our achievements over the last 20 years, we don't want to lose sight of the fact that we still have work to do. For example, GLBT students are much more likely to experience bullying in our schools than their straight counterparts, and domestic partners still do not have equal access to employer health benefits. Despite fading from the headlines, AIDS remains a deadly problem around the world. Through its music and outreach, One Voice will continue to press for solutions to these problems. We invite you to support our mission with a donation made at our website, [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org). Thank you!

## An Electrifying Cabaret!

Microphones were blazing as One Voice presented its fabulous Spring Fever Cabaret, hosted once again by the inimitable Jerry Rubino. The annual fundraiser, which brings in roughly 10 percent of One Voice's annual budget, was a huge success both artistically and financially—bringing in \$27,000 and surpassing its goal by roughly \$3,000. Thank you to everyone who helped make this event an absolute blockbuster!



Jane and Host Jerry Rubino share a lighter moment at the cabaret





## Walking down Memory Lane



PDQ Bach

One Voice has had its share of wacky moments over the years. Who can forget:

Arriving for our February 1990 concert and finding the venue locked up tight. With 15 minutes until curtain, what else to do but to break into the building—thereby setting off the security alarms—and filing directly on stage while the frozen audience members took their seats?



One Voice celebrates gay marriage

Preparing for the dance portion of the program and discovering our intrepid choreographer had vastly miscalculated the amount of space available on stage, causing multiple collisions and portions of the chorus to literally fall off the stage.



In The Heart of the Beast

A shy young tenor emerging on stage for a 2004 performance scantily clad with a harness and collar.

The first dancer in a line suddenly losing her footing, falling backwards and starting a domino-like collapse... much to the delight of the audience.



Remember the Church Ladies?

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**2006** Heartbeat concert with One Voice & Mu Daiko taiko drum ensemble

**2007** Record ticket sales (1,200+) for Reclaiming Faith: In the Spirit of Justice, 4 faith communities across metro

The 1st ever gay pride parade in a Muslim country

**2008** One Voice performs Uncommon Light with Central High School & guest conductor, Vance George

Old New Borrowed Q with Dan Chouinard

**So much more to come!**



One Voice Mixed Chorus  
732 Holly Avenue, Suite Q  
St. Paul, MN 55104-7125  
Address correction requested

## Upcoming Events

**May 4, 2008, 3 pm**

### **OVation in Concert**

St. Luke Presbyterian Church  
3121 Groveland School Rd., Minnetonka  
FREE CONCERT

**June 2, 2008, 7 pm**

### **QMC (Queer Music Consortium) Pride Concert**

Como Park Pavillion  
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

**June 29, 2008, 10 am**

### **OVation opens Pride Parade**

Grandstand  
Hennepin and 9th St., Minneapolis

**June 30, 2008, 12 noon**

### **OVation Celebrates Pride!**

Hennepin County Government Center  
300 S. 6th St., Minneapolis

**July 7, 2008, 8 – 9 pm**

### **GALA Send-off Concert**

Unity Church-Unitarian  
732 Holly Ave., St. Paul  
FREE CONCERT  
A preview of our Miami concert!

**July 12-19, 2008**

### **GALA Festival VIII in Miami**

Carnival Center for the Performing Arts  
Miami, Florida

**September 21, 2008**

### **OVation in Concert**

Sundin Hall  
1536 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul



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