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732 Holly Ave.
Suite Q
St. Paul, MN
55104-7125

651-298-1954
info@ovmc.org
www.ovmc.org



ARTISTIC & EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Jane Ramseyer
Miller

DEVELOPMENT & PUBLIC
RELATIONS MANAGER

Scott Chamberlain

OPERATIONS MANAGER

Tom Becker

OVATION COACH

Randi Grundahl
Rexroth

ACCOMPANIST

W. Bryce Hayes



With One Voice

EDITOR

Scott Chamberlain

DESIGNER

James Gottfried

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Brian Geving
Scott Chamberlain
James Gottfried
Brad Hanson
Katrina Johnson

From the Artistic Director



Six weeks ago I found myself up to my eyeballs in details for our upcoming concert and outreach tour to St. Cloud: planning rehearsal schedules with our partner synagogue choirs and guest cellist Janet Horvath, research at the Tretter GLBT archive and one more call to the musicologist at the Holocaust Museum in Washington DC.

I woke up in the middle of the night remembering my summer planning meeting at St. Cloud State when staff at the LGBT studies program asked “do you think we’ll need security guards for this concert?” That sleepless morning I thought “why didn’t I program something fluffy and simple...like show tunes.”

Fast forward six weeks. The morning after our recent November elections I was struck by the power of individual voices; it was not our governing bodies but individuals who voted for or against our rights as GLBT people. In Maine voters overturned the state’s marriage equality law. But, in the small city of Kalamazoo, MI *individual* voters said YES, expanding their anti-discrimination law to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

I put down the paper and grinned. Ah, THIS is why we are traveling to St. Cloud rather than just

selling tickets in our home town. THIS is why we sing for over 1000 school kids each spring. THIS is why we are performing a concert that challenges assumptions, reveals the power of fear, and compels individuals to act.

Over a year ago I began researching music and stories for **Unsilenced. GLBT and Jewish Voices of the Holocaust**. I collected music that had been banned by the Nazis and searched for music from the camps that had some connection to the experience of GLBT individuals. Among the horrific accounts I discovered stories of incredible resilience and resistance from individuals; it is these stories that we hope will prod and inspire our audiences in our upcoming January concerts.

This spring One Voice explores another first – a concert designed for kids that celebrates differences, challenges bullying and encourages kids to speak out in support of diversity. **Different is Good GREAT!** will premier with five elementary school concerts in April and will culminate in June with concerts for kids and their adult friends at the Heart of the Beast Theatre in Minneapolis.

We look forward to seeing you in the audience for a powerful One Voice concert season!

Thank-you One Voice Friends!

Last spring One Voice projected an \$18,000 deficit by our fiscal year end in July. Volunteers planned fundraising events, One Voice staff took a salary reduction and donors stepped up to offset the loss from foundation support. These efforts resulted in a closely balanced budget by the end of July! A huge thanks to all who made this possible.

Go Green!

One Voice is now offering an electronic version of our **With One Voice** newsletter. Save a tree and “Go Green” by simply sending us an e-mail with your full name so we can find you in our database: info@ovmc.org or visit www.ovmc.org

One Voice Reaches OUT to St. Cloud



Axel Thiemer and Jane at our choral clinic

Short, but oh so sweet—that’s perhaps the best way to describe One Voice’s November 8-9, 2009 outreach concerts in St. Cloud, MN. After an early appearance at the *One Voice, Many Hearts* breakfast, 93 chorus members (including seven One Voice kids and 12 “Roadies”) piled into two buses and arrived at noon to enjoy a master-class clinic with conductor Dr. Axel Thiemer from St. John’s University. As singer Darcy Juhl remarked, “I feel so incredibly lucky to have the chance—as an amateur singer in a community chorus—to interact with Minnesota’s top conductors. I’m so grateful that One Voice makes these clinics a priority.”

After a welcome dinner hosted by St. Cloud State’s LGBT Resource Center and the Center for Genocide and Holocaust Studies, One Voice gave a powerful performance of **Unsilenced. GLBT and Jewish Voices of the Holocaust**. One student attended the concert as part of a class and excitedly took notes throughout. He was deeply moved by the music, especially the solo cello which “captured the pain of the people in the camps so perfectly.”

Audience members repeatedly told singers that they were amazed at the musical and emotional journey they experienced, ranging from defiance to grief, resilience and hope. One young college student must be crowned our biggest fan—she refused to leave without getting everyone’s autograph and a photo with Jane!



Performance at First United Methodist Church

Sunday brought One Voice to the First United Methodist Church where Pastor Meier essentially turned our concert into their morning worship service, changed the time of their worship service to accommodate us, and threw out all the stops to serve a massive potluck lunch with nearly the entire congregation in attendance.

Accompanist Bryce ate lunch with a family that included two “cool” teenage boys and enjoyed conversation about their studies and sports endeavors. Their dad pulled



One Voice kids sharing breakfast



Singers arrive at Stewart Hall on the university campus



**“We’re One Voicers.
We’re not afraid to venture outside the lines.”**
*–Singer who took a “short cut” to get out of the
 labyrinth outside First United Methodist*

**“It was really important to me that
 both of my kids could experience
 your concert today.”**
–St. Cloud dad



Bryce aside at the dessert table and said, “It was really important to me that both of my kids could experience your concert today. In case either of them have questions about their own identity, I wanted them to see a really positive representation of the GLBT community.”

Even our bus drivers got into the community spirit attending each of our concerts and joining the chorus for meals. Benjamin accidentally left his music folder on the bus and the driver mailed his music with a note: “Hi Ben, I hope this music gets to you OK. I had a great time chauffeuring the chorus to St. Cloud. I hope that One Voice uses our company again and chooses me to drive!”

Lest anyone think that education is not needed in our fine state, a youth minister reported that before we arrived she met with her 7th and 8th graders to describe the One Voice GLBT chorus that was coming to sing. She asked, “Do you know what GLBT stands for?” Apparently the best answer they could come up with was, “Is that the good or the bad cholesterol?”



Our amazing cellist, Molly Wilbur-Cohen



One of our fans got autographs and photos with her favorite chorus!



Brad and John snuggle on the bus



St. Cloud greeted us with warm sunshine and a campus full of possibilities



January 30 and 31, 2010

The Nazis tried to silence them, but their music and stories live on. This January, One Voice presents **UNsilenced. GLBT and Jewish Voices of the Holocaust**, a concert of hope and resistance. Through music ranging from Berlin cabaret tunes and Gershwin to songs written in the camps, One Voice tells the story of the GLBT and Jewish communities under the shadow of the Third Reich. Special guests for this project include cellist Janet Horvath, musicians David Harris and Cantor Sarah Lipsett-Allison, local synagogues Congregation Shir Tikvah and Bet Shalom Congregation, and the Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies archive at the University of Minnesota—the largest collection of GLBT Holocaust materials outside of Berlin. In addition to the musical performances, each concert includes dramatic lobby displays of Holocaust materials provided by the Tretter GLBT Collection, and post-concert discussions with performers and community leaders on the continuing significance of the Holocaust.

“Creating this concert has been an amazing journey, both emotionally and musically,” says Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller. “The music and stories express the full range of human emotions, from the frivolity of pre-war Berlin so vividly portrayed in cabaret music, to the steely determination immortalized in the songs of the camps and resistance movements. Although originating from a place of deep tragedy the music leaves the listener with a profound sense of hope, strength and resilience.”

David Harris, Music Director at Shir Tikvah, believes this concert is urgently needed: “I’m so grateful that One Voice is taking this project on, and that we can be a part of it. For me, what’s particularly valuable about this experience is the unity it will forge—these two vibrant communities, who shared a parallel fate at the hands of the Nazis, will come together, learn from each other and help each other heal.”

Janet Horvath, featured Soloist



Janet Horvath, Associate Principal Cello and frequent soloist with the Minnesota Orchestra, will be the featured soloist for the *Holocaust Cantata*. Horvath is the daughter of Holocaust survivors, and in addition to offering her skill as a consummate cello player, she will share stories of her parents—particularly of her musician father, who was interred at a labor camp in Yugoslavia. Horvath explains, “Music saved his life after the war. He played approximately 200 concerts in displaced persons camps across Bavaria over a period of two years. He also gave solo recitals for Jewish organizations in Munich that were trying to give hope to survivors, all while waiting for exit visas for he and my mother to start a new life away from the horrors of Europe.”

Horvath, a noted author who has written extensively on issues of medical problems among performing artists, is currently preparing a book on music from the Holocaust, particularly emphasizing how the arts can be used as a bridge to greater understanding between cultures, as the next generation—the living witnesses—go forward. More: minnesotaorchestra.com.



Special Guests for Unsilenced

The Jean-Nickolaus Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies houses over 30,000 items in a wide variety of media, is international in scope and holds the largest collection of GLBT Holocaust materials outside of Berlin. More: special.lib.umn.edu/rare/trotter.phtml.

Since 1981, Bet Shalom has been a Jewish congregation dedicated to the principles of the Reform Movement. As an extension of Jewish life in our homes, Bet Shalom strives to be a warm and welcoming family of friends—its congregation is sensitive to the need for inclusion of both traditional and non-traditional family structures and welcomes individuals and families who are committed to preserving a Jewish way of life. More: www.betshalom.org.

Shir Tikvah’s roots go back to 1988, when several dozen people founded a new synagogue in the spirit of liberal Judaism that welcomes and encourages the participation of individuals and families from a variety of Jewish lifestyles. Shir Tikvah is particularly sensitive to the need for inclusion of both traditional and nontraditional family structures and for the development of an appropriately inclusive ritual life. More: www.shirtikvah.net.



Jane Ramseyer Miller with our partners: David Harris, Music Director of Shir Tikvah, and Sarah Lipsett-Allison, Cantor at Bet Shalom

A concert highlight is Donald McCullough’s *Holocaust Cantata*, a powerful 13-movement work for SATB chorus, soloists, piano and solo cello with text written by prisoners incarcerated in Nazi concentration camps. One Voice has commissioned McCullough to compose an additional movement for his cantata highlighting stories of GLBT individuals in the Holocaust.

Unsilenced also includes songs by GLBT and Jewish composers impacted by the Holocaust, German cabaret music that was a focal point for the GLBT community in Berlin, and contemporary songs. The concert features Kurt Weill’s *Kiddush*; *Dicke Luft*, a song commissioned by a gay man interred at Sachsenhausen and paid for with an extra ration of bread; and *The Lavender Song*, a composition from 1920s Weimar Berlin that became the first gay anthem for the emerging homosexual movement in Germany.

Educational elements are included in the concert as well, with stories of the Holocaust told through readings that put a human face on the experience and set the context for the songs. Among the individuals highlighted is Frieda Belinfante, who was doubly persecuted for being a Jewish lesbian. Frieda was a cellist and conductor in Amsterdam who became a leader in the Dutch resistance, risking her life by forging records for Jews and destroying Nazi archives.

Don’t miss this powerful concert, which takes place on January 30, 2010, at 7:30 pm, and January 31, 2010, at 3:30 pm at Hopkins High School Auditorium in Minnetonka. Ticket prices range from \$18 to \$25, or \$10 for students and seniors; tickets are available at One Voice’s website, www.ovmc.org.



One Voice Commission Premiere January 2010

As part of our **Unsilenced** concerts, One Voice has commissioned Donald McCullough, composer of *Holocaust Cantata*, to write an additional movement and narrative text that addresses the experience of GLBT prisoners in the Holocaust. The commission is based on the song *Dicke Luft* by Aleksander Kulisiewicz.



Donald McCullough

Shortly after the war broke out, Kulisiewicz was arrested and sent to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp near Berlin. Kulisiewicz, an amateur singer and songwriter, composed 54 songs during his nearly six years of imprisonment. Performed at secret gatherings and imbued with biting wit and subversive attitude, these songs helped inmates cope with their hunger and despair, raised morale, and offered hope of survival.

In 1943 Kulisiewicz was approached by a gay prisoner: "He hired me to write a camp foxtrot, rousing and full of energy, to be used at one of the clandestine gay dances." The gay man requesting the song asked for the title, Dicke Luft [or "trouble's brewing"] which was the code-word used at Sachsenhausen when authorities threatened to break up a liaison between homosexual inmates. Kulisiewicz's commission fee was one-and-a-half portions of bread.



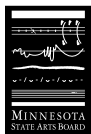
Aleksander Kulisiewicz

Please join us at **Unsilenced** for the world premiere of this powerful commission.

Federal Grant Awarded to One Voice!

One Voice was one of 13 Minnesota arts organizations awarded a federal grant through The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act; more than 150 Minnesota arts organizations applied. The grant preserves nonprofit arts jobs threatened by the economic downturn. We are deeply grateful to the State Arts Board, Arts Midwest and the National Endowment for this award!

FOUNDATIONS & SPONSORS



Rimon: The Minnesota Jewish Arts Council



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Upcoming Events

Unsilenced. GLBT and Jewish Voices of the Holocaust

January 30, 2010 – 7:30 pm

January 31, 2010 – 3:30 pm

Hopkins High School Auditorium
2400 Lindbergh Dr, Minnetonka

One Voice Auditions

February 8 and 9, 2010

Unity Church Unitarian
732 Holly Avenue, St. Paul

Out in Our Schools

April 16, 2010

A day of in-school performances

- Community of Peace Academy
- Paul and Sheila Wellstone Elementary

Spring Fever! Cabaret and Auction

April 17, 2010

Zuhrah Shrine Center
2540 Park Ave. S., Minneapolis

Different is Good GREAT! A Family Concert

June 4, 2010

June 5, 2010

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre
1500 East Lake St., Minneapolis
FREE for youth and seniors!

Tickets and information

651.298.1954

www.ovmc.org

