

*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



Amidst the steady steam of bad news about the arts in Minnesota, a friend of One Voice asked how the chorus is doing financially. I had just come from budgeting meetings where we projected an \$18,000 deficit for our current fiscal year, due to declining foundation support. For a small organization like ours, those numbers are enough to keep me awake at night... and the experts say next year will be even worse. She chided me, "Jane, you need to tell us about this deficit; we can help."

So, prompted by her wise advice I'm writing to let you know that One Voice, like many non-profit organizations, needs your financial support. In reality, the projects which most closely align with our mission—performances in schools and outreach concerts—are performed free of charge and are not revenue generating. Hiring a school bus to take our singers into St. Paul schools, for example, costs over \$500. But our outreach has never been so important. In her April 16 column in *The New York Times*, Judith Warner discussed how bullying remains a pervasive problem in our schools, illustrating her point with the case of Carl Joseph Walker-

Hoover, an 11-year-old boy who hanged himself after months of being hounded by his classmates for being gay. Oklahoma teacher Debra Taylor was just fired for using *The Laramie Project* in her classes. We are committed to continuing these outreach programs, and we need your help to do it.

So here's the challenge. In this economy, I'm not asking you to give what you gave last year. I'm asking you to consider giving more! Here are some specific ways you can support One Voice:

- Pledge a small monthly donation for the next 3 to 5 years.
- Make a one-time donation this May or June
- Host a house party and invite guests to make a donation to One Voice. We'll supply promo materials and a short DVD that highlights our outreach work.
- Purchase tickets to our June 13 and 14 concerts and bring lots of friends!
- Purchase CDs on our website and give them away as gifts.

Thanks for your support and we look forward to seeing you at one of our many events in the next two months!

## Building Community in our Community

One Voice is committed to bringing its music and message out to the broader community, and this year is no exception—in fact, it promises to be a busy spring of outreach concerts! On May 3, One Voice performs at Unity Church—Unitarian in St. Paul at 9:00 am and 11:00 am, before joining In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre at 3:30 pm at Powderhorn Park in Minneapolis in a celebration of May Day. In addition, One Voice performs in the Queer Music Consortium's annual Pride concert at the Como Park Pavilion at 7:00 pm on June 1. All these events are free, so come out and hear us sing!



# **OUT in the SCHOOLS**

*“This was fun, they’re the best singers ever!”*

*“Me gustan mucho los lobos, son muy bravos!”* [I liked the wolf-howls, they were scary!]  
—students at Wellstone Elementary

Clearly, the critics were happy—even if they were only 7 years old.

What sparked these raves? It was all part of One Voice’s **OUT in our Schools** program, an annual educational outreach where singers take the day off to perform in St. Paul area schools. This year One Voice sang at Paul and Sheila Wellstone Elementary, Humboldt Junior High and Community of Peace Academy, honoring Earth Day with music that celebrates the natural world and urges us to be better caretakers of it. Best of all, student choirs from each school got to join with One Voicers on stage!



It’s a fun, rewarding day that gets to the very heart of One Voice’s mission. Through the shared experience of making music, One Voice breaks down negative stereotypes of GLBT people and develops understanding across differences. Artistic Director Ramseyer Miller explains, “Simply sharing who we are and presenting ourselves as positive role models of GLBT people has a transformative affect in young people’s lives—a fact that is made clear every time we sing in schools.”

This year’s students, teachers and school administrators were equally enthusiastic. John Sorlien, music teacher at Community of Peace Academy enthused, “One Voice is a group of heroes—you devote yourselves to making a difference in the world song by song. Out of all the schools you could have chosen for this program, I’m thrilled you chose to come here!”

It was particularly serendipitous to sing at Humboldt Junior High, which is transforming into a green school. Spanish teacher Paula Boe remarked, “I had no idea





**Thank you to our amazing photographer**  
 A special thank-you to our amazing photographer, Shelly Campbell, who followed us throughout the day.

what kind of reception you'd get from the students. But I was amazed how much they focused on you—let me tell you, you really reached them.” Singer Lisette Schlosser concurred: “There was one rather overactive student in front of me who snapped to attention once we began singing. He joined in with the wind effects in *Miqmack Honour Song*, and as we left he was singing the final chorus of *O Colored Earth* right on pitch!”

At Wellstone Elementary, roughly 750 young listeners packed the gym. In a particularly poignant moment of cross-cultural bonding, a small Somali girl approached singer Darcy Juhl and shyly whispered that her favorite song was *Bismallah*, an Arabic blessing, because she already knew it.



Happily, this program is as big a hit with the singers as it is with the students. “I’m so glad to have taken part in this,” said Colleen Watson, flushing with pride when the day was done. “This is exactly where we needed to be and exactly what we need to be doing. We made a difference in people’s lives today. In talking with students after we sang at Humboldt, I mentioned there are some schools where we wouldn’t be allowed in at all. The young woman responded emphatically, ‘That is their loss. *Theirs!*’ With support like that, I’m ready to go right back out there and do it again.”

Rest assured that One Voice most certainly will.

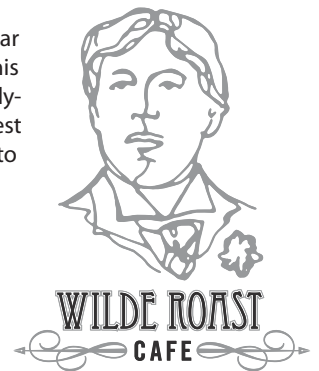
## THANK YOU Wild Roast Cafe!

It’s easy for Dean Schlaak and Tom DeGree, owners of Wilde Roast Cafe in Minneapolis, to feel a connection to One Voice. According to Tom, “The café has a mission very close to One Voice’s—building community. One Voice is doing it with voices; we’re doing it by providing a safe meeting space where a full mix of people is welcome.”

But the **OUT in our Schools** project has a particular resonance for them, particularly for Tom who is in his 17th year teaching for the St. Paul Public Schools. He explains, “The environmental concerts fit my beliefs on several levels: this past year I have been helping Humboldt transform into an environmentally-focused school, so the music fit right in. But more, I believe that the best way to change people is to educate them—kids need to see GLBT people to understand that we are not any different from their families. I’m thrilled One Voice is reaching out to students like this!”



In a show of support, Wilde Roast supplied free lunches to all the singers taking part in OUT in our Schools. Anyone who has sampled the Wilde Roast menu can imagine how happy we were! Want to know more about Wilde Roast? Visit [www.wilderost.com](http://www.wilderost.com).



# Lavender Green

Thinking Globally, Singing Locally

Compost? *Compost?*  
Who in their right mind sings about compost?

Well, One Voice and OVation, for starters. And why not? What a perfect metaphor for both springtime and One Voice's mission of nurturing, transformative social change. As humble as it might be, compost is a fecund symbol for the important work One Voice does with each and every concert.

It is no surprise, then, that the idea of regeneration, and compost itself, take on starring roles at One Voice's upcoming concert, **Lavender Green: Thinking Globally, Singing Locally**. For the June 13 and 14 program, the chorus blends humor and thoughtfulness to celebrate the grandeur of nature, honor the work of GLBT environmentalists and explore ways we all can be better stewards of our planet. As part of the fun, Eureka Recycling joins us as a collaborative partner to create interactive, family-friendly lobby displays that illustrate the steps we can all take to help save the Earth—one composted banana peel at a time.

In a special treat, children's choirs from Shir Tikvah, Unity Church—Unitarian, and Mayflower UCC join One Voice on stage for four selections to close the first set.

Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller explains



Jane and composer Abbie Betinis at rehearsal



the importance of the environmental topic: "In recent years the environmental movement has made enormous strides and is now visible in mainstream thought within our homes, schools and communities. Many GLBT individuals honed their activist skills on issues of GLBT rights and social change and now are playing a significant role as leaders in the environmental movement. I'm excited to present this concert, incorporating the innocence of children's voices and our own trademark humor to celebrate how far we have come and to remember the critical importance of building welcoming—and sustainable—communities."

**Lavender Green** features a wide range of musical styles and eras, ranging from the 1700s to today. St. Paul-based composers have a place of honor in the concert; *O Colored Earth* by Steve Heitzig pays tribute to the sacredness of all life, and *Spell of the Elements* by Abbie Betinis honors the four elements (fire, air, water and earth) and mirrors the pagan practice of calling the four directions. In addition, local composers J. David Moore and Peter Berryman take a hilarious look at recycling and the state of our



Robin Keck demonstrates Harmonic Whirlies

## Eureka's Tips for Composting

Many home and yard materials can be composted: leaves, grasses, non-woody shrub trimmings or twigs less than 1/4 inch in diameter, faded flowers, weeds, plants remaining at the end of the gardening season, straw, coffee grounds, eggshells, fruit and vegetable scraps, shredded newspaper, small amounts of wood ash, and sawdust can all be added to your backyard bin. Don't forget such items as dryer lint and paper towels—they break down in a jiffy as well!



environment in their works *Be Careful, Don't Tear the Paper* and *Why Am I Painting the Living Room?* Joseph Haydn's *Come Lovely Spring* is a classical work celebrating the goddesses of spring. Traditional music is featured in *I Been in de Storm*, a spiritual arranged as a tribute to the survivors of hurricane Katrina and *Mi'kmac Honor Song*, which incorporates Native American chants in honor of the Creator. Sarah Hopkins' *Many Lives, Many Songs* draws on the musical traditions of her native Australia, featuring overtone singing and harmonic "whirlies." Eric Whitacre's *Cloudburst*, a setting a poem by Octavio Paz, uses handbells and percussion to imitate the sound of an approaching storm. The children's choirs join in for Heitzig's *O Colored Earth* and an inspiring arrangement of the standard *What a Wonderful World*. **Lavender Green** concludes with *To Make a Prairie*, a simple setting of a poem by Emily Dickinson, and *An Exhortation*, a brand-new composition by David Conte based on President Obama's acceptance speech on November 4, 2008.

In keeping with the environmental theme, **the concert will be green**: all tickets will be provided electronically and the concert program will be projected on stage above the singers. Eureka is also working with the History Theatre staff to ensure zero-waste concessions (all materials will be recycled or composted).

Don't miss this concert, which takes place at the History Theatre in St. Paul on Saturday, June 13 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, June 14 at 3:30 pm. For tickets or more info, visit [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org) or call 651-298-1954. Special prizes for those who attend the concert via bus or bike!



Practicing Handbells for *Cloudburst*

### Children's choirs for Lavender Green

**Mayflower UCC** is an Open and Affirming, Peace with Justice and Earthwise church actively discerning its call to help realize God's dream of justice for the entire community. We gather at Mayflower to grow spiritually, to enact Christ's call for justice, love and understanding, and to affirm the sacredness of God's creation and presence in an often ambiguous world.

For more than 130 years, **Unity Church-Unitarian** has been a vibrant, intergenerational congregation grounded in the history and heritage of liberal religion. Our shared ministry enlists the whole church family in living out the values we proclaim, including mutual respect. Unity engages people in a free and inclusive religious community that encourages lives of integrity, service and joy.

**Shir Tikvah's** roots go back to 1988, when six people founded a new synagogue in the spirit of liberal Judaism that welcomes and encourages the participation of individuals and families of varying 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.

### Meet our Partner—Eureka Recycling

Eureka Recycling is one of the largest nonprofit recyclers in the United States and is a leader in demonstrating the best waste reduction and recycling practices not only for the Twin Cities metro area, but for the nation. For over 15 years, Eureka Recycling has been Saint Paul's nonprofit recycler. A community-based organization, Eureka's "profits" are invested back into community in the form of education, outreach and added services.

Co-President Susan Hubbard is particularly excited about this collaboration: "Using the natural world as our model, Eureka Recycling is committed to demonstrating there is no such thing as 'waste.' A lot of diverse people work toward this mission every day, and we support our GLBT employees and community. We are honored to be part of this project which brings together these important values." Visit [www.eurekarecycling.org](http://www.eurekarecycling.org) for more info or steps on living a greener life.



## Adopt-a-School

Imagine a generation of school children growing up without ugly stereotypes of the GLBT community, and the bullying that follows.

With support from our visionary donors, One Voice is working to make that dream real.

For more than 11 years, One Voice has performed free, in-school concerts as part of its annual **OUT in our Schools** program. This spring we unveiled our “Adopt-a-School” program, giving donors a chance to support this initiative directly. And the support was overwhelming! Anchored by a \$1,000 lead gift by Carolee Lindsey, Adopt-a-School has raised \$4,100 toward our goal of \$6,000 in support of this year’s performances in Wellstone Elementary, Humboldt Junior High and Community of Peace Academy.



As Carolee explains, “Study after study has shown that the best way to fight stereotypes, and the discrimination that follows, is to interact with people—familiarity is closely linked to tolerance. Overall, those who have a friend or family member who is gay are much more likely to support full equality for GLBT people. This project makes those connections, builds trust and challenges myths head-on, and I’m honored to support it!”

Thank you to our generous donors who have supported this project. **Interested in adopting a school yourself?** Help us raise the final \$1,900 to cover the cost of One Voice OUT in our Schools. Contact Scott Chamberlain at 651-298-1954 or [DevPR@ovmc.org](mailto:DevPR@ovmc.org).

## Thank You to our Adopt-a-School Donors

- |                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Anonymous                            | Jeff Gallo                                  |
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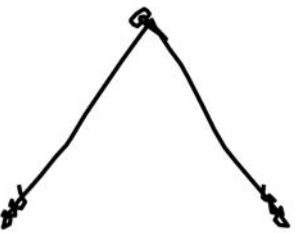
## Join the One Voice Commissioning Club!

Have you ever wanted to play a role in commissioning a new piece of music? One Voice is creating a Commissioning Club to encourage the participation and investment of the community in planning our future commissions. Individuals who contribute \$1,000 toward a commission are invited to become club members, meet with Artistic Director, Jane Ramseyer Miller to review commission texts, and offer ideas and recommendations on selecting composers. Call Scott Chamberlain at the One Voice office if you'd like to join the Club!



### Auditions Next Season!

Auditions for next season! August 31 and September 1 at Unity Church-Unitarian. Visit [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org) for more details!



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## Upcoming Events

### Queer Music Consortium Como Pride Concert

Como Park Pavilion  
1360 N Lexington Pkwy, St. Paul  
FREE  
June 1, 2009, 7:00 pm

### Lavender Green: Thinking Globally, Singing Locally

History Theatre  
30 E. 10th St., St. Paul  
June 13, 2009, 7:30 pm  
June 14, 2009, 3:30 pm

### Auditions!

Unity Church—Unitarian  
732 Holly Ave., St. Paul  
August 31, 2009, 7:00 pm  
September 8, 2009, 7:00 pm



Go online to see photos from our  
hugely successful Spring Fever cabaret!  
[www.ovmc.org/springfever](http://www.ovmc.org/springfever)


**Saturday, June 13, 2009, 7:30 pm**  
**Sunday, June 14, 2009, 3:30 pm**

# Lavender Green

Thinking Globally, Singing Locally

Join us for a family-friendly concert that celebrates our environment, featuring music by local composers including Steve Heitzig, J. David Moore, Abbie Betinis and Peter Berryman. With children's choirs from Shir Tikvah, Unity Church—Unitarian and Mayflower UCC.

**History Theatre, 30 East 10th Street, Saint Paul**  
Tickets prices: \$18-25, \$10 student and senior  
Tickets and info: 651.298.1954 or [www.ovmc.org](http://www.ovmc.org)  
Special prizes for patrons who bus or bike!



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