

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



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From the Guest Conductor



After having served as One Voice's accompanist for the past four seasons, I am very pleased to be joining the organization as Guest Conductor during this fall season while our Artistic Director, Jane Ramsayer Miller is on sabbatical.

Through my time at the keyboard I have developed a passion and love for the great work that One Voice accomplishes through the vital art of choral singing and I am thrilled to be able to step on the podium for this season.

To love and be loved is universally understood as one of the most basic of human desires. All people, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, experience this desire throughout their lives. Our fall concert **Love Dares Speak Its Name** will explore this basic human truth through a diverse collection of poetry, skits and songs.

The first part of our concert will explore this idea of 'love.' We will look into how love has the power to change everything in your life, especially if your desire does not fall into the man/woman societal norm. We will explore how GLBT people can sometimes struggle with coming to terms with their desire, and how that desire is often questioned by society. Our message here is

clear: at the end of the day, whomever the object - it's simply love.

The second half of our program will shift to the subject of commitment. Just as all people want their love to be accepted by society, the same is true of the desire to have that love recognized through commitment. Whatever label you give it - marriage or commitment, the joining into a life-long bond is something many people long for.

In addition to the fantastic choral music of One Voice and OVation (which includes world premieres, new choral works and rarely performed music), the theatre group, The Flower Shop Project and spoken word from Minnesota Public Radio Classical Music host, Mindy Ratner will compliment this program. The 'marriage' of the clarity and precision of spoken word with the beauty and depth of our sung program will increase the universality of our message.

We are pleased to take this important message into greater Minnesota through our fall tour to Alexandria, Morris and Gaylord November 12-14. Our fall season will culminate with our full concert January 14 & 15 at Central Presbyterian in St. Paul. Hope to see you there!

Postcards from the Edge!

Greetings from Pittsburgh where I am enjoying a lovely year-long sabbatical! This year I'm serving as Artistic Director-in-Residence (ADR) for GALA Choruses, an association of over 200 GLBT choirs around the world. As ADR I'm traveling to conduct choral clinics, developing on-line resources for GALA Artistic Directors, and planning the next GALA Festival in Denver July 2012. I'm having a blast putting my creative programming interests to good use!



One Voice Guest Conductors, W. Bryce Hayes and Erick Lichte, have programmed a fantastic 2010-2011 season. Come join me in the audience for their concerts!

Love Dares Speak its Name

“One day I just realized... I love this person!”

Remember that powerful moment when you realized you loved someone—not just the garden-variety love but that *everything-stopped-and-came-into-focus-with-soul-bursting-radiant-light* kind of love? Suddenly it didn't matter if that person was a shade too tall, had a smile with a (charmingly?) crooked twist, had a sweet or overbearing mother, or the most ridiculous dance moves ever.

Or what their gender was.

Love was love, and that's all that mattered. And whatever quirks or endearing traits the person had, you wanted to forge a new life together.

This January, One Voice Mixed Chorus honors love and relationships with the concert, **Love Dares Speak its Name**. But this is not a standard-issue fluff concert. Through music ranging from Broadway ballads and Janice Ian to Daniel Pinkham's "Wedding Cantata," One Voice tells stories of love, long-term relationships, and why they matter—regardless of gender. Performances take place at Central Presbyterian Church in St. Paul on January 14 and 15, 2011; both performances begin at 7:30 pm. Guest Conductor W. Bryce Hayes directs.

A unique highlight of the concert is the inclusion of several choral premieres, including Ron Lytle's *Old-Fashioned Commitment Ceremony*, an arrangement done by the composer specifically for this concert. Other works receiving their premieres are *You Don't Question Love* by Washington D.C.-composer Tom

Goss and *Married in London* (an audience sing-along) by songwriter-singer Janis Ian. Equally important, One Voice offers several second and third performances of choral works by rising composers, including Marisa Squadrito Geisler's *The Shape of Change*. The composer, a One Voice singer based in St. Paul, will perform with One Voice at the concert as a singer and poet.



Committed relationships are for everyone, not just cartoon mice!



The Twin Cities-based theatrical company, **The Flower Shop Project**, is determined to create and produce new works of theatre that are smart, “ballsy,” and fundamentally entertaining. Its goal is to produce original scripts from within the company, as well as to solicit and produce scripts from other local playwrights. Highlights of the 2010 season include *mint*, *River of Passion*, *In the Weeds* (as part of the Twin Cities' Fringe Festival) and *515*. More: www.theflowershopproject.com.



Mindy Ratner is a host and producer on the Classical Music Service of Minnesota Public Radio, where she is heard on weekends. She began her career in public broadcasting following her graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, working first for the local public television station and then for Wisconsin Public Radio. She moved on to stations in Cincinnati and Philadelphia before joining Minnesota Public Radio in 1983. In 1998 and '99, Ratner took a leave of absence to work as a music host and producer for China Radio International in Beijing. Her spare time is devoted to international travel; folk, ballroom and contradancing; singing in the Minnesota Chorale; her two cats, and trying to stay ahead of the weeds in her garden.

Other music selections explore issues of love, relationships, and particularly for finding community support for same-sex partnerships. To underscore the diversity of love, the concert features a wide variety of musical styles, including standards *I Just Called to Say I Love You*, modern choral composer Eric Whitacre's *This Marriage*, and ballads by Broadway composers Andrew Lloyd Weber and Steven Sondheim. By presenting these works in this particular context—through the lens of a “lesser valued” love—the songs will take on new meaning for our audiences.

But there's more! In order to bring to life the real—and legal—issues surrounding GLBT relationships, One Voice has turned to Flower Shop Project, a Twin Cities-based theater company that has developed a series of

theater vignettes illustrating the unique challenges of same-sex relationships. As a result, the concert includes theatrical vignettes presented by Flower Shop Project actors that focus on the ways GLBT couples are denied equality in Minnesota, which will be woven into the music. In addition, there will be poetry readings by Minnesota Public Radio's Mindy Ratner.

Don't miss this powerful—and timely—concert. As singer Emily Tinawi remarks, “It's really made me think about Love... in relationships, yes, but also about love in our community and love in our world. This is such a powerful message and I'm thrilled to be a part of it!”

Visit our website at www.ovmc.org for tickets and more details!



Guest Conductor W. Bryce Hayes leads **Love Dares Speak its Name**



There's nothing like celebrating your love with the world

On the Road Again

"This choir is extraordinary talented, and your message needs to be heard. A couple of my friends and I are coming to your concert in January! Take care and keep spreading the good word: Love."

Maybe it was the coffee—an absolute necessity for such an early morning departure. Maybe it was that jolt of adrenaline you can almost taste in your mouth when you walk onto the stage. Maybe it was the excitement of singing before a visibly excited assembly of students, far more than had been expected. Or maybe it was the chance to sing beautiful music honoring that most powerful of emotions: love.

One thing is sure—our Friday morning concert in Alexandria High School, the first stop on our 2010 tour to Greater Minnesota, was a wonderful rush of energy and emotion that lit up our souls for the rest of the weekend.

And the fun was just beginning!

The 2010-2011 season kicked off with our annual community-building tour, where One Voice took its music and its message to the outside world. In addition to our usual cohort of roadies, we traveled with several new friends, including five actors from The Flower Shop Project. We also met many new friends, including Diane from RAAN who helped with all the details, and Pastor Hank from Gaylord who paved the way for our first-ever visit to the small town.

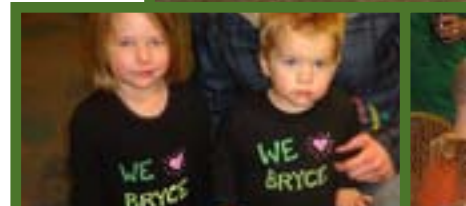
"I was struck by how wonderfully vulnerable we can become as singers in One Voice. Not only do we sing beautiful music, but we can truly be singing our stories."

Betsy Lee

"I have never experienced anything so fulfilling in my whole life! I feel as though I have a brand new family and we have only been aware of each other for a few days. Every person is so accepting and... free!" Clare Lloyd, The Flower Shop Project

"My favorite experience was when OVation sang Hello Heterosexuals to us in the hot tub in Alexandria. Afterward, we wanted to share in the fun, so we sang and danced our theme song, Project 515, in the game room. We were all especially proud to receive a noise complaint from the hotel staff while we were reveling in the love and joy of fellowship."

Bryan Garber, The Flower Shop Project



Laurie Dickinson
and Cate Hesser





“My first tour has been so amazing! I feel such a part of an incredible, eccentric family.”
Rize Rosertt



“After the concert, two little girls with a knowing smile emerged from the crowd, one holding a sketchbook—she held it open to a page with a pencil sketch she had just made of Bryce and Paul at the piano. We touched young hearts today.”
Amanda Stella Maris



Besides the concerts in Alexandria, Morris and Gaylord, One Voicers visited a local winery, bowled, showed off their competitive side in the game room, and managed to find time to relax in the hot tub. And when pressed, managed to scrape together enough money to actually pay bus drivers. (Let’s next year make sure we have enough official check signers on tour, shall we?)



We knew that this concert topic—finding love no matter your gender—was desperately needed. Days before we arrived in Gaylord, a minor controversy swept through the local papers as letter writers weighed in on the same-sex marriage debate. We were gratified to learn that many allies were in the audience that day, hearing us give a human voice to this issue; many said afterward they were more resolved than ever to fight for justice.

Thank you all for a powerful, funny, and slightly wacky adventure!



“A man from the Gaylord UCC shook my hand to say thanks for our concert there. Our hands stayed clasped as the enormity of his gratitude sunk in—he said our being there was just what was needed.” Heather Ferguson

Photos, clockwise from upper left: AP holding court after the Morris performance; group photo in Alexandria; a serenade from The Flower Shop Project actors; final performance at Gaylord UCC; friendly competition in the game room; Jay Kurvers, Lousene Hoppe and Ruth Birkholz; Morris performance; Andy and Robin commanding respect in their Viking helmets; Bryce’s youngest fans.

Awards, Awards, Awards!

As performers, we love attention—and we particularly love the attention our programs have garnered over the years. But nothing prepared us for the bumper crop of awards and honors we won over the summer! From most recent backwards, Jane was honored by the Tretter Collection in Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies for “being an outstanding individual embodying the scope of the GLBT activities in our community.” They’re asking for materials to be included in their 10th Anniversary Time Capsule! The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) presented us with the 2010 **Brian Coyle Leadership Award**, its highest local honor. It recognizes One Voice’s use of music as a means to reach into the community and make a difference, helping to grow acceptance and understanding while uniting GLBT people and their allies to work for social change. Jane received the **Advocate for Choral Excellence Award** from the American Choral Director’s Association, plus their **VocalEssence-ACDA Award for Creative Programming**. With all these accolades, we’re blushing!



Scott accepts an award from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council for \$10,000, in support of **Love Dares Speak its Name**

Welcome aboard Randy!



One Voice is fortunate to have the services of Randy Stern as our Social Media Marketing Intern during this season. Randy’s work with One Voice is part of his summative activities towards completing his Master’s degree in the Arts and Cultural Management program at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota.

The promotional videos for **Love Dares Speak its Name** and the increase in our use of our Facebook, Twitter and Flickr pages is mainly part of Randy’s contribution to our chorus. He was also part of our fall tour providing coverage from the road will continue to do so through to our January concerts.

All of us at One Voice have expressed our appreciation for Randy’s work and we looking to more from him in the months to come.

YouTube Video Shorts

Great news, the short videos we put together for the **Love Dares Speak its Name** concert have been released, and are already a hit on Facebook. If you haven’t seen them, check out the introduction video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzx0l5-A-Ys>, and to see the whole collection (with more to come) visit our YouTube page at <http://www.youtube.com/user/OneVoiceMixedChorus>. Thanks to our couples for letting us get a glimpse of their lives together, and thanks to Randy for spearheading the project!





Go Green!

We are now offering an electronic version of our With One Voice newsletter. If you wish to save a tree and "Go Green" simply send us an e-mail with your full name included so we can find you in our database: info@ovmc.org or visit www.ovmc.org.

FOUNDATIONS & SPONSORS



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Upcoming Events

January 14, 2011 • 7:30 pm

January 15, 2011 • 7:30 pm

Love Dares Speak its Name

Central Presbyterian Church
500 Cedar St., St. Paul

March 19, 2011

Spring Fever Cabaret

Doubletree Hotel
1500 Park Place Blvd., St. Louis Park

April 2011

OUT in Our Schools

A day of in-school performances
Schools to be announced soon

June 10, 2011 • 7:30 pm

June 11, 2011 • 2:00, 7:30 pm

Bang Boom Crash

In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre
1500 East Lake St., Minneapolis

June 6, 2011 • 7:00 pm

Queer Music Consortium (QMC) Pride Concert

Como Park Pavilion
1360 N Lexington Pkwy., St. Paul
FREE event!

One Voice OUT in the Community

As part of our commitment to outreach in the community, One Voice performs concerts throughout the year at community events, schools, faith communities, conferences and corporate diversity events.

Tickets and information

651.298.1954

www.ovmc.org

