

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



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One Voice Has A New Look

One Voice has always been a dynamic, creative bunch—and now we have a new website that reflects this wonderful energy! Check it out at www.ovmc.org.

Our new look was formally unveiled in April, just in time for audience members to use it for our spring concerts. It represents nearly two years of design and planning by staff, the marketing committee, numerous testers, and most importantly, One Voice volunteer webmaster James Gottfried. Thank you to all, and to our wonderful designers from **5 by 5 Design!**



Our homepage photo featuring Steph, Marnie and Ben
(photo by Sophia Hantzes)

From the Artistic Director



“Passionate, vibrant, creative, surprising”— these words are posted in the One Voice office in bright colors following a fall brainstorming retreat. I glance at them often in my planning and programming as a reminder of who we strive to be as an arts organization devoted to social change.

While our fall programming focused on the passionate and vibrant, this spring has been packed full of surprises! In February we launched a season of music for kids celebrating the delight of being “different.” Singers eagerly jumped into acting roles, puppetry, choreography and costumes in preparation for our outreach concert at the annual Rainbow Families Conference in early April. I have never heard so many giggles and shouts of delight as the moment when our Ferdinand the Bull costume appeared at rehearsal – with the legs of two chorus members sticking out the bottom!

Our April 16 **Out in Our Schools** day included a new twist this year—five “spontaneous” flash concerts in downtown Saint Paul, including performances in Rice Park, several bus stops, the Minnesota Children’s Museum and Town Square. Several fans managed to catch us on video and you can see the results on YouTube (search “St Paul and Supercalifragilistic”). If you missed the fun, rumor has it you might just see One Voice FLASH by the Midtown Global Market in Minneapolis just before noon on May 15!

Get your tickets early for our June 4 and 5 shows at the In the Heart of the Beast Theatre on Lake Street. We are performing four shows since the theater is smaller than our usual venue and tickets are going fast! **Different is GREAT!** is designed for kids, but will be a great show for audiences of ALL ages so join us whether or not you have a child in tow.

See you in June!

Holy buckets! Our kids REALLY TRULY loved One Voice's concert! Y'all sang perfect songs with just the right amount of audience participation and poignant story material. I think your biggest fans, other than me and my choir, were the first graders! That's a challenging group!

—John Sorlien, Music Teacher, Community of Peace Academy



Our kid-friendly programming is super—
Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

Out with Pride, In Our Schools

Kids can be the most brutally honest of critics—they not only know when they don't like something, they're not afraid to tell you. Well, we at One Voice are thrilled to report that our recent in-school concerts were a huge hit!

As part of our annual **OUT in our Schools** program, 65 One Voice singers and roadies packed into school buses promptly at 7 am, for a full day of performances in St. Paul schools. This year we returned to Community of Peace Academy and Wellstone Elementary. Due to overwhelming demand at both schools, we performed multiple concerts for students in grades K-6. We also had a special performance with Community of Peace Academy's high school concert choir, singing together and catching up with our young friends.

Concert highlights included songs that celebrate differences among people, built around the phrase "normal is fine but different is great!" One particularly touching song, *One Dad, Two Dads, Brown Dads, Blue Dads...*, featured a charming look at a non-traditional family. We also included our own special takes on *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* and *Zip-a-dee-doo-dah*. The performance also included fully-staged story of "Ferdinand the Bull" (see page 5).



Community of Peace Academy students loves the show



James Gottfried teaches Wellstone students some fancy dance moves

The concerts weren't only about sharing great music—we also shared our message of celebrating differences and challenging bullying. In a particularly rewarding moment, we performed a role play using the word "gay" as an insult. The young crowd at Wellstone responded instantly and audibly, with many calling out "That's not a nice thing to say!" Principal, Christine Osorio remarked, "at Wellstone we teach that those kinds of insults are not appropriate. Your stories and music helped to reinforce these lessons for our students."

Kids loved the program, and after we were done many came running up to our singers, bursting with praise and all kinds of questions. And it was in these free interactions that the importance of our work in schools was made abundantly clear. One wide-eyed student asked, "When you sang that song about two dads who were blue, did you mean it? Are they really both *blue*?"

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One Voice is supported by ArtsLab, a collaborative program of the Bush Foundation, F. R. Bigelow Foundation, Mardag Foundation, the McKnight Foundation, and The Saint Paul Foundation with the administrative support of Arts Midwest.

Funding provided in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and private funders.

One Voice Mixed Chorus has received arts employment support from Minnesota State Arts Board made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts through funds allocated from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.



Stealthy One Voicers gather in Rice Park



Playing to the crowds in downtown St. Paul



One Voicers dancing in the street!

One Voice “Flashes” St. Paul!

One Voice has always prided itself on singing where we’re not comfortable. This season, we’re taking that idea one step further, and singing where we’re unexpected. Literally.

On Friday April 16, a group of 65 One Voicers cut loose in downtown St. Paul singing spontaneous “flash” concerts. Dressed in street clothes, singers gathered inconspicuously at places such as Rice Park or Town Square. Suddenly, out of the blue, Colleen Watson began belting out the opening of *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*—and as heads of unsuspecting onlookers snapped around, other One Voicers joined her, one by one, to the astonishment of the audience. As the ranks of singers swelled, they began adding choreography, bringing up a whirlwind of laughter and applause from the assembled crowd. Pandemonium soon broke out as our “audience” began a mad scramble for their cell phone cameras.

Everywhere we went, people loved this unexpected musical treat. Riders on a passing bus threw open the windows and stuck their heads out to watch. At our performance at the Children’s Museum, everyone came running to watch, and several young patrons looked on in shock as their parents started singing along and mimicking in the choreography!

Within hours, the first footage hit YouTube, courtesy of one impressed onlooker who watched from his apartment window. At the end of the song, he shouted down to us, “Awesome!”

We couldn’t say it better ourselves.

Help a Kid attend our June Concert for Free!

One Voice is committed to continuing our outreach in the community in spite of economic challenges. You can help! For a \$10 donation you can offset the cost for one area child to attend our June concert for free. Our goal is for 400 youth to attend our concert. Please donate on-line at www.ovmc.org. Thank you!

Taking the Stage with Rainbow Families

With our upcoming concert focusing on kids, it seemed a natural fit to perform a preview concert at the Rainbow Families conference in April. It was a great way to connect with GLBT families and celebrate diversity through our music. In addition to two Flash concerts during lunch, we performed a stand-alone concert featuring highlights from **Different is GREAT!**, including a sing-along with *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* and a fully-staged version of “Ferdinand the Bull,” complete with props, costumes and sets!



Our flash performance at Rainbow Families



Cheeky choreography!



Our preview concert was a hit with the Rainbow Families kids

Different is GREAT!

June 4-5, 2010

Different is ~~Good~~ GREAT! a family concert

Normal is fine, but different is GREAT! Framed by the classic story, “Ferdinand the Bull,” One Voice presents a family-friendly concert celebrating what makes us all unique. The concert weaves sing-alongs, puppetry and music ranging from *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious* and *De Colores* to highlights from “Carmen.” And best of all, it’s FREE for anyone under 18.

Different is GREAT! signals a bold new direction for One Voice—this is the first time we’ve put together a full concert especially for kids. As Jane Ramseyer Miller explains, “Music and puppetry are fantastic tools for getting our message into the community, and to challenge negative stereotypes before they get a chance to take hold of our youth.”

Music selections encourage young listeners to welcome diversity in their lives and be true to themselves. Along with Billy Joel’s classic, *Just the Way You Are*, other selections include *I’m Different* and *Don’t Dress Your Cat in an Apron*. Music from global cultures includes a stunning rendition of *De Colores* and the delightfully percussive *SikSik Si Batu Manikkam* from North Sumatra.

With the help of professional puppeteer, Soozin Hirschmugl, One Voice has created two fully-staged stories: “Ferdinand the Bull” and “Pug Dog.” These delightful tales turn gender stereotypes upside-down, and teach kids the importance of being true to oneself. The program challenges bullying and name-calling through role-playing and chorus-created poetry.

“**Different is GREAT!** is a highly interactive concert,” explains Ramseyer Miller. “Audience members can sing along with well-known classics, and kids are invited to share in the action and movement. In this concert, everyone gets to participate!”

“These songs and stories bring such wonderful memories bubbling up,” enthuses soprano Darcy Juhl. “And, as an adult I can hear their messages with a fresh ear. These are not just simple songs but powerful messages that shape how we treat one another and honor the things that make us different even as adults! Seeing the kids respond, I think



Young Ferdinand among the flowers



Instead of fighting, Ferdinand stops to smell the flowers



Ferdinand goes back to his pasture to live happily ever after



of my own grown-up kids and hope that I helped to create a better childhood for them by reminding them that the things that made them unique and wonderful—and I hope that I’m creating a better childhood for the children in the audience, giving them messages of hope and confidence that will stay with them for their whole lives.”

She adds, “Plus I’m having more fun with this concert than I would have thought possible!”

Different is GREAT! takes place June 4 and 5, 2010, at the Avalon Theater, home of In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre in south Minneapolis. Tickets are FREE for anyone under 18, \$18 for adults and \$10 for seniors. Free tickets must still be reserved. Visit our website at www.ovmc.org for tickets and more details!

¡Viva Ferdinand!

Generations have loved the tale “Ferdinand the Bull” about a gentle-souled bull who would rather smell the flowers than fight in the bullring. Now the story comes to life—with a little help from One Voice. As part of our **Different is GREAT!** concert, One Voice presents a fully-staged version of the story with sets, costumes and actors portraying singing flowers, furious matadors and Ferdinand himself. Musically, we tell the story with selections from the beloved opera “Carmen,” including the fiery *Toreador’s Song*, as well as *Flight of the Bumblebee* and more.



Cast of Ferdinand



Ferdinand’s debut at the bullring

“I’ve loved singing in One Voice, but I have to say this is the most fun I’ve had with the group. This is a blast!” says James Gottfried, who plays several parts in the production. “Best of all, I love seeing the kids really get into the story—they’re absolutely spellbound. I can tell I’m making a difference for them, showing them that it’s okay to be yourself.”

Don’t miss out—visit our website and get your tickets now!



Introducing Pug Dog

One Voice also presents the story of “Pug Dog,” about a loveable dog who would rather roughhouse and get dirty than do anything “ladylike,” and ultimately teaches her owner to look beyond stereotypical gender roles. It is a perfect complement to the more familiar “Ferdinand,” and likewise teaches that boys can be pretty and girls can be tough.

Jen Rivera, who plays the title character, explains “When I first read the story, I said to myself, ‘I *am* Pug Dog.’ Most of my life I lived as society expected me to, but now I’ve learned that I have to be true to myself. I’m honored to get a chance to pass this message on to youngsters so they never have to hide who they are.”



One Voice Happenings

Unsilenced a Record-Breaking Success

Unsilenced, our January concert featuring songs and stories of GLBT and Jewish individuals in the Holocaust, became a milestone event in One Voice's history. More than 1,300 people attended—the largest audience ever for a One Voice concert. To honor One Voice's efforts to bring together the Jewish and GLBT communities, J-Pride presented Jane Ramseyer Miller with the Tikkun Olam ("Repairing the World") Award. Moreover, Jane's innovative programming created a buzz throughout the local arts community; it also brought us to the attention of Minnesota Public Radio, who, in another first, invited One Voice to their studio to record sections of the work with our guest cellist, Janet Horvath. Most important, **Unsilenced** was an incredibly powerful experience that profoundly moved us all.



One Voice recording at MPR's studio



Jane receiving the Tikkun Olam Award



Well-deserved applause for **Unsilenced**

Exciting News for our 2010-2011 Season



One Voice announces some exciting new developments for our upcoming season! Jane Ramseyer Miller will complete her fifteenth year as One Voice's Artistic Director this summer and will be on sabbatical for the 2010-2011 season. She was recently appointed Artistic Director in Residence for GALA Choruses (the Association of Gay and Lesbian Choruses) and will spend this next year offering workshops and clinics for GALA choirs, developing web resources for artistic directors, and planning the next GALA Festival in Denver 2012.

Please welcome **Lisa Boynton** who joins the One Voice staff as Event & Outreach Coordinator. Lisa joins us with experience as a community organizer (including Paul Wellstone's campaign), event planning and even worked as volunteer coordinator for the Minnesota Vikings! We are thrilled to have Lisa on staff.

One Voice audiences can look forward to an amazing and creative season of concerts next year featuring two exciting guest conductors. All will be revealed at our June concerts so come on out!



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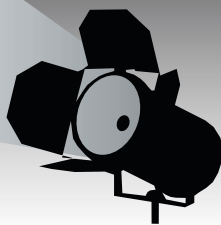
YOU can become a singing member of One Voice Mixed Chorus! Auditions for our 2010-2011 Season are scheduled for August 31 and September 7, 2010, at Unity Church. Our upcoming season kicks off in September with a concert focusing on love and marriage, with our own unique One Voice spin. Contact us at info@ovmc.org or call us at 651-298-1954 to schedule an audition. Don't miss out!



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.

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Show producer for the following non-profit galas & events:



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Reach. Explore. Discover.



Celebration of Life





Minnesota's GLBTA Chorus

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Spring Season

May 2, 2010 • 9:00 am, 11:00 am

OVation

White Bear Lake Unitarian Universalist Church
328 Maple Street, Mahtomedi

May 9, 2010 • 9:00 am, 11:00 am

OVation

Unity Church–Unitarian
732 Holly Ave., St. Paul

June 4, 2010 • 7:00 pm

June 5, 2010 • 11:00 am; 3:00, 7:00 pm

Different is GREAT! A Family Concert

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

FREE for kids! **Tickets must be reserved.**

June 7, 2010 • 7:00 pm

Queer Music Consortium Pride Concert

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

August 31 and September 7, 2010

One Voice Singer Auditions

Unity Church–Unitarian
732 Holly Avenue, Saint Paul

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. Check out our website to bring One Voice to your event.

GREAT!
~~Different is Good.~~
a family concert

