



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date Submitted:**

February 25, 2014

**Concert:**

March 30, 2014 • 2 pm

In collaboration with: **Out in the Valley**

With special guest artist: **Grammy Award nominee  
Melanie DeMore**

**Contact:**

Kate Krisik, Executive Director  
[executivedirector@OneVoiceMN.org](mailto:executivedirector@OneVoiceMN.org)  
651.298.1954

One Voice Mixed Chorus  
732 Holly Avenue, Suite Q  
St. Paul, MN 55104

[www.OneVoiceMN.org](http://www.OneVoiceMN.org)

***Heart stirring music. Stick pounding rhythm.  
Vibrant voices proclaiming freedom in community.***

St. Paul, Minnesota – February 25, 2014 – **One Voice Mixed Chorus**, Minnesota's only --- and the nation's largest --- lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allies (LGBTQA) chorus is taking their music and message on the road to present **InsideOUT!** on March 30 at 2 pm, at the **Lincoln Mall**, at **Century College in White Bear Lake**.

InsideOUT! is presented in collaboration with local host organization **Out in the Valley** and features **special guest artist, Melanie DeMore**. DeMore is a charismatic, inspiring, and accomplished singer, songwriter, and choral conductor who was **nominated for a Grammy Award** as a founding member of the vocal ensemble the Cultural Heritage Choir. She is among a handful of people today teaching the nearly-lost **art of Gullah stick pounding** practiced by slaves in the Old South who were confined to islands off the coast of Georgia and the Carolinas.

"We will create a foot stomping, hand-clapping rhythmic community and combine it with singing spirituals and songs of protest and peace. We will turn the whole place into a living, breathing drum," explains DeMore.

The concert's creative programming is nothing new for Jane Ramseyer Miller, the long-time artistic director of One Voice Mixed Chorus.

"Over the years we've developed a reputation for our unique and theatrical concerts with a message," says Ramseyer Miller.

The concert at Century College is just one part of **One Voice's broader youth-focused work this season**. The chorus also is bringing music, community, and DeMore to three Twin Cities-based nonprofits serving homeless youth and five Twin Cities-area schools as part of their **OUT in Our Schools** program.

"We have a strong, mission-focused commitment to community outreach and a history of working with youth through our **OUT in Our Schools** program," Ramseyer Miller explains. **"And with up to 40% of homeless youth identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, extending**

**our outreach work to the teens served by the nonprofit participants makes perfect sense.**

We hope the supportive community and artistic tools offered through this collaboration will empower them to find their voices and share their stories."

The participating nonprofits are Avenues for Homeless Youth, Kulture Klub Collaborative, and YouthLink. The participating schools are Barton School in Minneapolis, Blaine High School, Community of Peace Academy and Creative Arts High School both in St. Paul, and the St. Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts.

In addition to rehearsals, workshops, and concerts at the schools, youth participants are invited perform with DeMore and the chorus in a **FLASH Mob** during March and at "**Night of Noise**" and "**Night on the Street**" events during April.

**About the concert:**

*Join our foot-stomping, hand-clapping rhythmic community as special guest artist and Grammy Award nominee Melanie DeMore leads One Voice and teens from Avenues for Homeless Youth in a musical journey guaranteed to transform your world and warm your heart from the InsideOUT!*

**One Voice Mixed Chorus presents:**

**InsideOUT!**

**With special guest artist and Grammy Award nominee Melanie DeMore**

*Melanie DeMore's singing is thrilling. This is not a voice that comes along every day. This is woman power wrapped in velvet. –Ronnie Gilbert, Folk Singer*

**Sunday, March 30, 2014 • 2:00 pm**

Lincoln Mall  
Century College – East Campus  
3300 Century Avenue North  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

**Public Welcome! FREE Admission**

Handicap accessible.

**About One Voice:**

One Voice Mixed Chorus is Minnesota's only --- and the nation's largest --- lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allies (LGBTQA) chorus. Founded in 1988, One Voice has been "**building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song**" for more than 25 years. With 120 singing members ranging from ages 17 to 77, and nearly 50 non-singing "Fifth Section" volunteers, One Voice inspires transformation through passionate, vibrant, and creative performances before thousands each year at concerts, during Outreach Tours, through their pioneering OUT in Our Schools program now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, and with innovative collaborations. Under the direction of Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller, the award-winning chorus is known for its musical excellence, diverse programming, and deep commitment to community outreach, and is described by Chorus America as "**one of the region's best ensembles.**"

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

**Some information about homeless youth:**

Nonprofits serving homeless youth report that the individuals who seek their assistance often come from families who experience multi-generational poverty and are impacted by lack of affordable housing while some have become homeless after aging out of foster care. Other common challenges within their families of origin include mental health issues, physical and sexual abuse, substance abuse, histories of incarceration, and other

systemic barriers and social disparities. A disproportionate number of homeless youth --- 20% to 40% --- identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT). Many of these youth have experienced severe family conflict and lack of support within their families of origin because of their sexual orientation and gender expression / identity issues.

**About OUT in Our Schools:**

Since 1999, One Voice has tackled the problem of bullying and homophobia in Minnesota communities through its pioneering interactive OUT in Our Schools program. Over the years One Voice has collaborated with nearly 40 Minnesota middle and high schools to provide positive LGBT role models and quality music instruction culminating in joint concerts with their chorus and students performing together. Through this unique program, One Voice also support educators and administrators at each participating school with their work building understanding and respect for all.

**2014 OUT in Our Schools participants:**

Barton School, Minneapolis  
Blaine High School, Blaine  
Community of Peace Academy, St. Paul  
Creative Arts High School, St. Paul  
St. Paul Conservatory for the Performing Arts

**Links:**

Melanie DeMore: <http://www.melaniedemore.com/>  
One Voice Mixed Chorus: <http://www.onevoicemn.org/>  
Out in the Valley: <http://www.oitv.org/>  
Century College: <http://www.century.edu/>  
Avenues for Homeless Youth: <http://www.avenuesforyouth.org/>  
Kulture Klub Collaborative: <http://www.kultureklub.org/>  
YouthLink: <http://www.youthlinkmn.org/>

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