





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

Dear Friends,

You've probably heard Minnesota jokingly referred to as the "land of 10,000 choirs." In such a crowded market you might ask what the significance is of one more choir? But time and again, One Voice Mixed Chorus continues to prove itself as an indispensable asset to our community through its relevance, uniqueness and excellence. I came to One Voice a year ago because I was amazed at their combination of mission focus and artistic quality. I have yet to be disappointed.

Our mission is to build community and create social change by raising our voices in song. We create a safe space for LGBTQ people to be their authentic selves, encourage the public to do the same, and create world-class music in the process. The intersection between art and social change is such a valuable, yet overlooked part of our collective experience. You know the power that music has to bring us together. Through song, we become the change we want to see in the world and radiate a powerful force for good.

Bear with me for a short biology lesson: There's a chemical your body releases, called oxytocin, that literally builds trust and creates bonding with other people. It's normally released through touch, like hugging, handshakes, or close dancing. But it's also released through singing. The music that One Voice makes LITERALLY builds a more connected world where we show solidarity with one another.

Together, we can bring this mission and this music to more people in more meaningful way. One Voice has set a goal of doubling its individual donor base by August of 2016. Doing so allows us to perform in more professional venues, like the new Ordway Concert Hall, tour more extensively in Greater Minnesota, where LGBT resources are scarce, and expose more people to our affirming, and even life-changing message. Your partnership will make this a reality. I hope you will join us!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Josh Wise".

Josh Wise
Executive Director

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

Our Story

Prior to the 1980s, the Lesbian and Gay communities were distinct and often separate. AIDS changed that as women cared for their stricken brothers. As the communities came together, Paul Petrella had an idea: **"Why not sing together too?"**

One Voice Mixed Chorus became a reality in 1988. It was one of the first nonprofit organizations in the nation to build upon those connections by establishing a mixed chorus of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals focused upon instilling hope, building community, and creating social change through the power of music. By all accounts, the chorus was... "not very good."

Today, One Voice Mixed Chorus is Minnesota's only - and the nation's largest - lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allies mixed chorus, with 125 singing members. As far as the quality of the music:

"Beyond celebration, there's also an element of advocacy. But their mission of social change manifests itself in the tongue-in-cheek wit of the repertoire rather than with any kind of stridency. In recent years One Voice has retained the penchant for playful fun, but has also developed into a formidable musical powerhouse." – William Randall Beard, Minneapolis Star Tribune

"Under the direction of Jane Ramseyer Miller, One Voice is developing into one of the finest choirs in this very crowded market. They combine a full, rich sound with a serious musicianship. And they have the advantage of never taking themselves too seriously." - Saint Paul Pioneer Press

One Voice's powerful programming and community engagement has resulted in several prestigious awards including the Tikkun Olam (Repairing the World) Award from J-Pride, the 2013 Twin Cities Quorum Proclamation Award, the 2010 ACDA/VocalEssence Award for Creative Programming, the Advocate for Choral Excellence (ACE) Award from the American Choral Directors' Association, and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC)'s Brian Coyle Leadership Award for community-building. Chorus America describes One Voice as "one of the region's best ensembles."

Today, One Voice performs two marquee concerts per year, as well as 12-15 additional performances in schools, on tour, and in our communities.



Did you know?

- **One Voice performs for over 10,000 people a year!**

"One Voice sings with pure joy and is pure joy to experience. The group truly has the ability to bring people together – accomplishing the most important and noble of musical goals."

- Libby Larsen, founder of the American Composer's Forum

- **One Voice works with over 500 students a year through OUT in Our Schools.**

"I learned that you should learn to stick up for yourself and that you should always learn to love yourself no matter who you are."

- Student Participant

- **Our small ensemble, OVation, performed 20 times last year, including weddings, church services and the state fair.**

"I'm so glad I got to see you, because in every song you could see that you sing from your heart. It moved me - your singing touched me at my source. That doesn't happen often. Thank you."

- OVation concert attendee

- **In our the last 3 years, One Voice toured to Bemidji, Big Fork, Brainerd and Ireland.**

"The world needs to see more of America like that."

- Audience member in Dublin, Ireland

2015—2016 One Voice Performance Schedule

Outreach Tour to Rochester, Winona & Red Wing

November 13-15, 2015

See website for venues

A Midnight Queer

December 16, 2015 • 3pm & 7:30pm

Sundin Hall, Hamline University
1531 Hewitt Ave, St. Paul

A Midnight Queer

December 17, 2015 • 3pm

Ordway Concert Hall
345 Washington Street, St. Paul

OVation—The Love Show

February 14, 2016 • 3pm

Mayflower UCC
106 E Diamond Lake Road, Mpls

OUT in Our Schools

March, Date TBD

Public Schools in West Metro

Queer Thunder!

April 16 • 7:30pm & April 17 • 3pm

Hopkins High School Auditorium

Showtune Showdown

June 13 • 7:30pm

Location TBD

Our Concerts

When you come to a One Voice marquee concert, you'll laugh, you'll cry, and you'll come away with a profound sense of hope. *It's truly an experience like no other.* Each year One Voice performs two marquee concerts, organized around a theme, that brings together all of the music we have learned and performed throughout the season. Always an eclectic mix, you'll hear opera choruses, show tunes, madrigals, modernist pieces, spirituals, and many other genres, all woven together to tell the stories of the LGBT community and to advocate for a better world for all of us.

Our 2015-2016 season kicks off with **A Midnight Queer**. This non-traditional holiday concert features music from many different traditions in a fun and moving program. We will be joined by transgender poet and activist Andrea Jenkins. The concert also will include a performance of the winning piece from our St. Paul songwriting contest! Our Saturday shows are 3pm & 7:30pm at Sundin Hall on the campus of Hamline University, and for our Sunday matinee, we'll be back at the new Ordway Concert Hall.

If you're looking for a great place to take a date on Valentine's Day, you can join OVation for **The Love Show**—3pm at Mayflower UCC. OVation has been a non-stop community outreach machine in the last year! Now they get to wow you with the amazing a capella music they've learned in the last year, including some of the hottest love songs of all time!

Then in April, you can feel the power of **Queer Thunder**. This highly energetic concert will feature the taiko drumming of Mu Daiko, and spotlight international struggles for LGBT rights. In addition, One Voice is commissioning trans composer, Mari Valverde to write a new piece for chorus and taiko drums. We'll also be continuing our partnership with Reclaim! to involve their youth in creating works that riff off the percussive theme. Shows happen April 16 at 7:30pm and 17 at 3pm at the Hopkins High School Auditorium.

Finally, in July the Chorus will be hitting the road with the Taiko drums! Every four years, One Voice travels to the national festival of the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA). 2016's festival is in Denver, and One Voice is very excited to be presenting our taiko concert to delegates from all over the continent, and even collaborating with the Beijing Queer Chorus, the first LGBT chorus in China!



OUT in Our Schools

Now in its 17th year, OUT in Our Schools is a core program of One Voice Mixed Chorus, taking adult chorus members into St. Paul schools to engage students in learning and performing choral music, exploring diversity to build understanding and awareness, and addressing gender and gender stereotypes.

In March of 2015, One Voice became the first LGBT choir ever to do programming in middle schools! Previously our programming has focused on high school students, however, in our program evaluations high school teachers identified the issues of homophobia and bullying originating in middle schools, so we are responding to their identified need in programming for middle school students. Our advisory group of teachers also identified middle schools as the best age to engage students in conversations regarding gender. In the fall of 2015, One Voice will become the first choir ever to do programming in rural schools, working with Cannon Falls High School, and Faribault Middle School, in Southeast Minnesota. In the spring, we will be taking the program into suburban schools.

OUT in Our Schools is curriculum driven, based on the diversity goals set by the St. Paul Public School district. Through music and visual arts, One Voice has developed a curriculum to engage students in conversation about gender and gender stereotypes. This curriculum includes materials for teachers, three artist residencies in each school, and a performance combining middle-school youth with One Voice singers. In each school students will learn songs to perform with One Voice and design and build masks (emphasizing hidden and public characteristics). For example, a team of One Voice middle-school teachers worked with teaching artist, Emily Tinawi, to identify music suited for middle school voices, discussion and student engagement activities and the hands-on mask building project.

This program is innovative in the way it offers adult role models in singing alongside middle school youth and activities to encourage conversation between LGBT adults and youth. One Voice adults also participated in the "mask-building" exercise which resulted in small group conversations during the performance at each school.

One Voice is committed to always performing "with" rather than "for" students in the OUT in our Schools program and this element has been a highlight for participating students in the program.



"At first I felt uncomfortable about singing with gay people, but over time my attitude and maturity developed and we had a great time. Everyone ended up being way cool and extremely nice!" – High school student

I learned that no matter who/ what you are, you are still part of a community and have your own special talent. - Student participant

"My favorite part was when the older and the younger people started singing together".
- Student participant

"I felt a stronger connection with these singers than other adults I have known a long time. I really liked that I could spill my guts and I would be accepted. It is like they have gone through so much they can really talk and be open to anyone. It makes me feel more confident and less like holding back my voice."

- Central High School student participant



"I am 78 years old and I traveled an hour in the dark to be here and hear this concert. My son was basically asked to leave his church because he is gay. I spoke about this at a church meeting. Some people told me I was brave. I was not brave. I was angry and I will keep speaking out and keep supporting my son."

- Mom in Moorhead, Minnesota

"I saw your bus pull in and felt overwhelming excitement. Then, when your singing began it called up in me one of the deepest joys and a most powerful connection to the human consciousness. Thank you for coming out to Greater Minnesota - for being seekers of change and creators of awareness. I am a grateful, re-energized PFLAG mom on the prairies and I plan to see you perform again."

- PFLAG mom in Marshall, Minnesota

"I feel like I've just experienced the best church service of my life."

- 80-year old audience member in Bemidji



Our Tours

Every year, One Voice takes our show on the road! Since 2004, our annual community engagement tour has taken us everywhere from Big Fork and Bemidji, Minnesota in 2013, to Dublin, Ireland last year, where we performed at the European LGBT choral festival, Various Voices. This coming fall, we'll be headed to four cities in Southeast Minnesota, and, for the first time, partnering with schools in Cannon Falls and Faribault to bring OUT in Our Schools to Greater Minnesota.

Our tours are a critical part of our work. Often, the areas we travel to have little to no resources for LGBT people. LGBT youth in rural areas are especially isolated. Bringing our unique programming to new places not only gives underserved communities a unique artistic experience, but also furthers our mission of creating social change. Every tour partners

with local organizations (churches, arts organizations, PFLAG chapters, etc.) to host the chorus, and promote our concerts and workshops. Our goal is that by the time we leave, the community is a safer, more welcoming place to be one's authentic self, with momentum for building LGBT resources.

Tours are also a place where deep bonds are built within the chorus. Spending several hours on a bus together forges profound, meaningful friendships and strengthens our commitment to each other and the work that we do.

OVation

OVation is the portable version of One Voice—a small ensemble of 14 singers who can bring One Voice's music and our message almost anywhere. OVation performs at 20-30 events annually, with One Voice or on its own, at venues ranging from the National Anthem at sporting events to corporate diversity events, to places of worship, and other private events that further One Voice's mission and build exposure in the community.



Our Finances

FY 2015 Revenue

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Fdn/Corp. Grants: | \$88,947 |
| Public Grants: | \$60,798 |
| Donors/Events: | \$106,245 |
| Earned: | \$69,072 |
| In-Kind: | \$30,000 |
| Total | \$353,962 |

FY 2016 Budgeted Revenue

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Fdn/Corp. Grants: | \$80,000 |
| Public Grants: | \$57,000 |
| Donors/Events: | \$120,000 |
| Earned: | \$108,000 |
| In-Kind: | \$21,000 |
| Total | \$386,000 |

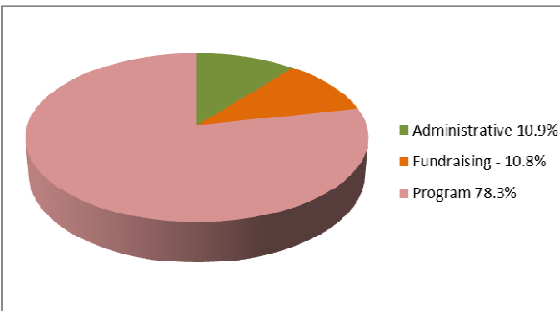
FY 2015 Expense

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Administrative: | \$38,737 |
| Fundraising: | \$35,380 |
| Programming: | \$257,687 |
| Total | \$331,804 |

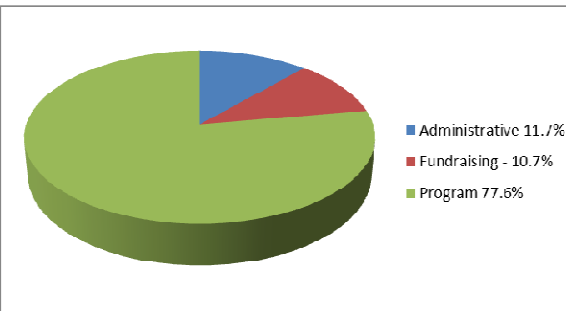
FY 2016 Budgeted Expense

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Administrative: | \$40,380 |
| Fundraising: | \$40,050 |
| Programming: | \$291,570 |
| Total | \$372,000 |

FY2015



FY2016



Available upon request:

IRS Form 990 for FY2014 (FY2015 Coming Soon)

Cultural Data Project Funders Report

Board Approved Financial Statements

One Voice Staff & Board of Directors:

| | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Jane Ramseyer Miller, Artistic Director | Josh Wise, Executive Director | Rocky Jones, Operations & Communications Coordinator | |
| Paul Halvorson, Board Chair | Scott Burglechner, Vice Chair | Lee Silverstein, Treasurer | Elizabeth Vaught, Secretary |
| Cal Vande Hoef, At Large | Colleen Watson, At Large | Sarah Olson, At Large | Justin Martin, At Large |
| Tom Becker, At-Large | James Roth, At Large | Rita Peterson, At Large | |

I give to One Voice because...

"...it has given me so many of the good things in my life- a place to sing after years, a group of incredibly good friends, a mission...and most importantly, my wife and daughter. How could I not give back?"

"...I have received help with dues, with tour, and with GALA, when I've been unable to pay. During times that I have money to give, giving to One Voice means that someone else can get help with their dues, tour, or GALA!"

"...there is a song in nearly every concert that brings me to tears. Because One Voice isn't just a mission, a message, or music--it's a way of life, a way of being."

"I donate to One Voice because One Voice saved my life."

- One Voice Singer-Donors

Add Your Voice!

Your donation to One Voice Mixed Chorus makes it possible for us to go into more schools, reach new audiences in larger venues, and go more places to spread our message of LGBT affirmation.

\$8,000 underwrites the Ordway Concert Hall. June was our debut at this fabulous, brand new concert venue in downtown Saint Paul. We'll be back at the Ordway in December for *A Midnight Queer*, and we're hoping to make the Ordway our home for one of our two Marquee concerts per year. Artistically, One Voice has been worthy of a venue like the Ordway for quite some time. Your contribution brings in new audiences as the quality of our performance space matches the quality of our music!

\$3,500 buys the buses for our outreach tour: The most efficient way for us to get 100+ people around the state and region is to use charter buses. Underwriting these buses allows us to spend more on pre-concert work directly with community members, and even bring the OUT in Our Schools program to schools in Greater Minnesota.

\$1,000 lets us advertise in one new media outlet: Advertising gets our name out to new audiences and builds our reputation in the community, helping further our mission related work. Whether it's in print, on the air, or on social media, you're helping us spread a message worth hearing!

\$500 pays for video production: The best way to experience One Voice, short of a live performance, is to watch us on high-quality video. With your help, we can reach audiences around the world.

Thank you for all you do that enables us to carry out our mission of building community and creating social change by lifting our voices in song!

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