

MINNESOTA'S LGBTQA
ONE VOICE
MIXED CHORUS

THE
art OF
JOY

*Celebrating 35 years:
A legacy of perseverance, embracing
present challenges, and forging a
limitless future.*

**SATURDAY,
JUNE 22, 2024 - 7:00pm**

**SUNDAY,
JUNE 23, 2024 - 3:00pm**

**Ordway Concert Hall
St. Paul, MN**

KIMBERLY WAIGWA
Artistic Director

MAUREEN ARMSTRONG
Accompanist

All Performances Jun. 23 only



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

welcome

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



It is surreal to be closing in on one year with One Voice. As I reflect on this time, I find myself alternating between the past and present. The Past: my first ever chorus when I was 19, a mixed queer group much like One Voice where I found models of queerness, care, and family. The Present: I think of what One Voice has done, both in the past and in embarking on this new chapter - fortifying old bonds, forging new ones.

Looking to the future, I am filled with gratitude for my elders who have made queer history and One Voice what it is and for today's youth who continually keep me believing in the fires of revolution. In the words of Patti Smith, "People have the Power." I'm inspired by the unwavering ability of queer people to rise up, take courage, and move the world forward in **JOY**.

– *Kimberly Waigwa, Artistic Director*

“Out of joy strength came, strength that was fashioned to bear sorrow: sorrow brought forth joy.”

- James Baldwin

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Friends,

This year marks the 35th anniversary of One Voice Mixed Chorus! This milestone offers an opportunity to reflect on how far we have come and to imagine what our future holds. A lot has changed since One Voice's inception in the late 80's, both societally and organizationally. But change, and specifically how we embrace change, has always been an integral part of our journey and our legacy.

Despite the challenges that accompany change, it's hard not to be proud of One Voice's many successes throughout. Our triumphs, both recent and long-passed, are only possible due to a community of supporters who believe in the promise of a grass-roots chorus with big dreams and an unwavering purpose. People like you.

It is with this in mind that I offer you my heartfelt gratitude for joining us for The Art of Joy—and furthering our shared mission of building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song.

Onward,

– *Mitch Fantin, Executive Director*

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge that we are singing and creating community together on the sacred traditional lands of the Dakota and Ojibwe people. It is an honor to live, work, and create art and music alongside Dakota, Ojibwe and other Indigenous peoples in the Twin Cities.

Please consider donating to the following Indigenous organizations our singers actively advocate for:



Indigenous People Task Force
indigenouspeoplestf.org



Native Governance Center
nativegov.org



Wakan Tipi Awanyankapi
wakantipi.org



NATIFS
NATIFS.org



One Voice Mixed Chorus – Minnesota's LGBTQIA+ chorus and one of the largest LGBTQIA+ choruses in the country – is known for its musical excellence, unique programming, and a strong commitment to

community engagement. One Voice's 100+ singing members has spanned the ages of 16 to 85, and together they dedicate their energy and voices to the One Voice mission of **“Building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song.”** For 35 years their community engagement and education programs have inspired transformation through passionate, vibrant, and creative performances at concerts, during community engagement tours, and with the pioneering OUT in Our Schools program. One Voice is described by Chorus America as **“one of the region’s best ensembles.”**



OVation is the portable version of One Voice—an a cappella ensemble that brings One Voice's music and message almost anywhere. Since its founding in

2000, OVation has presented over 350 performances, reaching over 30,000 people in dozens of Minnesota communities, at choral festivals from coast to coast, and internationally in Canada and Ireland. OVation performs at 20-25 community engagement events annually, in venues that have included the Minnesota State Fair, the Northern Spark Festival, the Minnesota Arboretum, TwinsFest, Pride festivals, places of worship, and in partnership with community organizations. To book OVation for your event, sacred service, business, wedding, coming-out party, or birthday bash, visit www.OneVoiceMN.org/BookUs.

artistic staff

KIMBERLY WAIGWA



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Kimberly Waigwa is a thinker of thoughts, meower of tunes, and an educator dedicated to intentional music making, focused on the intersections of racial justice, queer advocacy, and community building. Waigwa has served as a facilitator and clinician for the choral department at Temple University, the Choir School of Delaware, as well as within their roles as artistic director with the Phoenix Women's Chorus and Desert Voices Mixed Chorus. As a conductor, Waigwa has taught undergraduate conducting and been selected by audition for the National American Choral Directors Association's Conference Masterclass both as an undergraduate student and graduate student. Waigwa received their masters of music in Choral Conducting at Temple University, and when they aren't waving their arms, sings with Elevation, the flagship professional performing ensemble of Elevate Vocal Arts

EMILY NAJJAR-FIELD



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Emily's music career began at age 6 when she joined the Children's Choir at Nativity of Mary Church in Bloomington, and for over 30 years she continued to study and teach choral and instrumental music. After earning a Bachelor's in Music from Gustavus Adolphus College, Emily worked with students of all ages as a freelance piano teacher, community theatre vocal director, conductor for youth and adult ensembles. Emily returned to school earning a Music Education degree from UMN and currently teaches 6-12 Music at Community of Peace Academy in Saint Paul.

MAUREEN ARMSTRONG



ACCOMPANIST

Maureen Armstrong has been a dynamic force in the Twin Cities music scene for decades. She is in high demand as a collaborative pianist for many of the region's finest performers, ensembles and musical theater productions. Her advocacy of young and developing artists is the reason she enjoys her time playing for many Twin Cities High School choirs as well as voice students at St. Olaf College. Organizations that have benefited from her meaningful leadership include The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists and the MN Orchestra Young People's Symphony Concert Association. She also enjoys spending time during the summer as a MN State Fair Talent Competition finals judge.

GARY RUSCHMAN



OVATION MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gary Ruschman (he/him) is an in-demand conductor, performer, and composer who works in a broad range of musical traditions. In addition to his work with *OVation* Gary leads the vocal and choral programs at North Hennepin Community College and St. Timothy Lutheran Church of St. Paul, and also serves as music director for Mixed Precipitation's critically-acclaimed Pickup Truck Opera. Gary's scores have been presented by BBC Two, C-SPAN, Minnesota Opera, Madison Square Garden, and the Center for Interfaith Relations. A *Chorus America* Education and Community Outreach Award recipient and American Composers Forum grantee, he earned music degrees with honors from Northern Kentucky University and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Called "*terrific*" by Mpls.St.Paul Magazine, his performing career spans opera, concert, ensemble, and film, including forty stage roles and appearances with the Boston Pops, Kennedy Center, Festival Musique en l'Île de Paris, *Birdland*, American Bach Soloists, and NPR's Tiny Desk Concerts. Gary's discography includes a dozen recordings with *Cantus*, alt-rock and classical discs, and three solo albums.

one voice personnel

Executive Director
Operations Manager
Office Assistant
Grant Writer
Graphic Designer
Photographer

Mitch Fantin
Casey Oliver
Jen Rivera
Mara Winke
Tony Horning
Lou R.R. Zurn

OVation

Anni Bowers, Zoja Anthony Chmielarczyk,
Cathy Dalton, Shelley des Islets,
Erika Grossman, Rossianne Jaffe-Garber,
Marg Nelson, Katy Nordhagen,
Dean Olson, Megan Perera, Seralina Powers,
Claire Psarouthakis, Andy Tweeten

Guitar
Violin
Percussion
ASL Interpreter

Nick Ford
Cal Hensler, Kelsey Chellsen
Sean Smith
Gilda Houck-Markovits

Stage Manager
Video, Editing, Projection

Anna Schultz
Connor Anderson,
Driven Dreams Media

THE **art** OF JOY

*Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices that make noise. No photos or video allowed.
The concert is just under two-hours including an intermission.*

SET ONE

The Lake Isle

Words by William Butler Yeats

Music by Ola Gjeilo

Violin: Cal Hensler, Kelsey Chellsen

Guitar: Nick Ford

Ambe

Words by Cory Campbell

Music by Andrew Balfour

Edited by Catherine Robbins

Joy

Words by Sara Teasdale

Music by Hans Bridger Heruth

Guest musician: Franco Holder

Soloists: Stefanie Foreman, Kat Schwartz

The Lavender Song

Music by Mischa Spolianski

Original German Lyrics by Kurt Schwabach

English Translation by Jeremy Lawrence

Arranged by Randi Grundahl Rexroth

Narration by: Barrett Vann

We Stand on Their Shoulders

Words by Charles Anthony Silvestri

Music by Kyle Pederson

Soloist: Claire Psarouthakis

Trio: Wendy Martin, Miriam Kyzer, Claire Psarouthakis

Everybody Says Don't

Words and Music by Stephen Sondheim

Arranged by Mark Hayes

All Good People

Music and words by Eric and Ian Holljes

Arranged by Mike Rowan

Narration by: Barrett Vann

MLK

Words and Music by U2

Arranged by Bob Chilcott

Soloists: Collin O'Brien

This River

Words by Ja Jahannes

Music by Uzee Brown Jr.

Featuring guest artist, Roland Hawkins



*Scan code for lyrics
and program notes.*



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SET TWO

Shooting Star

Words and Music by Cris Williamson
Arranged by Eliot Pilshaw

Walking on Sunshine

Words and Music by Kimberly Rev
Arranged by Gary Ruschman

We Shall Not Be Moved

Traditional spiritual
Arranged by Adam and Matt Podd

How Can I Keep From Singing?

Quaker Hymn (c. 1800)
Arranged by Gwyneth Walker

Look Out Above

Words by Dessa
Music by Dessa and Jocelyn Hagen
Soloists: Wendy Martin, Ham Paulson

The Road Home

Words by Michael Dennis Browne
Music adapted by Stephen Paulus
Soloists: Mark Todd, Lucia Roderique

When Dreams Take Flight

Words by Paul Laurence Dunbar
Music by Rollo Dilworth Speakers

We Are the Voices

Words and Music by Jim Papoulis

"History isn't something you look back at and say it was inevitable, it happens because people make decisions that are sometimes very impulsive and of the moment, but those moments are cumulative realities."

- Marsha P. Johnson



one voice members

- ♪ Section Music Leader
* OVation Ensemble
+ Membership Committee Rep.

SOPRANO

Julia Baier
Martha Bentley
Anni Bowers *
Melissa Cuddy
Cathy Dalton * ♪
Jessica Erickson
Kendra Eull
Cody Flaherty
Stefanie Foreman
Kerry Green
Wes Halbmaier
Callie Hensler
Cheryl Hornstein
Vicki Janisch-Tri
Darcy Juhl +
Cece Klueh
Miriam Kyzer
Wendy Martin
Sarah McMahill
Steph Pederson
Seralina Powers *
Erika Rae
Lucia Roderique
Kat Schwartz
Kaiti Shelton
Becka Thraen
Liz Vaught

ALTO

Saba Asefa
Sharon Barnd
Erin Bontrager +
Kelsey Chellsen
Neptune Coulter
Shelley Des Islets *
Cathy Geist
Jennifer Heaton
KateLynn Hibbard
Riley Karbon
Megan Kelly
Sherry Kruzcek
Lynne Larsen
Liz McClear
Marley Moon
Karen Muleski
Emily Najjar-Field ♪
Marg Nelson *
Katy Nordhagen *
Ham Paulson
Megan Perera *
Claire Psarouthakis *
Lisette Schlosser
Israella Stookey
Shelley Thron
Arie von Gottfried

TENOR

Elliott Barnhill
Sarah Bizek
Zoja Anthony Chmielearczyk *
Duane Dial
Michael Dodson
Luke Gagnon
Brian Geving
Erika Grossman * +
Joel Krause
Benjamin Lamb
Emre Mauleon
Kenny Niemeyer
Collin O'Brien ♪
MacKenzie O'Kane
Josh Peterson
Shari Pleiss
Jen Rivera
Wayne Schneider
Mark Todd
Barrett Vann
Elliot Vigue
Colleen Watson
Austin Wiebe

BASS

John Bagniewski
Adam Best
Emily Boyajian
Cate De La Cruz
Devin Dolquist ♪
Andrew Eldred
Bree Foster
James Gottfried +
John Hedberg
Adrian Hegeman
Rossianne Jaffe-Garber *
Dave Jerde
Evan Johnson
Andy Kedl
Ehren Kluge
Noah Kuklinski
Andrew Martin
Dave McMahill
Vincent Mokarzel
Dean Olson *
Jesse Pollock-Foote
John Siracusa
Lane Skalberg
Andy Tweeten * +
Nick Van Sickle
Nicole Vanderheiden-Chessmore
Brooks Whitton
Andrew Winfield

returning alumni

Colleen Cashen	Alto	Rosemary Kosmatka	Soprano	Jane Ramseyer Miller	Soprano
Linda Coffin	Tenor	Marnie Milbert	Soprano	Ana Silva	Soprano
Will Drew	Baritone	Jim Miller	Bass	Anthony Stanton	Bass
Steven Greenberg	Baritone	Mike Moore	Bass	John Whalen	Bass
Allan Henden	Bass	Douglas Munro	Bass	Joan Wing	Alto
Mary Ellen Kavanaugh	Alto	Steve Peters	Tenor	Kevin Wojahn	Tenor
		Paul Petrella	Tenor		

volunteers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Elizabeth Vaught	Board Chair
OPEN	Vice Chair
Kenny Niemeyer	Treasurer
OPEN	Secretary
Mary Pat Byrn	Member At-large
Cathy Dalton	Member At-large
Duane Dial	Member At-large
Sue Dolquist	Member At-large
Andrea Gregory	Member At-large
Jim Jacobson	Member At-large
Jem Lawson	Member At-large
Earl Moore	Member At-large
Jeff Moores	Member At-large
Gina Musto	Member At-large
Katy Nordhagen	Member At-large
Dean Olson	Member At-large

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

We are fortunate to have many dedicated individuals who generously volunteer their time and skills in service to One Voice. Many thanks to each member of our board of directors and the following chorus committee chairs:

Development – Katy Nordhagen
Finance – Dan Levett
Membership – James Gottfried

Music – Kimberly Waigwa
Personnel – Earl Moore
Production – Joel Krause and Anna Schultz

donors and sponsors

We are a small but ambitious organization that relies on various types of support to keep the lights on and our mission in motion. One Voice is powered by people—from our singers to our volunteers to our donors. Last year, 30% of our funding came from individual donors—people like you! We hope you'll join this community of supporters by making yours today!

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Survey

We'd love to hear from you! Thank you for coming to The Art of Joy! The information you share on this survey will help One Voice continue in our work to build community and create social change by raising our voices in song.



ONE VOICE

MINNESOTA'S LGBTQIA
MIXED CHORUS



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.