



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller
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November 29, 2017

One Voice Mixed Chorus Presents Sanctuary, Exploring the Music of Minnesota’s Immigrant Communities

Who: One Voice Mixed Chorus: Minnesota’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and allies (LGBTQA) Chorus

What: **Sanctuary**, a concert celebrating the music and cultures of Minnesota’s immigrants.

Where: Ordway Concert Hall, 345 Washington St, Saint Paul, MN 55102

When: Friday, January 19, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, January 21, 2018 at 3:30 p.m. (ASL interpreted)

Tickets: \$30 - \$50; purchase tickets online at www.ordway.org, by phone 651-224-4222 or in person at the Ordway Ticket Office

One Voice Mixed Chorus presents **Sanctuary**, a concert that explores the music of immigrant cultures to Minnesota- from early Scandinavians, to African Americans arriving through the Underground Railroad, and recent music of Hmong, Mexican and Somali communities. Several contemporary songs describe the experience of LGBT people struggling for a place of belonging and finding home through both biological and chosen family.

“In our current political culture that fosters fear of the ‘other’ I wanted to design a concert to celebrate the many beautiful people that call Minnesota home,” says Artistic Director, Jane Ramseyer Miller. “The Twin Cities host a rich variety of immigrant musicians and it has been exciting to work with many of them in rehearsal as we prepare the music of **Sanctuary**.”

One Voice performs several pieces in international languages, including *Alhamdullilah* by Hawley (French and Arabic), Swedish folk dance *Domaredansen* by Hallberg, *Dravidian Dithyramb* by Paranjoti (South Indian), Vietnamese traditional *Truong Com*, *Ergen Deda* by Lyondev (Bulgarian), *Reunion* by Central High School graduate William W. Brueggemann (Hmong), traditional song *Mexico Lindo*, *Water Song* by Day (Ojibwemowin) and Somalia’s former national anthem *Soomaaliyeey Toosoo* by Awale and Qabille.

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Some more familiar pieces on the concert include *We Shall Not Be Moved*, arranged by Milloy, *The Lumberjack Chorus* from Benjamin Britten's operetta "Paul Bunyan", *Danny Boy* by Hayes, *How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place* from Brahms' "Ein Deutsches Requiem" and *You Will Be Found* from Broadway's "Dear Evan Hansen."

Other pieces on the concert include *I Come From Good People* by Seeley, *Isle of Hope* by Graham, *Rest for a Soul* by Janmohamed, *Would You Harbor Me* by Barnwell and *The Drinking Gourd* by Thomas.

This concert is a collaboration with local non-profit, Green Card Voices, which has collected stories of youth immigrants. Two queer youth story-tellers will be featured in the Sanctuary concert and Green Card Voices photos and stories will be displayed in the Ordway lobby.

"The stories of Green Card Voices youth blew us away the first time we met them in rehearsal. These young people have a resilience that is remarkable", says Miller. "Not only have they traversed a cultural divide in coming to North America but they have also navigated coming out within their own families."

One Voice's OUT in Our Schools program will offer workshops in schools utilizing a curriculum designed by Green Card Voices. Paired with music from the Sanctuary concert, OUT in Our Schools engages students in researching and writing about their own immigrant history, including stories and music that comes from their cultural background. One Voice will perform for middle-school students on Thursday, January 11 at Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

In addition to the two concerts at the Ordway Concert Hall, a free preview performance of **Sanctuary** will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at Faith Mennonite Church in Minneapolis.

To learn more about One Voice Mixed Chorus, call 651-298-1954 or visit www.onevoicemn.org.



One Voice Mixed Chorus is Minnesota's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allies (LGBTQA) chorus. For 30 years, One Voice has been "**building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song**". Known for our musical excellence, diverse programming, innovative collaborations, and deep commitment to community outreach, One Voice is one of the largest LGBT choruses in North America with 125 singing members ranging from ages 14 to 81, and nearly 50 non-singing "Fifth Section" volunteers. Under the direction of Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller, the award-winning chorus inspires transformation through passionate, vibrant, and creative performances at concerts, during outreach tours and through its pioneering OUT in Our Schools program, now in its 19th year. One Voice has performed for thousands of people throughout the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and beyond, and is described by Chorus America as "**one of the region's best ensembles.**"

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