Tesfa Wondemagegnehu Will Guest Conduct 2018-2019 Season with
One Voice Mixed Chorus

One Voice Mixed Chorus: Minnesota’s LGBTQA Chorus is thrilled to announce that Tesfa Wondemagegnehu will join One Voice Mixed Chorus as One Voice’s Guest Conductor for the 2018-2019 Season while Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller takes a leave-of-absence!

Tesfa recently announced that he has accepted a position teaching music at St. Olaf College while also leading the college’s esteemed Viking Chorus and Chapel Choir. During J-Term, Wondemagegnehu will teach a Music and Social Justice class creating the perfect collaborative opportunity between St. Olaf and One Voice.

“I am thrilled and honored to be working with such a high quality and community impacting choral ensemble as One Voice!” said Wondemagegnehu. “We are exploring programming ideas and will be announcing our season soon. Stay tuned!”

“I have long admired and enjoyed working with Tesfa; I am so excited that One Voice will have the opportunity to work with him for our 2018-2019 season,” said Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller. “In addition to being a stellar musician and conductor, Tesfa brings a commitment to working toward racial justice and social change, which is a perfect fit with the mission of One Voice.”

Jane Ramseyer Miller, Artistic Director of One Voice Mixed Chorus for 23 years, will take a leave-of-absence during the 2018-2019 season. During that time, Ramseyer Miller will focus her efforts on artistic programming for GALA Festival 2020 Minneapolis, a quadrennial festival of LGBT choruses presented by GALA Choruses with an expected 6,500 delegates. The GALA Festival will take place at Orchestra Hall, Central Lutheran Church, and the Minneapolis Convention Center July 4-8, 2020. Ramseyer Miller will return to One Voice in August 2019 in time to prepare One Voice for the 2019-2020 season and the GALA Festival.

Before Ramseyer Miller’s leave begins, One Voice will perform Roots and Wings at the Ordway Concert Hall, in celebration of One Voice’s 30 Year Anniversary.

“I am so delighted to work with and get to know Tesfa over the course of the next year,” said One Voice Executive Director Christopher Taykalo. “Like Jane, Tesfa has an incredible energy about him that is infectious and dynamic. I’m honored that he has agreed to join the One Voice family next year.”

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Wondemagegnehu leads the Twin Cities Justice Choir chapter and is co-editor of the Justice Choir Songbook. He serves as the Director of Choral Ministries at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis through June 2018. He served as the conductor of The Radio Choir for American Public Media and was the Assistant Artistic Director for VocalEssence. He holds a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting and Vocal Performance from Florida State University and a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Memphis.

One Voice Mixed Chorus is Minnesota’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allies (LGBT) chorus. For 30 years, One Voice has been “building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song”. Known for 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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