

July 27, 2017

Dear One Voice Friend,

Thank you for your interest in becoming a singing member of One Voice Mixed Chorus. We have an exciting spring season ahead so be sure to read through the details below before your audition.

One Voice Mixed Chorus is Minnesota's only lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allies (LGBTQA) chorus. With 125 singing members ranging from ages 17 to 79, 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 our pioneering OUT in Our Schools program now in its 18th year, and with innovative collaborations. One Voice is known for musical excellence, diverse programming, and deep commitment to community outreach, and is described by Chorus America as **"one of the region's best ensembles."**

One Voice's Fall 2017 season **begins in September** and includes community concerts, a retreat weekend, and a January concert. See page two of this document for a description of our programming.

Our audition process works like this:

Monday, August 28: 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm –auditions by appointment
Tuesday, September 5: 6:30 pm- 9:30pm- auditions by appointment

See details below to sign up and prepare for your audition.

Location for rehearsals and auditions: Unity Church Unitarian, 732 Holly Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104

Please review the rest of this document, especially the calendar and attendance requirements. **Then go to [signup genius](#) to secure your audition time.**

Thanks for your interest and I look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,



Jane Ramsey Miller, Artistic Director

P.S. If you decide not to audition but want to connect with One Voice you may consider joining our Fifth Section of volunteers. Being part of the Fifth Section is a great way to get connected! Look for more details on page 3.

Preparing for your Audition

Your audition will take approximately 10 minutes. **Please bring a prepared solo no more than two minutes in length.** Choose a song that you are comfortable singing – a simple song is fine (folk song, hymn, pop tune, or classical piece, etc.). An accompanist will be provided for your solo; **please bring extra printed music for the accompanist.** In addition to your solo, the audition will check your vocal range, ability to carry a vocal part, tonal memory, and music reading skills.

At the audition you will meet singers from our Membership Committee, review the calendar and have a chance to ask questions about the chorus.

2017-2018 Programming

January 2018 Concert: Sanctuary

This concert will explore the many immigrant communities that call Minnesota home. As part of our 30th anniversary season, the concert will also honor the role that One Voice has taken in becoming “home” for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) individuals coming out.

The Sanctuary concert explores the music of immigrant cultures to Minnesota from early Scandinavian immigrants to African Americans arriving from the south through the underground railroad and more recently 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. Sanctuary also includes many upbeat and humorous songs including “The Lumberjack Chorus” from Benjamin Britten’s Paul Bunyan opera.

Our Sanctuary concert is in collaboration with a non-profit arts organization called Green Card Voices which has collected, and published, stories of youth immigrants. These youth story-tellers will be featured throughout the concert and a lobby display of Green Card Voices photos and stories will be displayed in the Ordway and South High School lobbies.

OUT in Our Schools

In January 2018 One Voice will conduct workshops in six middle schools utilizing a curriculum designed by Green Card Voices. This curriculum, paired with music from the Sanctuary concert, will engage students in researching and writing about their own immigrant history, including stories and music that comes from their cultural background. Students will learn several songs from the Sanctuary concert to perform with One Voice in a joint performance on Friday, January 19 at the Ordway Concert Hall pending funding, or at Johnson High School in St. Paul. We are especially excited about a new collaboration with LEAP School for English language learners in St. Paul, providing an excellent partnership for the Sanctuary concerts.

June 2018 Concert: “Roots & Wings”

In June 2018 One Voice will perform Roots & Wings at the Ordway Concert Hall on LGBT Pride weekend June 23 and 24 at 7:30 p.m. reflecting on where we have journeyed over our 30 years as a chorus and honoring the resilience we have experienced as a community. Several One Voice commissions are featured in this concert including “One Voice” by Minnesota songwriter Ann Reed; this song which was commissioned in the chorus’s very first year! In 2015 One Voice commissioned two transgender artists (composer and poet) to write a powerful choral work, “Our Phoenix” for chorus, piano and trumpet.

Humor will be a delightful element of this concert celebration including songs such as “Gay vs Straight Composers” and “The Lesbian Second Date Moving Service!”

Roots and Wings will also incorporate stories and photographs from One Voice history as a way of helping to tell the story of LGBT rights over the past three decades. The concert will honor those LGBT elders who have struggled for those rights over their lifetime, as well as the energy of the young people who have joined us and are taking LGBT rights forward into the future. Civil rights songs will play a role including a commissioned arrangement of “We Shall Not Be Moved” performed as an audience sing-along.

One Voice Calendar

Check out the calendar on page 5 for concert dates and community outreach performances. We want our performances to be strong and hope that you will be able to attend as many as possible. Each season we schedule several community outreach performances and we ask that singers participate in at least 50% of these performances. You’ll have a chance at rehearsals to sign up in for the performances that fit your schedule. There will be more outreach performances added in the next several months as requests continue to come in but we want to give you these dates in advance.

Rehearsals and Attendance

One Voice rehearses **every Monday night from 7:00-9:30 pm** at Unity Church Unitarian (732 Holly Avenue in Saint Paul). We also have several Saturday retreats and potlucks during the year. These are times to dig into the music, eat some great food and get to know other chorus and Fifth Section members. Check out the calendar on page 5 for those dates.

In addition to being a chorus that has a lot of fun, we also strive for musical excellence. The chorus attendance policy permits a maximum of four absences during each concert season (there are two concert seasons to our year: Sept-Dec and Jan-June). This includes attendance at the Saturday rehearsals. Attendance at one outside sectional is also required. Attendance at three of the last four rehearsals before a major concert as well as the tech rehearsal is mandatory. Please consider these attendance expectations before joining the chorus! Members who cannot meet the attendance requirements for a particular season may take a leave-of-absence and re-join us the next season.

Membership Dues

Your financial contributions assist with the cost of music, staff costs, venue rental, and production expenses. Membership dues are \$95 per concert season and may be paid in full at the beginning of each concert season, or in installments. Note that your dues may be matched by your employer as a donation to One Voice. One Voice does not turn away singers because of an inability to pay dues. A work exchange program can be established to assist with dues if need is apparent. Call or email the Operations Coordinator for more information about the volunteer work exchange program.

Volunteer Opportunities as a Singer

In addition to singing, there are many ways to get involved with One Voice. Each concert season includes choreographed number(s) for members who like to dance. Singing and non-singing members assist with many creative aspects of programming from program design to production to marketing and development. Other members help organize and plan events, or select music for upcoming concerts. All gifts and contributions are welcomed and encouraged!

Fifth Section Volunteers

If you are not able to participate as a One Voice singer, we wholeheartedly welcome you to join our Fifth Section. The Fifth Section is a group of non-singing volunteers who help with One Voice events and concerts, serve on committees, and assist with production areas. This is a great way to be a part of the One Voice community and join in the fun!

Organizational Structure, Board and Staff

One Voice is a non-profit organization with 125 singing members and a Fifth Section of approximately 50 volunteers. The Board of Directors meets monthly to guide One Voice Mixed Chorus operations and long-range planning. These meetings are open to all singing and non-singing members.

Artistic Director	Jane Ramseyer Miller	Accompanist	Mindy Eschedor
Executive Director	Christopher Taykalo	OVation Vocal Coach	Gary Ruschman
Operations Coordinator	Alicia Pedersen		
Office Assistant	Jen Rivera		

One Voice Fall 2017 and Spring 2018 Calendar

Updated 7/27/2017

Fall 2017 Schedule

- Aug 28, Sept 5 One Voice New Singer Auditions (6:30-9:30 pm) *Unity Church*
- Mon, Sept. 11*-Jan. 9 Regular Rehearsals - Monday evenings (7:00 – 9:30 pm) Unity Church: Parish Hall*
- Mon, Sept 11* First Rehearsal (7:00 – 9:30 pm) *Unity Church: Parish Hall*
 New Singer Welcome Dinner and Orientation (6:00-7:00 pm) *Unity Church, Anderson Library*
- Oct 11** **One Voice Performs at Coming Out Day Luncheon (11:30 am) McNamara Center, University of Minnesota, 200 SE Oak St., Minneapolis, MN 55455**
- Oct 20-22*** **One Voice 30th Anniversary Retreat Weekend Camp St. Croix, Hudson, WI**
- Sat, Oct 28 **One Voice Donor Breakfast, Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloomington (8:30-12:00)**
- Sat, Nov 11* One Voice Retreat (9-3:00pm) *Unity Church*
- Thurs, Nov 16 **Give to the Max Day (12:01 am-11:59 pm)**
- Nov 17 One Voice Performs at Out Front MN Gala (tentative) (7:30pm) *Minneapolis Events Center, 212 2nd St SE #212 Minneapolis, MN 55414*
- Mon, Dec 25 No Rehearsal – take the night off
- Mon, Jan 1 No rehearsal- take the night off
- Tues, Jan 2*** Rehearsal (7:00 pm-9:30 pm) *Unity Church: Parish Hall*
- Mon, Jan 8* Rehearsal (7:00 pm-9:30 pm) *Unity Church: Parish Hall*
- Jan 13 VocalEssence Together We Sing *St. Paul Creative Arts, Kellogg Blvd, St. Paul, MN*
- Mon, Jan 15* Concert Tech Rehearsal (6:30pm-10:00pm) *Location TBD*
- Thurs, Jan 18* Concert Tech Rehearsal (6:30 pm-10:00 pm) *Location TBD*

- Fri, Jan 19** **OUT in Our Schools - Central HS Concert** for GSA and choir students (daytime)
- Fri, Jan 19*** **Sanctuary 7:30 pm Ordway Concert Hall (4:30 pm singer call)**
- Sat, Jan 20*** **Sanctuary 7:30 pm South High School (tentative) (1:30 pm singer call)**
- Sun, Jan 21*** **Sanctuary 3:30 pm, Ordway Concert Hall, (11:30am singer call)**

One Voice 2018 Spring Season

- Mon Jan 29 New singer auditions (6:30-9:30pm) *Unity Church.*
- & Tues Jan 30 New singer auditions (6:30-9:30pm) *Unity Church.*
- Mon, Feb 5*-June 18* Regular Rehearsals - Monday evenings (7:00 – 9:30 pm) Unity Church: Parish Hall*
- Sat, Mar 10* One Voice Retreat (9-3:00pm) *Unity Church*
- Thurs, April 19 **Give OUT Day**
- Sat, April 21*-- One Voice Retreat (9-3:00pm) *Unity Church*
- Mon, May 28 No Rehearsal – Memorial Day – take the night off
- June 2018 One Voice Performs national anthem at the MN Lynx Pride Game

Sun, June 3	Queer Music Consortium Pride Concert 3:00-5:30 pm <i>Como Pavilion 1360 Lexington Pwky N, Saint Paul (2:00 pm call)</i> QMC After Party – TBD
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Thurs, June 21*	Tech rehearsal , (singer call time and location TBD)
Sat, June 23*	Roots & Wings: 30th Anniversary Concert , 7:30 pm (singer call time and location TBD)
Sun, June 24*	Roots & Wings: 30th Anniversary Concert , 7:30pm (singer call time and location TBD)

[June 23-24](#) [Twin Cities Gay Pride Festival, Loring Park, Minneapolis](#) [One Voice booth open June 23-24.](#)

Social events will be added soon! Dates are being finalized.

Gender Language Guidelines

One Voice Mixed Chorus strives for gender neutrality with regards to language in recognition of the many genders represented within our singing sections and community

- ◆ Please refer to sections by our voice parts rather than genders, ie; *tenors and basses* rather than *men* or *women*
- ◆ There are also gender inclusive ways that you can address the chorus as a whole. *People* or *folks* or simply *everyone* are great words (as opposed to *ladies and gentlemen*)

We know that gender specific language is a part of our culture and we don't expect you to overcome years of conditioning in the short time that you are with us. We would, however, appreciate your attempt to address us in the most gender-neutral way possible.

*** Required Events:** Check your schedule and discuss any possible conflicts with your Membership & Diversity Rep. Social events are not required.

One Voice Mixed Chorus **651-298-1954** **www.OneVoiceMN.org** **info@OneVoiceMN.org**

Directions and Map to location for Auditions & Rehearsals

Location: **Unity Church Unitarian, Parish Hall**
732 Holly Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55104
Please enter through main entrance at Portland & Grotto

Parking: You may park on the street or in the lot at Portland Ave & St. Albans St N (just one block east of the Portland & Grotto entrance). You will find handicapped parking in the lot immediately east of the church on Holly Avenue.

Driving Directions: From Interstate 94, exit south on Dale Street
Travel 10 blocks, turn right on Holly Avenue
Or for the parking lot, continue 1 block past Holly,
Turn right on Portland Avenue (sign not visible) and
Travel 1 long block to the parking lot at Portland & St. Albans
Or 1 block further for street parking

Bus Info: Metro Transit bus routes 21A, 63 & 65 service this area

Note: **If you are running late or cannot make your audition slot on the day scheduled, please call ahead to let us know: 651-298-1954**

