



# MEDIA ADVISORY

One Voice Mixed Chorus  
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Executive Director ..... Christopher Taykalo  
Festival Manager ..... Max Gries

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*December 18, 2017*

## **One Voice Mixed Chorus Announces a Transgender Voices Festival!**

**Who:** One Voice Mixed Chorus: Minnesota's LGBTQA Chorus

**What:** Transgender Voices Festival: Song, Story, Justice, and Community

**Where:** Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, Macalester College, 130 Macalester St, Saint Paul, MN 55105

**When:** April 13 & 14, 2018

**Tickets:** Register online at [www.onevoicemn.org/transvoices](http://www.onevoicemn.org/transvoices)

Join One Voice Mixed Chorus for a Transgender Voices Festival April 13 & 14, 2018 in St. Paul, MN! In partnership with the Macalester College Music Department, the event offers a space for transgender singers to explore their voices and identities, grow as artists, and learn tools for voice care. The Festival is also a place for voice teachers, music teachers, and choir directors to learn about transgender voice, gain a deeper understanding of trans and gender nonconforming experience, and receive tools to support singers in the classroom and beyond.

The Festival ends each day with evening concerts featuring guest artists from the Festival as well as transgender singers and other artists from across Minnesota. A chorus of transgender singers will perform as a culmination of their rehearsal over the two days. Videos will be produced at the festival to be used as reference educational tools for transgender singers and voice and music teachers.

Continuing education credits will be available to Minnesota teachers and music educators that attend the festival.

National guest artists include singer-songwriter Eli Conley from Berkeley, CA, composer Mari Esabel Valverde from Fort Worth, TX, song leader and music activist Osprey Huffsmith from Eugene, OR, youth choir director André-Louis Heywood from St Cloud, MN, and voice pathologist Erin Donahue from Cincinnati, OH. Local Twin Cities guest artists include conductor Erik Peregrine and therapist and author Alex Iantaffi.

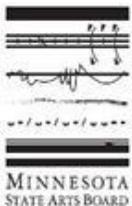
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According to Festival Manager Max Gries, “The world is changing for transgender and gender non-binary people. There is more visibility and with that comes both greater opportunity and challenge. It’s critical for us to have places like the Trans Voices Festival to come together as a community: to sing together, move together, dream, learn, and heal together.”

Registration opens December 19 on a sliding scale from \$0-\$100. Financial assistance is available to help cover travel costs for attendees coming from Greater Minnesota. Accessibility is a top priority. Some of the ways One Voice will provide access include a sliding scale registration, a no-scent policy, a quiet room, and a venue that is wheelchair accessible, on a bus line, and offers free parking.

Grounded in the values of social justice, gender justice, and inclusivity, the Festival will represent the intersections of identity in our communities including those of race, gender identity and expression, age, dis/ability, and sexual orientation. Trans voices will be centered, both in the audience and as featured guests, teachers, leaders, and workshop presenters. The Festival will provide a learning and supportive space for all, in alignment with the goals of reducing isolation, building community, and creating social change.

Why a transgender voices festival? Voice is incredibly important to transgender and gender nonconforming people. Because transgender voices do not always match societal expectations of outward gender expression, people are often silenced from speaking or singing, out of fear, shame, or humiliation. Transgender singers face many questions about voice: How might my vocal register change if I choose to take hormones? Will I ever sing in the range I really want to? How can I sing in a voice that doesn't match what people expect of my gender expression? Voice teachers also face many questions when working with transgender voices such as fluctuating range, vocal health issues, appropriate repertoire for a transitioning voice and the unique physiology of a changing adult voice.



**KNIGHT  
FOUNDATION**

This event is made possible through funding from The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, as part of its Knight Arts Challenge, and the Minnesota State Arts Board.

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To learn more about the Transgender Voices Festival, email [TransVoices@OneVoiceMN.org](mailto:TransVoices@OneVoiceMN.org) or to contact One Voice Mixed Chorus, call 651-298-1954 or visit [www.onevoicemn.org](http://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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