

January 13, 2016

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Jane Ramseyer Miller, Artistic Director
E-mail: ArtisticDirector@ovmc.org; Phone: 651-298-1954

ONE VOICE PRESENTS CONCERT HONORING VISIONARY PEACE-MAKERS

"Brave Souls & Dreamers" takes place January 21-22 at Hopkins High School Auditorium

Features a new One Voice commission: BraveSouls & Dreamers by Robert Seeley and Robert Espindola

One Voice Mixed Chorus—Minnesota's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender (GLBT) and straight allies chorus—opens its 2011-2012 season with **Brave Souls & Dreamers**. This is an inspirational concert celebrating the lives of visionary leaders who have challenged prejudice and violence: Harvey Milk, Nelson Mandela, Mother Teresa, Judy Shepard, and more. Featuring music by Bob Dylan, Holly Near, and Stephen Sondheim, plus the premiere of *BraveSouls & Dreamers*, arranged especially for One Voice and inspired by the words of peacemakers from around the globe! The concerts take place on January 21, 2012, at 7:30 pm and January 22, 2012, at 3:30 pm at Hopkins High School Auditorium in Minnetonka. Ticket prices for the January concerts range from \$18 to \$25, or \$10 for students and seniors; tickets and additional information are available at One Voice's website, www.ovmc.org.

Brave Souls & Dreamers celebrates the lives of visionary leaders who have worked to end violence, promote healing, and confront all forms of discrimination in their communities, including homophobia. The narrative arc of the concert is carried through choral music, but interspersed throughout the performance will be photographs and stories featuring the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Harvey Milk, and Judy Shepard, mother of Matthew Shepard. Musical selections urge listeners to take a stand against fear and prejudice, calling instead for members of our community to seek connections between cultures, and to celebrate the wonderful diversity in our world. Featured works include Holly Near's *Change of Heart*, Stephen Sondheim's *Children Will Listen*, and Judy Small's *Influenced by Queers*, plus works by Bob Dylan, Lebo Morake, and music written in the "shape note" tradition.



**One Voice Artistic
Director Jane Ramseyer
Miller**

"It is a moving experience for our singers to prepare this incredible music at a time when we are seeing renewed violence

and homophobia in our culture," notes Artistic Director, Jane Ramseyer Miller. "Through this music I hope that our message can be one of hope, as well as a call to action against bullying and violence."

A particular highlight is the mixed-chorus premiere of *BraveSouls & Dreamers*. This ten-movement work is inspired by the words of Gandhi, Jesus, Mother Teresa, Isaiah, Jimmy Carter, Confucius, Buddha, and the Qur'an, and was composed "in response to current raging wars." It was commissioned by the Portland Gay Men's Chorus in 2007 and composed by Robert Seeley with text by his partner, Robert Espindola. One Voice has commissioned the composer to re-cast the work for SATB (mixed) chorus for a premiere here in the Twin Cities. The powerful 43-minute multi-movement piece is scored for chorus, instrumental ensemble, and four soloists including voices of the Mother, Sage and two soldiers. The Portland Gay Men's Chorus was recently invited to perform *BraveSouls & Dreamers* at St. John the Divine in New York City as part of the 10th anniversary commemoration of 9/11.

"It has been thrilling to work with Robert Seeley in preparing this commission and in rehearsal with the chorus," says One Voice's Artistic Director, Jane Ramseyer Miller. "His music powerfully portrays the wrenching emotions of individuals caught in a state of violence, but even more powerfully offers a sense of hope for a world without violence and fear."

One Voice will present a free community concert outside the metro area in St. Francis High School in St. Francis on January 9, 2012 at 7:30 pm in collaboration with the St. Francis High School Concert Choir.

Composer **Robert Seeley**, a California native, was raised in a small town in the Mojave Desert. He received his formal education at California State University, Chico, where he received a B.A. ("With Distinction") in music theory and composition. He is a former Composer in Residence for the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus for which he composed *NakedMan* in 1996. He has also written for the Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus, (*Metamorphosis*), Dallas Women's Chorus (*Only Human*), New York City Gay Men's Chorus (*In This Heart of Mine*), Turtle Creek Chorale (*To a Dancing Star*), Gay Men's Chorus of Washington (*This House Shall Stand: Songs of My Family*), Seattle Men's Chorus (*Over the Skies of Yisrael*) and the Portland Gay Men's Chorus (*BraveSouls & Dreamers*).

Librettist **Robert Espindola** is a professional educator and a minister. He graduated with honors from Graceland College in Lamoni, Iowa in 1975. After completing graduate studies in psychology at Illinois State and San Francisco State University, he taught in the California school system for twenty years. In 1992 he was honored as one of California's distinguished educators. A strong advocate for teenagers living with HIV/AIDS, he traveled extensively throughout the United States and Canada, conducting workshops and seminars. He has been the keynote speaker at two National AIDS conferences, and served in 1993 as a delegate to the International Conference on AIDS in Yokohama, Japan.

One Voice Mixed Chorus unites gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender people and straight allies to build



community and create social change by raising our voices in song. As the largest GLBT chorus in North America, One Voice is known for its musical excellence, diverse programming, and deep commitment to community outreach. The 90 singing members range from ages 17 to 74, and the "Fifth Section" boasts more than 50 non-singing volunteers. Whether performing in schools, at community events, or on stage for marquee concerts, One Voice inspires transformation through passionate, vibrant, creative and surprising performances. The award-winning chorus, under the direction of Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller, has performed for thousands of people throughout the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and beyond. More: www.ovmc.org.

One Voice Mixed Chorus Presents



January 9, 2012 • 7:30 pm

Carlson Foley Performing Arts Center
3325 Bridge Street, St. Francis, MN

January 21, 2012 • 7:30 pm

January 22, 2012 • 3:30 pm

Hopkins High School Auditorium
2400 Lindbergh Dr., Minnetonka

Information and tickets: www.ovmc.org or 651-298-1954

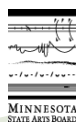
Cost: \$18-25; \$10 seniors and students. Call for group rates.

Program

TRADITIONAL (arr. Caldwell/Ivory)	<i>Ain't No Grave Can Hold my Body Down</i>
NEAR/SCOTT/NAKAMOTO	<i>Change of Heart</i>
SONDHEIM	<i>Children Will Listen, from "Into the Woods"</i>
LENNON	<i>Imagine</i>
SMALL	<i>Influenced by Queers</i>
LEBO M	<i>One by One</i>
DRISCOLL	<i>What Matters</i>
MILLER	<i>Transformation</i>
SEELEY/ESPINDOLA	<i>BraveSouls and Dreamers *</i>

*World premiere of mixed chorus (SATB) version

Sponsors



Funding provided in part by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and private funders.

###