

Ovation



one night on the heights!

Saturday, May 8, 2004 • 7:30 PM

Falcon Heights United Church of Christ • 1795 Holton Ave • St. Paul, MN 55113

Welcome!



Building community &
creating social change by
raising our voices in song.

Three years ago, One Voice Mixed Chorus created Ovation, an *a cappella* ensemble that would provide an artistic challenge for OVMC singers wishing to develop their voices and performance skills in an ensemble setting. Ovation was also formed out of urgent necessity! One Voice had received so many requests to perform in the community, we found we could not respond to them all. Ovation has played an incredible role in making known and fulfilling our goals of building community visibility. Last year alone, Ovation performed in ten outreach concerts in addition to our regular One Voice performances!

A primarily self-directed group, Ovation has become a polished ensemble delighting Twin Cities' audiences. Last fall, they stole

the show with their Labor Day concert for the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA) Choral Camp. In July they will pack up their costumes and travel with One Voice to the seventh annual GALA Chorus Festival in Montreal, Quebec. The proceeds from tonight's concert support the mission of One Voice Mixed Chorus as an agent of social change. Your contribution will provide scholarships for chorus members who need assistance to attend the GALA festival.

Please give generously, have fun, and enjoy the show!

Jane Ramseyer Miller
Artistic Director, One Voice Mixed Chorus

GUEST ARTIST

Paul
Kovacovic

M.C.

Char
Greenwald

ASL INTERPRETER

Catherine
Vannostrand

STAGE MANAGER

Bayla
McDougal

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Falcon Heights United Church of Christ and Cornerstone Copy Center.*

On With the Show...

Five months ago, after we had decided on an OVation concert fundraiser, our biggest question was "what the heck are we going to sing?" We wanted to choose songs that our audiences have responded to best, that have deep meaning, and that we could enjoy revisiting. First on the list was *Walk a Mile*, with its message of tolerance and empathy. This song has been with OVation since the beginning, and is as close to a signature piece as we have. *Everything Possible* and *We Are*, two familiar songs that illustrate personal and community identity, were also easy choices. Wanting to entertain as well as educate, we snapped up some of our trusty toe-tappers: the Manhattan Transfer's *Trickle, Trickle* (John's favorite group), *Lazy River* (who needs Louis Armstrong when you've got Shelly?), and *Up the Ladder*. This is the first song OVation ever truly choreographed; we own this song just as much as the Turtles or the Ny-lons ever did. *The Cloud* is a poem set to gorgeous music that we all fell in love with immediately and sang for a month before learning that a cenotaph is a monument raised to honor someone dead whose remains lay elsewhere. The Turtles standard *Happy Together* is one that "Mom" loves, and John...does not. Mom is always right... And how relevant is *Song of Peace* these days? *MLK*, by the rock group U2, is a tribute to Martin Luther King. Though we performed it once during OVMC's collaboration with the Twin Cities Gospel Choir in January, the song was too haunting not to (and Molly threatened to cry if we didn't) keep it.

Now that we had filled half a concert with music familiar to us and our fans, it was time for the *search for new music*. Jim looked no further than his living room; he had already been working on an arrangement of a Barry Manilow tune from his (and John's, Robin's, Darcy's, and Shelly's) high school days. *All the Time* is just as relevant now as it was for teenagers in the mid-'70s. The first time most of us discovered *Hodja* was following a rehearsal when John insisted we hear the coolest tune off an old Todd Rundgren album he just happened to have lying around. Jim reclaimed his long-lost album and began transcribing it for us. We felt like we needed a couple of standards and added *Dream a Little Dream of Me* and *Moon River* with their tight, silky harmonies. How could we not ask the Mamas, Papas, and Mancini to come along?

Just when we thought we had enough on our plate, Jane approached us with her suggestion for the June OVMC concert, "Blurring the Lines." Written by local composer Jay Huber, *Valley of Colors* is the second of three songs about Joan of Arc. It was not only a great fit for the upcoming genderblur concert, but challenged our ears and concepts of what we could do as an ensemble. We had the good fortune of working with Jay for an evening, not only polishing the music, but gaining insights into the music. The text, from a time when the content (a woman dressing as a man!) was shocking, is now deliberately restated in a beautiful setting. It reinforces that though taboos have been around for a long time, they can be broken. And then came Paul...we knew that he was composing a new work for this evening, but *Flight* pushed us even further. *Down to the River/Down by the Riverside* simply felt like great ways to begin and re-begin our evening together – and you never know when you'll need nondenominational, non-faith-specific spiritual music, right?

We hope we've given you an abundance of music to make you think, help you feel, and keep your toes tapping: OVation at its best.

Set One

Down to the River to Pray

Traditional spiritual, arranged by Sheldon Curry

Happy Together

Words and music by Gary Bonner and Alan Gordon, arranged by Ed Lojeski and adapted by John Sorlien

MLK

Words and music by U2, arranged by Bob Chilcott

We Are

Written and arranged by Ysaye Barnwell

All the Time

Words and music by Barry Manilow, arranged for OVation by James P. Slater

Song of Peace

From *Finlandia* by Jean Sibelius, arranged by H. Alexander Matthews

GUEST PERFORMER/COMPOSER

Paul Kovacovic

Demons • Stasis • Flight

Written by Paul Kovacovic

Everything Possible

Words and music by Fred Small, arranged by Joan Simcoe

Valley of Colors

From *Sixty Against One: the life of Jeanne d'Arc*, text by William Trask, music by Jay Huber

Walk a Mile

Words and music by Pepper Choplin, arranged by Mark Hayes

INTERMISSION

Eat, chat and cross your fingers! Just turn in your address card and donation and you'll receive four more chances to enter the drawing(s) of your choice!

Set Two

Down By the Riverside

Traditional spiritual, improvised by OVation. Please sing along!

The Cloud

Text by Percy Bysshe Shelley, music by Bill Douglas

Dream a Little Dream of Me

Words by Gus Kahn, music by W. Schwandt and F. Andree, arranged by Norman Luboff, adapted by John Sorlien

Trickle, Trickle

Words and music by Clarence Bassett, arranged by Alan Billingsley, adapted by John Sorlien

Lazy River

Words and music by Hoagy Carmichael, arranged by Kirby Shaw

Hodja

Written and arranged by Todd Rundgren, transcribed for OVation by James P. Slater

Up the Ladder

Words and music by Vincent DiMirco, arranged by Mark Brymer