

## MEDIA ADVISORY

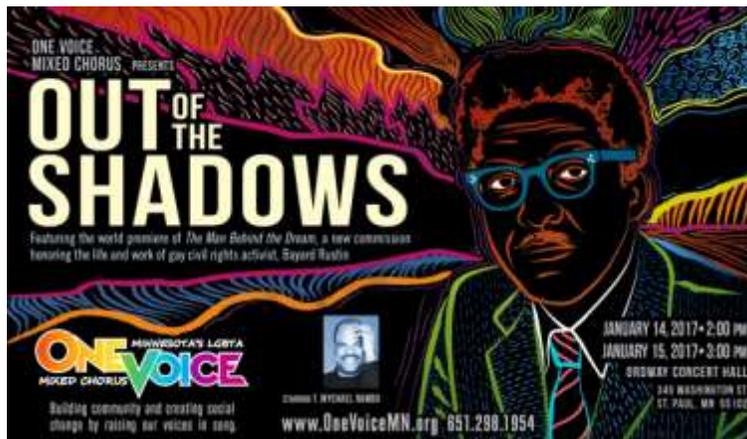
Artistic Director ..... Jane Ramseyer Miller  
Executive Director ..... Christopher Taykalo

**Contact:**

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October 27, 2016

### One Voice Mixed Chorus Presents *Out of the Shadows: A Celebration of African-American Artists and Activists!*



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

**What:** One Voice is proud to present, *Out of the Shadows*, a choral tribute to African-American artists and activists. Featured composers include Ysaye Barnwell, Rosephanye Powell, Sam Cooke, and Billy Strayhorn, among others. *Shadows* also features the world premiere of the largest commission in our history, *The Man Behind the Dream*. Composed by Cincinnati composer, Steve Milloy, *The Man Behind the Dream* honors the life and work of openly gay, civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and an organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, who was pushed to the margins of the movement due to his sexuality.

**Where:** Ordway Concert Hall, 345 Washington St., St. Paul, MN 55102

**When:** Saturday, January 14 at 2:00 P.M. and Sunday, January 15 at 3:00 P.M.

**Tickets:** Please visit [www.ordway.org/performances/out-of-the-shadows](http://www.ordway.org/performances/out-of-the-shadows) for tickets, or call the Ordway box office at (651) 224-4222.

**Additional FREE concert on MLK Day, January 16** at South High School, Minneapolis

Celebrate MLK Weekend 2017 with *Out of the Shadows*, a concert honoring the work of African-American artists and activists, featuring music by composers Ysaye Barnwell, Rosephanye Powell, Sam Cooke, and Billy Strayhorn among others. The concert also features **the world premiere of One Voice's largest commission ever, *The Man Behind the Dream***, a new choral work by Cincinnati composer Steve Milloy. This commission honors the life and work of openly gay civil rights activist **Bayard Rustin**, a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and organizer of the 1963 March on Washington, who was pushed to the margins of the movement due to his sexuality. *The Man Behind the Dream* is a multi-movement piece set for chorus, spoken word, soloists and band, and is narrated by incomparable Twin Cities actors, **T. Mychael Rambo and Aimee K. Bryant**. The concerts also feature student performers from the Central High School Concert Choir.

The concert premieres on Friday, January 13 with a free daytime concert for LGBTQ youth and St. Paul choir students, followed by shows on Saturday, January 14 and Sunday, January 15 concerts at the Ordway Concert Hall in Downtown St. Paul. **Additional FREE concert on MLK Day, January 16** at South High School.

## Meet the Artists:

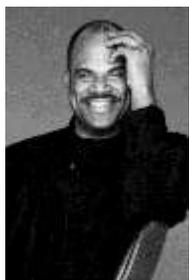
### Steve Milloy, Composer



Music director of the Martin Luther King Coalition Chorale and artistic director of the DiverseCity Youth Chorus, Steve Milloy (b. 1965) has spent over three decades coaching and directing singers in schools, churches, theaters, and concert stages across the midwestern United States. He has performed in many venues: theme parks, entertaining troops overseas, TV and radio, and singing with the acclaimed a cappella octet, Pieces of 8.

Steve has been commissioned to compose or arrange pieces for dozens of church & community choruses in the US and UK. He has worked at the keyboard and/or on the podium with choruses and theater troupes in St. Louis, Indianapolis, and Cincinnati. With Dr. Charles Beale he co-authored the books "Popular Voiceworks 1 and 2" for Oxford University Press. Popular Voiceworks 1 won the 2008 Music Industries Association award for Best Pop Publication. Steve received a BA in Music from Miami University and a MM in conducting from the University of Cincinnati/College-Conservatory of Music.

### T. Mychael Rambo, Narrator & Featured Soloist



T. Mychael Rambo is well known as an actor and vocalist receiving high marks for his contributions as a residency artist/educator and affiliate professor/recruitment coordinator at the University of Minnesota in the School of Theatre Arts and Dance, a motivational speaker, community organizer and a committed community volunteer.

Additionally, he is an artist in residence for the Minnesota State Arts Board, VocalEssence, Minnesota Opera-Opera Ventures Young Audiences and COMPAS teaching classes and workshops in improvisation, creative dramatics, theatre, voice, and creative writing. For the Minnesota State Arts Board he has participated in residencies with rural communities around the five state region and developed diverse artist collaborations with artist in Wells, MN and artist throughout St. Paul and Minneapolis. He has been a regular artist in residence at St. Paul Central High School for almost two decades. As a volunteer, he works closely with the Urban League, African American Family Services, Amicus, American Red Cross, Minnesota AIDS Project (former Board Member), Turning Point, and Minnesota Department of Corrections.

## Aimee K. Bryant, Narrator & Featured Soloist



Aimee K. Bryant has been performing in the Twin Cities for the last 20 years. Some of the highlights of her career include Beneatha in *A Raisin in the Sun*, Ensemble Member in *For Colored Girls*, Ensemble member in *Black Nativity* at Penumbra; Cobalt in *No Distance Between Us*, Queen Elizabeth in *Two Weeks with the Queen*, and Aimee in *How Come Ain't No White People in the Show?* at Illusion Theater; Elaria in *Emperor of the Moon*, Rosabella in *The Most Happy Fella*, Sarah in *Ragtime*, Celia in *As You Like It*, and Marian the Librarian in *The Music Man* with Ten Thousand Things; Amy in *Oh Shit, I'm Turning into My Mother* with

Theatre Latté Da; Sour Kangaroo in *Suessical the Musical*, Shaneequa in *Splash Hatch on the E Going Down*, and Everyone in *Seedfolks* at Children's Theatre Company; Blues Speak Woman in *Spunk*, and Knowledge of Good in *Deep Azure* with Congo Square Theatre Company; Soprano in *8 Track: Sounds of the 70's* at the Ordway; Ghetto Superstar in *Snapshots* at History Theatre; Ida B. Wells in *Constant Star*, and Celie in *The Color Purple* at Park Square Theatre; The Moon in *Caroline or Change* at the Guthrie Theater; Shun in *In the Red and Brown Water* and in *Marcus; or the Secret of Sweet*, and Martha, Officer Pilate, Miriam, Ida. B. Wells, and Mrs Thomas in *The Gospel of Lovingkindness* with Pillsbury House Theatre. City Pages named Aimee as the Best Actress of 2015. She is also a teaching artist as well as a vocalist and songwriter. Her original music can be heard on her debut cd "Becoming."

## Vanessa German, Librettist



Vanessa German is an award-winning multidisciplinary artist based in the Homewood community of Pittsburgh, PA. The third of five children, Vanessa was born in Wisconsin and raised in Los Angeles. Her mother is a renowned fiber artist who raised her children to make things and create their own stories and entertainment. "We grew up with the ingredients to make 'stuff'... and most importantly, fully realized faith in our imaginations. This is how we stayed alive—making our ideas leave our bodies through our hands, becoming tangible—and righteous enough for us to keep wanting to do it."

Vanessa has pioneered a performance style called "Spoken Word Opera," which brings all of the drama and theatricality of traditional opera to intimate performances and contemporary themes through a dynamic hybrid of spoken word poetry, hip hop, storytelling, music and movement. Recent performances include TEDx Harvard, TEDx MIT, and TEDx Pittsburgh. Vanessa has written and performed in four evening-length performance works. As a member of the inaugural 2009/2010 class of fellows at the August Wilson Center of African American Culture, she created "root," a spoken word opera. Vanessa is also the subject of the documentary film *Tar Baby Jane*.

Tickets are on sale now! To purchase, please visit <http://www.onevoicemn.org/performances/get-tickets/> or call the Ordway Box Office at 651-224-4222. To learn more about One Voice Mixed Chorus, please email us at [info@onevoicemn.org](mailto:info@onevoicemn.org), call our office at 651-298-1954, or visit our website at <http://www.onevoicemn.org>.



## 2016-2017 Season Calendar:

### Fall Outreach Tour: Hand in Hand

November 18, 2016 • 7:00pm: Vermilion Community College Fine Arts Theater in Ely, MN

November 19, 2016 • 7:00pm: Messiah Lutheran Church in Mt. Iron, MN

November 20, 2016 • 2:30pm: Duluth Congregational Church in Duluth, MN

Tickets: Free

More: <http://www.onevoicemn.org/community-impact/community-engagement/>

### Out of the Shadows

Featuring a new commission about Bayard Rustin “The Man Behind the Dream”

January 14, 2017 • 2:00pm

January 15, 2017 • 3:00pm

The Ordway Concert Hall

345 Washington St, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Tickets: <http://onevoicemn.org/performances/get-tickets/> or 651-224-4222

### The Man Behind the Dream

January 16, 2017 • 7:30pm FREE performance

South High School

3131 S 19th Ave, Minneapolis, MN 55407

### Well-Versed

March 18, 2017 • 7:30pm

The Ordway Concert Hall

345 Washington St, Saint Paul, MN 55102

Tickets: <http://onevoicemn.org/performances/get-tickets/> or 651-224-4222

### The Pirates of Penzance

June 22, 2017 • 7:30pm (Preview)

June 24, 2017 • 3:30pm

June 25, 2017 • 2:00pm & 5:30pm

Raspberry Island

Saint Paul, MN 55107

Tickets: Free and open to the public!

For nearly 30 years, One Voice Mixed Chorus, Minnesota’s own LGBTQ and straight allies community chorus and the largest LGBTQ mixed chorus in North America, has been known for its commitment to artistic excellence, its diverse repertoire, its wicked sense of humor and a strong commitment to community engagement. Our talented and diverse group of 125 singing members span the ages of 17 and 77, and our “Fifth Section” boasts more than 50 non-singing volunteers. Together, they dedicate their time and energy to the One Voice mission: “Building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song.” In the last few years, One Voice is proud to have performed for thousands of people in the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and beyond!