



Annual Report

2004-2005



Building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song

From the Executive Director

Dear Supporters,

I have completed my first year as the Executive Director of One Voice Mixed Chorus, and I'd like to thank all the chorus members and supporters that made this an incredible year. I started my tenure with the chorus at our annual retreat, soon after boarding a bus for a tour of Northern Minnesota and finishing up the year by bringing national comedian Kate Clinton to perform with us!

We completed our first season brochure and created a seven-minute video about the chorus. This video has been instrumental in telling our story to people that are new to One Voice. We also received a grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council that allowed us to migrate our databases to a web-based application that allows both staff and volunteers access to our information. Because we do not have office space, this is critical to the smooth operation of the organization.

We set attendance records at both of our concerts and hosted a very successful Silent Auction Fundraiser in April. We experienced a successful year of grant funding and saw increased giving from our individual donors. We continue to work towards a larger bank reserve and a more even cash flow throughout the year.

We've accomplished a great deal this past year and we look forward to the opportunities and challenges that lay before us. I am confident that we will continue to develop the strategic plans and artistic programming to further our mission of building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song.

Shannon Pierce

Shannon Pierce
Executive Director

Comedienne Kate Clinton with Executive Director Shannon Pierce



**One Voice
Mixed Chorus**

PO Box 2290
Minneapolis
MN 55402

612.332.1302

www.ovmc.org

From the Board of Directors

ONE VOICE EXPERIENCED AN INCREDIBLE YEAR OF GROWTH as the board of directors and staff made some monumental strides that will benefit the chorus for years to come. Our focus on staffing, fundraising and budget enabled us to accomplish milestones we had previously only dreamed about.

BIG DREAMS REQUIRED LOTS OF WORK, and growth implied increasing capacity to handle new challenges. The board and Personnel committee addressed our capacity needs by adding to and supporting our staff. With a total of four paid staff, this represented approximately two full-time equivalent (FTE) positions, the highest in our history. In August 2004 we hired Shannon Pierce to be our Executive Director. She has worked diligently to build bridges with the broader community. Shannon's work has resulted in new friends who are giving their time and resources to the organization. We also hired a new Resource Development Director in January 2005, Sherene Judeh. Sherene has organized the chorus data and addressed volunteer resource needs with an incredible "can-do" attitude. Jane Ramseyer Miller's position as Artistic Director was increased to full-time status with benefits. Jane has served the chorus for 10 years on a part-time basis, and has worked exceedingly hard to bring us to where we are today. It became important for us to reward and recognize Jane's unwavering commitment to OVMC and the mission we have forged together.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENT was in addressing how we develop financial resources for the chorus. In 2004-2005 we adopted a new fundraising model that focused on contributions from individuals and redoubled the efforts of our Dynamic Donors committee. One component of this program, a monthly open house now called "Hearts in Harmony," connected people with One Voice and generated enthusiasm for our mission. We are confident that sharing our stories with others during each open house communicated our passion for singing and ultimately will continue to bring more volunteers and financial support to the chorus. This fundraising approach combined with other events such as our annual silent auction has helped to balance our incoming resources with enduring connections of the heart.

FUNDRAISING SUCCESS ALSO RESULTED IN A BUDGET THAT SURPASSED THE \$200,000 MILESTONE. This is a 13-fold increase from 10 years ago and a 62% increase over our budget from 2003-04. This increase enabled us to extend our outreach, create our second CD recording, increase staffing levels, and collaborate with comedian, Kate Clinton in a larger venue for a record-breaking audience. Our finance committee also helped to keep us accountable to this growth by improving fiscal policies and authorizing our first professional audit.

SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO OUR OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS this past fiscal year for all their contributions and dedication. Thank you to everyone who has helped to support the mission of One Voice. Together our hearts are in harmony. Your love and efforts are greatly appreciated.

Colleen Kay Watson & Paul Petrella
Co-chairs, Board of Directors



From the Artistic Director

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS

Our January 2005 Building Bridges concerts with Kairos Dance Theatre exceeded all expectations. Thanks to some excellent marketing, and an enthusiastic audience, we sold out both our Saturday and Sunday concerts – a new One Voice record. Conceived out of a bridging theme shared by both groups, this collaboration embodied a connection expressed in the combination of choral music and dance. The concerts flowed gracefully and also included reflections on our mission and outreach concerts from the fall. The children and elders of Kairos Dance Theatre added a special intergenerational highlight to the concerts.

It was with a leap of faith that One Voice contracted with comedian Kate Clinton to join us for our June 2005 Just for Laughs concerts at the Great American History Theatre. Kate's national renown presented both an incredible opportunity as well as several new challenges. The risk paid off and we set another record, selling nearly 1000 tickets for two concerts. Kate brought in hundreds of new audience members, many of whom told us in the lobby, "I came for Kate but I'm coming back to hear One Voice." Kate's brand of political, justice-centered humor was woven throughout our musical selections creating a powerful blend of laughter and profound reflection throughout the concert. After the concert, Kate talked informally with OVMC members about how humor tends to be overlooked as light entertainment when often it provides an avenue for healing or a shift in perspective that offers hope. "We forget sometimes," she said, "how healthy it is to laugh."

June also marked the release of One Voice's second CD, Building Bridges. The CD includes music highlights from our January concert along with selections from our Blurring the Lines: Music and Gender concert.



Jane Ramseyer Miller
— Jane Ramseyer Miller
Artistic Director

Programming and Outreach

There was some kind of magic at work in our outreach concerts this year. They were invigorating, at times daunting and several were utterly thrilling. Three days after the November presidential elections, One Voice hit the road on a tour of outreach concerts for schools and community groups in Bemidji, Grand Rapids and Duluth. These performances were life changing. We found our audience starved for our music and message of hope, and the tears and cheers of those folks in greater Minnesota were profoundly inspiring.

Two weeks later, One Voice performed at the Minnesota American Choral Director's Association, a convention of professional choral directors throughout the state. Choirs auditioned to perform at this event and this marked the first time a GLBT chorus has ever performed at ACDA Minnesota. Our performance was certainly the first time most people in the audience had ever seen a GLBT chorus. One choral director responded, "I just sat in the audience and cried ... at all the appropriate places, of course." Said another, "It is so important that you were here in the aftermath of the November election."

But it is our spring school concerts that will forever remain in our hearts when recalling our 2004-2005 outreach concerts. Nearly sixty One Voice singers took the day off of work to sing for, and with, students at three Saint Paul schools. The day concluded with a joint evening concert with the Community of Peace Academy (CPA) Choir, a charter school on the East Side of St. Paul that draws mostly from Hmong, African-American and Hispanic communities.

In the weeks leading up to this concert the students from CPA joined us for several rehearsals and together we commissioned a brand new choral piece. From the first awkward rehearsals, relationships grew in surprising and delightful ways over our months of singing together. Students who were nervous to sit by "a gay person" had become our biggest cheering squad by the concert performance evening. When a newspaper article about the concert appeared in the St. Paul Pioneer Press, CPA students complained that One Voice was referred to only as a "gay choir." Their letter to the school administration said, "they're so much more than that."



Performances: 19 outreach concerts, 25 total performances!

November 5–7

Building Bridges Outreach Concerts

Partnering with OutFront MN and the Rural Aids Action Network

- Schoolcraft Charter School, Bemidji
- Bangsberg Recital Hall, Bemidji State Univ.
- Itasca Community College, Grand Rapids
- Peace United Church of Christ, Duluth

Saturday, November 20

American Choral Directors' Association

MN Chapter Fall Convention
Ted Mann Concert Hall • Univ. of MN

Friday, December 3 • District 202 Fundraiser

OVation • Trixx, St. Paul

Sunday, January 16 • Unity Church Unitarian

Music for worship • 732 Holly Ave, St. Paul

Friday–Sunday, January 28–30

Building Bridges

Collaboration with Kairos Dance Theatre
Sundin Hall, Hamline University, St. Paul
Sold out TWO shows — chorus record!!

Friday, February 18 • OVation in concert!

National GLBT College Convention
St. Cloud University

Saturday, April 2 • Fool' Paradise

Silent Auction Concert
Unity Unitarian Parish Hall
732 Holly Avenue, St. Paul • FREE

Thursday, April 7 • Take Back the Night

OVation • Loring Park, Minneapolis

Saturday, April 9 • OVation with Mila

Prairie Star Unitarian Convention
Radisson hotel, St. Paul

Friday, April 15 • OVation

United Church of Christ Convention
Opening Windows, Opening Doors
Pilgrim UCC, Duluth

Friday, April 22 • Building Bridges through Song outreach concerts

Central High School, St. Paul
Capital Hill Middle School, St. Paul
Community of Peace Academy, St. Paul

Friday, April 22 • Joint concert w/ Community of Peace Academy High School Choir

Dayton Avenue Presbyterian
217 MacKubin Street, St. Paul FREE

Saturday, June 4 • OVation w/ the Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra

Sundin Hall, Hamline Univ., Saint Paul

Monday, June 6 • QMC Como Pride Concert

Como Park Pavilion • FREE
1360 Lexington Pkwy N., St. Paul

Just for Laughs (with guest Kate Clinton)

Friday, June 17 & Saturday, June 18

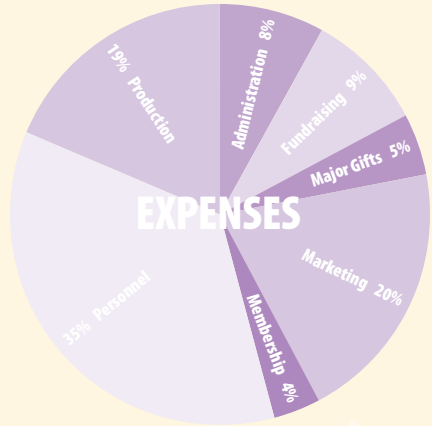
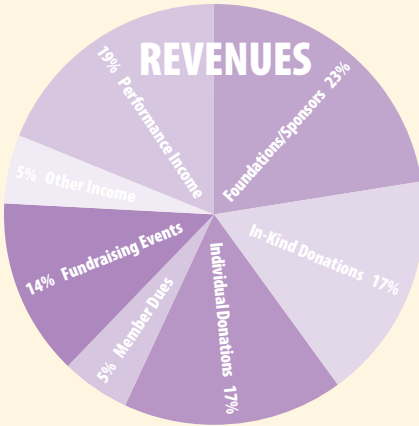
Great American History Theatre
30 East 10th Street, St. Paul
Sold over 1000 tickets. New OVMC record!!

Thursday, June 23

Gay Hockey League – National Anthem
St. Louis Park Rec Center

Sunday, June 26

Lynx NBA Game – National Anthem
Target Center



ASSETS

as of July 31, 2005

Current Assets

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Checking/Savings | |
| Online merchant account | 2,714.45 |
| US Bank | 16,975.75 |
| US Bank – Savings | 7,048.30 |
| Total Checking/Savings | 26,738.50 |
| Total Accounts Receivable | 1,028.40 |
| Other Assets (E*Trade Clearing, LLC) | <u>1,018.00</u> |
| Total Current Assets | 28,784.90 |

Total Assets 28,784.90

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Current Liabilities | |
| Total Accounts Payable | 1,124.35 |
| Other Payroll Liabilities | <u>525.00</u> |
| Total Current Liabilities | 1,649.35 |

Total Liabilities 1,649.35

Equity

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Board designated reserve | |
| Org. Development 2004-05 | 3,000.00 |
| Org. Development 2005-06 | 5,000.00 |
| SADI Unspent 2003-04 | 6,036.79 |
| Total board designated reserve | 14,036.79 |
| Fund Balance – Prior Years | 2,190.76 |
| Retained Earnings | <u>13,913.71</u> |
| Net Income | -3,005.71 |

Total Equity 27,135.55

Total Liabilities & Equity \$28,784.90

REVENUES / EXPENSES SUMMARY

September 2004 – July 2005

Income

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Foundations & Sponsors | 47,178.00 |
| In-Kind | 36,388.19 |
| Individual Donations | 36,002.41 |
| Member Dues | 11,070.00 |
| Fundraising Events | 28,512.57 |
| Other Income | 10,582.81 |
| Performance Income | <u>39,770.13</u> |

Total Income 209,504.11

Expenses

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Administration Expenses | 16,564.91 |
| Fundraising Expenses | 18,327.26 |
| Major Gifts | 9,527.89 |
| Marketing Expenses | 41,413.34 |
| Membership | 7,231.26 |
| Personnel | 72,117.32 |
| Production Expenses | <u>37,798.52</u> |

Total Expense 203,300.50

Net Income \$6,203.61

Staff



Sherene Judeh
Resource
Development
Director

Jane Ramseyer Miller
Artistic
Director

Shannon Pierce
Executive
Director

Dorothy Williams
Accompanist,
2004-05

Board of Directors

2004-2005

Paul Petrella, Board Co-chair

Colleen Watson, Board Co-chair

Matthew Peak, Secretary

Jason Fredin, Marketing Chair

Rhonda Laurie, Personnel Chair

Joel Mugge, Membership & Diversity Chair

Elaine Voboril, Fundraising Chair

Allan Warrior, Production Chair

Stephani Booker, At-large Member

Barbara Satin, At-large Member



OVation, the small ensemble group from OVMC, experienced a complete overhaul this year with new members, new repertoire, and new momentum. Despite the changes, OVation extended the OVMC mission in song to 17 different audiences. From Duluth to St. Cloud, to St. Paul, OVation continued the 'ready, willing and vocal' tradition while providing opportunities for singers to hone vocal and leadership skills in a focused context.



Clockwise from top left:

Cheryl Winch, Kristin Schweiloch, Britt Abel, Spencer Putney, Jennifer Andrade, Micah Shaw, and John Sorlien, music leader



Dynamic Donors

Fortissimo \$2500+

Anonymous
Jim Rickert/Arundel Street Consulting
Keith Campbell/Aspen Design
Katrina Johnson & Anita Wheeler
Anne Breckbill/BreckDesigns
Joel Mugge & Adam Hamilton
Matthew Peak & Spencer Putney
Shari Pleiss
Unity Church Unitarian
Colleen Kay Watson & Mary McDougall
Cheryl Winch & Christine Hazel

Forte \$1000 - \$2499

Anonymous
Susan J. Albrecht & Nancy J. Desmond
Anita Bradshaw
Ron Brunk & Charles Parker
Cornerstone Copy Center
Leslie Diamond & Linda Cole
Jane Ramseyer Miller
Lane Skalberg
Elaine Voboril & Marnie Milbert

Mezzo Forte \$250 - \$999

Anonymous
Britt Abel & Scott Burglechner
John Bagnewski
Tom Becker & Kyle Kossol
Nec Bowyer
William A. Brown
Chris Dart
Jason Fredin
Kate Lynn Hibbard
Infinity Mortgage Company
Carrie Michurski
Joseph Monastra
Paul Petrella
David Raw
John Whalen
Westmark Productions

Mezzo Piano \$100 - \$249

Anonymous
James Anderson

Suzanne Born & Carol Cummins
Michael Bredenkamp
Sharon Brenny
Scott F. Clugston
Linda Coffin
Sandra Coffin
Community Solutions Fund
Elizabeth A. Falk
Thomas W. & Diane M. Haines
Krista Hennig
Alice Holst
A.P. Hopper
Wendy A. Johnson & Glenn A. Evans
Dennis Kearney & Randy Okan
Barbara Keely
Molly Keenan & Aaron Lichtov
Jerry Kelley
Shirley Klitzke
Thomas Knabel
John E. Larsen
Lynne Larsen & Linda Alton
Barb Mahigel
Kim Makie
John W. McConnell, MD
Cecilia Miller & Robin Keck
Donald & Elizabeth Oberdorfer
Theo Park
Kevin Reardon & Timothy Hansen
Julia Reimer
Darcy Rowe & Char Greenwald
Karen Rusthoven
Jane Sage
Jim Sauder & Paul Hogrefe
Laura Secord
Lisette Schlosser
Patrick Schreier
Richard Schwartz
Micah Shaw
Betty Singer
Joseph & Lori Zook-Stanley
Kimberly Wagner-Adams
Claice J. & William G. Westall
Gwendolyn Wilson
Louise Ziegler

Piano \$10 - \$99

Anonymous (multiple donors)
Richard Adler
Michele Aebi
Christi A. Anderson
Daniel Basemen
Leslie Blicker
Karla Buerkle
Andrea Burnstein
Jean Christensen
Laura Cichoche
Christina Clark
Barbara Coffin
John C. Dawson
DD Carr Designs
Judith Dehler
Elizabeth DeWitt
Daniel & Linda Doyle
Carol Dungan
Jesse Eastman
Steve Garrigan
Kristin L. Garwick
Steven Grundahl
Marty Hamlin & Catherine Bosworth
Tim Hammett & Linda Anderson
Helene Haapala
Jennifer Hayes & Shannon Flood
Claire Henn
Kate Lynn Hibbard
Ruth Hograbe
Pat Hutcheson
Herbert & Katherine Isbin
J. D. Hutcheson & Elizabeth Stoltz
Tania Jackson
Mary Jo Jeppesen
Wendy Johnson & Glenn Evans
Sheldon G. Klugman
Chad Knutson
Jeanne Landkamer
R. J. Larrabee
Charles Larson
Louis Steven Lechuk
Carolee Lindsey
Russ Lovaason

Marcheta & Terrance Madden
Kristine Madson
Vern Maetzold
Dada Maglajlic
Abraham & Barbara McCarty
Liz & Brian McClear
Bayla McDougal
Bernadette Murphy
Vernon Nelson
Mary G. Newell
Misha Oneby
Margaret Patterson
Martha Pederson
Elizabeth Perrault
Jeanne Audrey Powers
Helen Rohrich
Jan Rudd & Patricia Murphy
Lisette Schlosser
Kristin Schweiloch
Laurel Severson
Susan Smith
Kristen L. Snow
J. Quinn Tierney
Catherine Van Nostrand
Kris & Rebecca Voelkel-Haugen
Kathryn Webster
Jennifer Welch
David K. Wells, Jr.
Kristin Wertz
Richard & Sandy Westby
Gwendolyn M. Whitmore
Robert W. Winters

Foundations and Corporate Support

American Composers Forum
American Express Financial Advisors
Arundel Street Consulting
COMPAS
Metropolitan Regional Arts Counsel
Pixel Driven Media
St Paul Travelers Foundation
Statewide Arts Development Initiative
Team Friday
Xcel Energy Foundation

The Twin Cities'
GLBT Community
Chorus

**One
Voice**
MIXED CHORUS

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