

One Voice Mixed Chorus
presents:



Singing DARKNESS to Light

Thursday - December 19, 2019
7:30 pm

Saturday - December 21, 2019
2:30 pm and 7:30 pm

Sundin Hall, Hamline University
1531 Hewitt Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104

HOLIDAY CONCERT

Jane Ramseyer Miller

Artistic Director

Mindy Eschedor

Accompanist

Ellis Perez

Spoken Word Artist

ONE VOICE MINNESOTA'S LGBTQ+
MIXED CHORUS

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

Info & Tickets: www.OneVoiceMN.org 651.298.1954

All performances

Dec. 19, 7:30 pm only

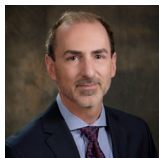


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Welcome



FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

In every culture across the world people mark the return of the sun with song, food and celebration. For queer people, indeed for many people, these gatherings of family and friends may be filled with joy but also with uncertainty, invisibility, and loneliness.

So, in the land of 10,000 holiday concerts this one is different—at least that is my hope! Tonight we honor the spaces that we create as queer people in this holiday season. We honor our birth families and our chosen families; sacred, secular and queer holidays; we honor the loneliness and the joy.

At our October chorus retreat we invited chorus members to reflect on their own memories, experiences, smells and tastes of winter holidays. These writings offered fuel for spoken word poet Ellis Perez, who has used them to create new poems for this concert.

In this season of darkness and year of political uncertainty, where families are separated at our country's borders, where trans phobia and homophobia continue to rise, our response is to SING! We raise our voices in song and in hope for transformation. We are singing darkness to light!

- Jane Ramseyer Miller, One Voice Artistic Director

Thank You From The ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

- Donna Doiron, One Voice fan extraordinaire, who passed away in September. We miss your passion, tenacious spirit, generosity and wicked sense of humor.
- John Whalen, who recently retired as our volunteer bookkeeper. We miss you in the office each week!
- Sarah Cohn and Sarah Johnson who have contributed over and beyond their duties as board members during our executive director transition.

MEET OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MITCH FANTINI



"I am honored and energized to join the One Voice family. The work of illuminating diverse perspectives, bridging social divides, and cultivating informed and inspired communities, has never been more important. Bringing people together to meaningfully interact around the joy of song and the spirit of social change is the type of experience that can cut through the noise of division and fractured human bonds. I cannot think of a better organization to contribute my time, talent, and energy than the one responsible for leading that inspired and inspiring work."

— Mitch Fantin, One Voice Executive Director

When we launched our executive director search, we set out to find a strategic, collaborative leader committed to growing One Voice, our visibility, and our mission. Mitch brings that and more. We're so excited for him to apply his curiosity, passion, skills and leadership as our Executive Director!

For the past 15 years, Mitch has served in leadership roles in non-profits around the country that advance this work through advocacy, education, community engagement, and conflict resolution. Mike joins us most recently from Minnesota Public Radio | American Public Media, where he conducted philanthropic development and donor engagement during a successful \$75 million capital campaign. Mitch has earned degrees in Psychology and Sociology from Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. Outside the office, he enjoys horticulture, cooking, chess, videography, and travelling. Welcome Mitch!

— Sarah Cohn, One Voice Board Chair



One Voice Mixed Chorus, Minnesota's LGBTQ+ chorus—and one of the largest queer choruses in the country—is known for musical excellence, creative programming, and a strong commitment to community engagement. One Voice's 125 singing members span ages 17 to 83, and are accompanied by a large "Fifth Section" of non-singing volunteers. Together, we dedicate our voices to the One Voice mission: **"Building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song."**

Along with our small ensemble OVation, One Voice has performed for tens of thousands of people in the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and beyond. For over 30 years One Voice's concerts have inspired transformation through passionate, vibrant, and creative performances on concert stages, during community engagement tours, and with our pioneering OUT in Our Schools program. One Voice is described by Chorus America as **"one of the region's best ensembles."**

One Voice Mixed Chorus mailing address: 732 Holly Avenue, Suite Q — Saint Paul, MN 55104-7125
Contact information: 651.298.1954 • www.OneVoiceMN.org • Info@OneVoiceMN.org



One Voice Mixed Chorus is a member of GALA Choruses, a network of just under 200 queer choruses across the world, with a mission of inspiring member choruses to change the world through song. Founded in 1982, GALA Choruses is the world's leading international choral association for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied choruses. For more information visit www.GalaChoruses.org.

OUT in Our Schools

Since 1999, One Voice has tackled the problem of bullying and homophobia in our communities through our interactive OUT in Our Schools program. One Voice has collaborated with over 50 Minnesota middle and high schools to provide positive LGBTQ+ role models and quality music partnerships culminating in concerts with One Voice singers and students performing together. Through this unique program we also support educators and administrators as they build understanding and respect within their school.



OVation is the portable version of One Voice—an a cappella ensemble that brings One Voice's music and message almost anywhere. Since its founding in 2000, OVation has presented over 250 performances, reaching over 30,000 people in dozens of Minnesota communities, at choral festivals from coast to coast, and internationally in Canada and Ireland. OVation performs at 20-30 community engagement events annually, in venues that have included the Minnesota State Fair, the Northern Voice Festival, the Minnesota Arboretum, TwinsFest, several Pride festivals, places of worship, and in partnership with organizations like RECLAIM!, the Aliveness Project, and Avenues for Homeless Youth. For information on booking OVation for your party, sacred service, business, wedding, coming-out party, birthday bash, or other event visit www.OneVoiceMN.org/BookUs.



UPCOMING CONCERTS!

Together We Sing

with SOTAVocalEssence Youth Chorus
January 18, 2020 • 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Minnesota History Center – St. Paul

OUT in Our Schools

February 20, 2020 • 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Middle Schools in St. Paul

Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind the Dream

February 22, 2020 • 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.
The O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University – St. Paul

One Voice performs at

VocalEssence Witness Concert

February 23, 2020 • 4:30 p.m.
Orchestra Hall – Minneapolis

ReMembering: Singing Water

June 20, 2020 • 7:30 p.m.
June 21, 2020 • 2:30 p.m.
Ordway Concert Hall – St. Paul

GALA Choruses Festival - July 4-8, 2020

Performances at GALA Choruses' LGBTQ choral festival.

Minnesota Welcome Concert, Orchestra Hall

Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind the Dream, Minneapolis Convention Center

ReMembering: Singing Water, Orchestra Hall

For a complete performance schedule, volunteer & audition information visit
www.OneVoiceMN.org • call 651.298.1954 • email info@OneVoiceMN.org

Artistic Staff

JANE RAMSEYER MILLER



ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Jane Ramseyer Miller (she/her) is in her 26th year as Artistic Director for One Voice and serves as Artistic Director for GALA Choruses, a national association of LGBTQ choruses. She holds a Masters in Choral Conducting from the University of Minnesota and a BA in Psychology from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada. She enjoys creative community collaborations and has created choral music with The Women's Cancer Resource Center, Shakopee Women's Correctional Facility, In the Heart of the Beast, Kairos Dance Theatre, Mu Daiko, and Teens Rock the Mic among others. In 2008 she received the GALA Choruses Legacy Award for her conducting, innovative programming and commitment to community outreach. In 2010 she was awarded the ACDA VocalEssence Award for Creative Programming and the ACDA Minnesota Advocate for Choral Excellence (ACE) Award.

MINDY ESCHEDOR



ACCOMPANIST

Mindy Eschedor (she/her) is an active Twin Cities collaborative pianist whose engagements regularly include vocal coaching and accompanying, chamber music, and theater work. She has performed with such companies as the Guthrie Theater, Children's Theater Company, Chanhassen Dinner Theaters, Ordway Center for the Performing Arts, Nautilus Music-Theater, Interact Center, and Minneapolis Musical Theater. In addition to her work with One Voice Mixed Chorus, Mindy is Staff Accompanist at Macalester College and the University of St. Thomas. Mindy served as Principal Staff Accompanist at MacPhail Center for Music from 1999-2010. Her first performance with One Voice was the 25th Anniversary Concert in January 2013.

KELLI M. HECKMAN



ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Kelli M. Heckman (she/her) is the director of bands at Hopkins North Junior High School. She earned her Bachelor of Music Education degree through the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire and her Master of Music degree in Instrumental Conducting from the American Band College in Ashland, Oregon. Ms. Heckman has conducted various honor bands including the Minnesota Band Directors Association Northeast Regional Honor Band. Kelli is an accomplished trumpet player and has performed with Doc Severinsen, Al Vizzutti, Bobby Shew, The Canadian Brass, Boston Brass, Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Mr. Lucky Swing Syndicate.

GARY RUSCHMAN



OVATION MUSIC DIRECTOR

Gary Ruschman (he/him) is an in-demand performer, conductor, and ASCAP award-winning composer. He is currently Music Director at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in St. Paul and Mixed Precipitation's Picnic Operetta, and has led performances by Consortium Carissimi, Blue Waters Brass, Bach Society of Minnesota community retreats, and served as chorus master for Twin Cities Early Music Festival. He toured the globe as a member of Cantus, and was a co-recipient of Chorus America's 2011 Education and Community Outreach Award. Gary's music has been heard at Madison Square Garden, broadcast on BBC Two, and commissioned by Minnesota Opera and American Composers Forum. He earned music degrees with honors from Northern Kentucky University and the San Francisco Conservatory.

Guest Artists



Ellis Perez (they/them) is a Minneapolis-based poet, performer, and zine maker. Their work centers around themes of identity, softness, humanness, and vulnerability. They are committed to working with projects that amplify marginalized voices as well as speak to their identity as a queer, trans, and disabled person of color. When they're not making art they are watching *Sister Act* or eating pancakes at their local Perkins.

The Minnesota Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) was founded in 1993 by Kevin Ford, a gay man who had a vision of a gay and lesbian orchestra that would build community and fellowship through the performance of classical music. Although Kevin succumbed to complications from HIV-AIDS in 1995, the organization he created has continued to grow and diversify. The MPO includes players from a wide variety of backgrounds and orientations who share a commitment to inclusivity, nondiscrimination, and to the performance of works by underrepresented composers, such as GLBTQA artists, women, and people of color. Please see our website for more information at www.MNPhil.org. Brian Edward Dowdy, Artistic Director & Principal Conductor

Members and Committees

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THANK YOU TO OUR COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS

We are fortunate to have many dedicated individuals who generously volunteer their time and skills in service to One Voice. Many thanks to each member of our board of directors and the following chorus committee chairs: Development – Sarah Cohn, Finance – Sarah Johnson, Leadership & Governance – Sarah Cohn, Marketing – Dick Van Deusen, Music – Jane Ramseyer Miller, Personnel – Sarah Cohn, Production – Sherrie Luetgers

JOIN ONE VOICE ON STAGE!

Auditions for our winter/spring 2020 concerts will be held Tuesday, January 7. Sign up at the One Voice table in the lobby to receive an audition reminder by email or call the office to receive more information. Please note that we mostly have openings for tenor and bass voices. Soprano and alto openings are very limited. One Voice rehearses weekly on Monday nights. For a complete performance schedule, audition information and volunteer opportunities visit www.OneVoiceMN.org or 651.298.1954.

One Voice Members

On Leave
* OVation Ensemble

♪ Section Music Leader
+ Section Representative

SOPRANO

Britt Abel
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Anni Bowers #
Catherine Dalton *
Jenna Davis
Kristen English #
Kendra Eull #
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Brian Geving
Keladry Goodell
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MacKenzie O'Kane
Shari Pleiss +
Jen Rivera
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Jocque Warner ♪
Colleen Watson
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Owen Davis ♪
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Adrian Hegeman
Allan Henden
A.P. Hopper
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Ethan Pleshe
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Mike Trost
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Accompanist
Assistant Director
OVation Music Director
Rehearsal Accompanist

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ARTISTS

Spoken Word Artist
ASL Interpreter
Vocal & Dialect Coaches

Ellis Perez
Genna Middlebrook
Katherine Grant (Auld Lang Syne)
Steve Milloy (Ain't That Rockin)
Mukta Sathe (The Mangalam Chant)

Flute
Trumpet
Bassoon
Violin (MPO)
Viola (MPO)
Cello (MPO)
Bass (MPO)
Percussion
Sugar Plum Fairies

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Kelli Heckman
Devon Dolquist
Jon Poupore, Isabel Arenivar
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Joseph Dillon
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Erika Rae (Choreographer), Lisette Schlosser, Jeanette Vyhanek
Catherine Dalton, Erika Grossman, Rossianne Jaffe, Sherry Kruczek,
Katy Nordhagen, Saylem Oldberg, Anita Pecor, Claire Psarouthakis,
Andy Tweeten

OVation

Join One Voice in 2020!



Sign up in the lobby to request FLEX TICKETS for our 2019-2020 Season. FLEX ticket holders can request their seating preferences in advance and use the tickets for any combination of the concerts listed below in addition to **Singing Darkness to Light**.

Bayard Rustin: The Man Behind The Dream

February 22, 2020 • 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. (O'Shaughnessy Auditorium, St. Paul)

Back by popular demand, this One Voice 2017 commission honors the life and work of openly gay African American civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, who was a mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The work is composed for chorus, two actor/Story-Guides, and a five-piece band and culminates with the 1963 March on Washington (which Rustin organized), Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech, and the work of current day Black Lives Matter activists. *The Man Behind the Dream* was composed by gay, African American Steve Milloy and the libretto written by queer, African American spoken-word artist Vanessa German.

ReMembering: Singing Water

June 20, 2020 • 7:30 p.m. | June 21, 2020 • 2:30 p.m. (Ordway Concert Hall, St. Paul)

One Voice's June concerts explore Minnesota's history as a place of homecoming for immigrants as well as a place of displacement for Dakota and Ojibwe nations. Similar themes of refuge and exile for LGBTQ people in Minnesota appear with water as the theme that ties the stories and songs together. Designed in partnership with Ojibwe water protector Sharon Day, puppeteer Sandy Spieler, and singer-songwriter Sara Thompsen, the concert weaves choral music through the stories, all brought to life by life-sized puppets!



**"Well I am telling you there is hope. I have seen it.
But it does not come from governments or corporations.
It comes from the people."**

~ Greta Thunberg

Winter Holidays Honored in this Concert

Chanukah commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean revolt against the Greeks in the second century BCE. Jews around the world recount the miracle of the holy Temple oil that was sufficient for only a single day, yet burned brightly for eight days. Chanukah is a time to celebrate light and the various miracles around us.

Christmas (meaning "Christ's Mass") commemorates the birth of Jesus Christ celebrated generally on December 25, however the original date in Eastern Christianity was January 6 to correspond with Epiphany. In the Christian liturgical year, it closes the Advent season and initiates the twelve days of Christmastide. Customs associated with Christmas are a mix of pre-Christian and secular origins. Modern customs include gift giving, caroling, exchange of cards, church celebrations, food and decorations such as trees, lights, nativity scenes, garlands, wreaths, and mistletoe.

Diwali, the five-day festival of lights, is an ancient festival celebrated by Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs around the world. During Diwali, originally a harvest festival, families fill clay saucers with lighted oil and place them in windows and along roads and streams. The lights guide Lakshmi, the Hindu goddess of prosperity, to each home.

Dr. Martin Luther King Day marks the birthday of the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism in the 1960's civil rights movement which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal MLK holiday began soon after King's assassination in 1968. After initially opposing the law, President Reagan signed the holiday into law in 1983. Initially, some states resisted observing the holiday by using alternative names or combining it with other holidays. It was officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

International Transgender Day of Remembrance is observed annually on November 20 as a day to draw attention to the continued violence endured by transgender and gender non-confirming people. The *Remembering Our Dead Project* documents 331 reported killings of trans and gender-diverse people between October 2018 and September 2019 (www.tdor.info).

International Trans Day of Visibility on March 31 is a holiday celebrating the accomplishments and victories of transgender and gender non-confirming people. It honors the courage it takes to live openly and authentically, while also raising awareness of the discrimination trans people still face (www.tdov.org).

New Year's Day was likely first celebrated in Mesopotamia (Iraq) as early as 2000 BC. The Romans dedicated New Year's Day to Janus, the pagan god of gates, doors, and beginnings, for whom the first month of the year, January, is also named. In the Middle Ages dates in March coinciding with the March Equinox and various Christian feasts were used as the first day of the new year. Most nations of Western Europe officially adopted January 1 as New Year's Day around the time they adopted the Gregorian Calendar.

Winter Solstice, an ancient celebration also known as Yule, is celebrated by Pagans across the world. Falling usually on December 21 – the shortest day of the year – Solstice was celebrated by the Druids (Celtic priests) in Britain long before the arrival of Christianity. Druids also began the tradition of gift-giving, mistletoe and the yule log, which was lit to banish evil spirits and bring luck for the coming year. These customs are still followed today and many have been incorporated into Christian and secular celebrations of Christmas.

World AIDS Day takes place annually on December 1, calling people to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV, and to commemorate over 35 million people who have died from an AIDS-related illness.

Singing DARKNESS to Light

HOLIDAY
CONCERT

SET ONE

Ambe

We acknowledge that the land where we gather is the homeland of the Dakota and Anishinaabe people, and that their on-going presence is imbued in our land and water.

Music by Andrew Balfour (Cree) based on an Ojibwe song gifted to Cory Campbell

Translation:

Ambe Anishinaabeg
biindigeg Anishinaabeg
Mino-bimaadiziwin omaa.
Ambe!

Come in two-legged beings
Come in all people
There is good life here
Come in!

Carol of the Stranger

Music by Abbie Betinis, lyrics by Michael Dennis Brown

Solo: Liz McClear

burying your tongue in the snow.

Ellis Perez

Our House

Music and lyrics by Graham Nash

Arranged by Ed Lojeski

Solos: Darcy Juhl, Wendy Plager,
Collin O'Brien, Dean Olson

Controlled Burn

A collaboration by Dessa & Jocelyn Hagen
Poem by Dessa

Across the Vast Eternal Sky

Honoring Transgender Day of Remembrance

Music by Ola Gjeilo, lyrics by Charles Silvestri
Kelli M. Heckman, Assistant Director

fifteen.

Ellis Perez

Stars

World AIDS Day – for those who have passed and those who live with AIDS/HIV

Music by Eriks Esenvalds

Poem by Sara Teasdale

Carol for the Child

Music and lyrics by Marisa Squadro Geisler

O magnum mysterium – Oh great mystery
Hodie Christus natus est – Today Christ is born
Gloria in excelsis – Glory in the highest
O Jesu parvule – Oh tiny Jesus
Miserere nobis – Have mercy on us

Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?

Music and lyrics by Kyle Pederson

Ain't That-A-Rockin'

Traditional Christmas Spiritual

Arranged by Stacey Gibbs

Text Me Merry Christmas

Music and lyrics by David Javerbaum
and Adam Schlesinger
Arranged by Alan Billingsley

Solos: Devin Dolquist, Stefanie Foreman,
Rossianne Jaffe, Becka Thraen,
Jocque Warner, MJ Zappa

INTERMISSION

Concert lyrics may be downloaded from the One Voice website. Please turn off cell phones and other electronic devices that make noise. No photos or video allowed during the performance. Thank you.

SET TWO

Mangalam Chant

Honoring Diwali, the Hindu Festival of Light

Attributed to Pandit Ravi Shankar

Solos: Liz McClear, Sarah McMahonill

Translation:

May there be peace on earth,
in water,
in fire
in the wind,
in the sky,
on the sun,
on the moon,
on our planet,
in all living beings,
in the body,
in the mind,
and in the spirit.
May peace be everywhere and in everyone.

Chanukah / Solstice

Music and lyrics by Linda Hirschhorn

Carol of the Bells

Traditional Christmas Carol

Traditional arr. Deke Sharon

Performed by OVation

Dai di di Dai

Traditional Chassidic Nigun in honor of Chanukah

Arr. by Coreen Duffy

breakfast for dinner.

Ellis Perez

Nutcracker Jingles

Music and lyrics by James Pierpont

Additional by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Arranged by Chuck Bridwell

Holiday Sing-Along

See page 14 for lyrics

Bring Me Sunshine

Welcoming the return of the Winter Solstice sun

Music by Arthur Kent

Lyrics by Sylvia Dee, arr. by Kirby Shaw

a letter to my future lover.

Ellis Perez

The Cloths of Heaven

Remembering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Music by M. E. Valverde, poem by William Butler Yeats

Hymn to the New Age

Honoring Trans Day of Visibility

Music and lyrics by Lee Hoiby

Auld Lang Syne

Celebrating New Year's Day

Featured on "A Midnight Queer" CD

Traditional, arr. by Mark Sirett

Solos: Owen Davis, Marg Nelson



Sing-a-long Lyrics

Deck the Halls

Traditional Pagan Carol

Deck the halls with boughs of holly
Fa-la-la-la-la, la-la-la-la
'Tis the season to be jolly
Don we now our gay apparel
Troll the ancient Yule-tide carol

See the blazing Yule before us
Strike the harp and join the chorus
Follow me in merry measure
While I tell of Yule-tide treasure



Silent Night

Music by Franz Gruber

New verses by Ellen Reed

Silent night, Solstice Night
All is calm, all is bright
Nature slumbers in forest and glen
Till in Springtime She awakens again
Sleeping spirits grow strong!

Silent night, Solstice night
Silver moon shining bright
Snowfall blankets the slumbering Earth
Yule fires welcome the Sun's rebirth
Hark, the Light is reborn!

Silent night, Solstice night
Quiet rest till the Light
Turning ever the rolling Wheel
Brings the winter to comfort and heal
Rest your spirit in peace!

Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?

“What if instead of more violence,
We let our weapons fall silent?
What if instead of our judgment
We soften our hearts that have hardened?
It could be beautiful.”

– Kyle Pederson

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St. Paul Cultural STAR Grant
Unity Church Unitarian



*This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



MAJOR DONORS

THE CRESCENDO SOCIETY

We are grateful to these exceptional donors who have pledged at least \$1,000 per year for five years to ensure ongoing financial support for One Voice's mission-based, social justice-focused work.

THE CRESCENDO SOCIETY MAJOR DONORS

Donations received December 1, 2018 – December 10, 2019

Anonymous
Mary Ebert and Paul Stembler
Chris and Marisa Geisler
Tim Kanaley
Ann & Bill Lanoue
Mary McDougall and Colleen Watson
Jane Ramseyer Miller and Susan Haugh
Sarah Olson
James and Susan Roth
Stephen Schacht

PLANNED GIVING

Thank you to these individuals who have designated a legacy gift in their wills or estate plans in support of One Voice's mission of building community and creating social change.

Sharon Barnd
Sarah Bizek
Charlene Greenwald and Darcy Rowe
Katrina Johnson and Anita Wheeler
Jane Ramseyer Miller and Susan Haugh
Carla and Stephanie Peck
Paul Petrella and Ed Fisher
James and Susan Roth
Peg Bauwens and Lisette Schlosser
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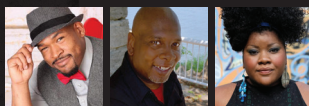
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