

Showtune Showdown!
This new fundraising event replaced the longstanding Cabaret. Held on a Monday night during the summer, we packed the Parkway Theater in South Minneapolis!

What is Showtune Showdown? Showtune Showdown is a unique blend of American Idol, Name That Tune and Glee, with loads of Broadway glitz thrown into the mix. The show includes sing offs, trivia challenges, and loads of audience sing-alongs! (pictures left)

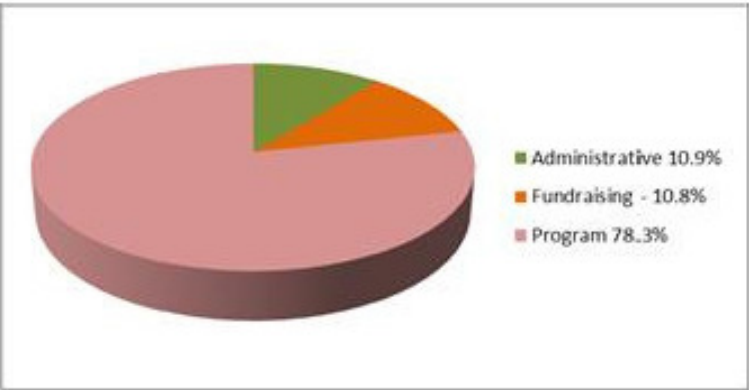
One Voice, The Twin Cities Gay Men’s Chorus and The Singers all fielded teams to compete, with The Singers taking first prize of \$1000.

Crowds told us they loved the show, loved the concept as a fundraiser, and told us they couldn’t wait for next year...so we’re gonna do it again!

FY2015 Budget Snapshot:

FY 2015 Revenue	
Fdn/Corp. Grants:	\$88,947
Public Grants:	\$60,798
Donors/Events:	\$106,245
Earned:	\$69,072
In-Kind:	\$30,000
Total	\$353,962

FY 2015 Expense	
Administrative:	\$38,737
Fundraising:	\$35,380
Programming:	\$257,687
Total	\$331,804



On stage at the Northern Voice Festival



Tretter archive display at Eat Drink & Be Married



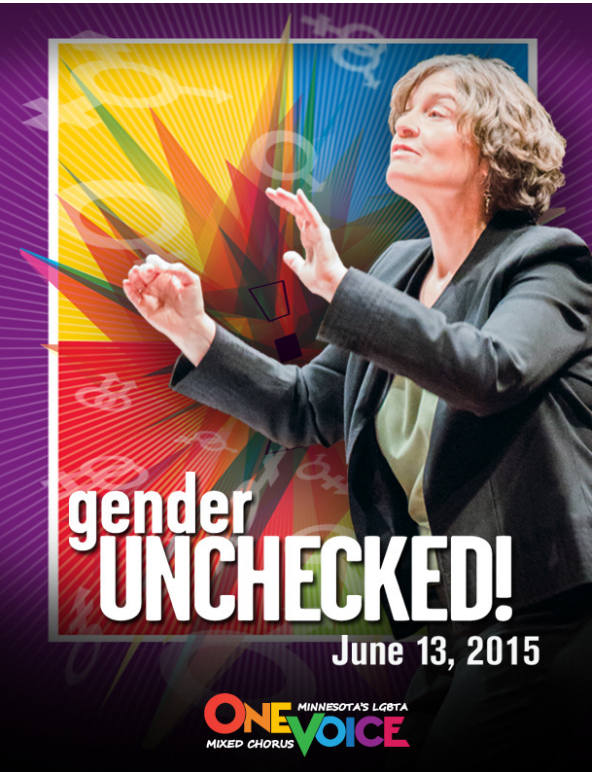
2015 Annual Report

One Voice’s 2014-2015 season was certainly worth remembering! Not only did the chorus perform before nearly 10,000 people, but the choral community in Minnesota recognized One Voice as one of the top choral ensembles in this crowded market by inviting us to perform at the Minnesota Choral Showcase, American Choral Directors’ Association state conference, and to headline the Northern Voice Festival. To top it off, our Spring concert, Gender UnChecked!, marked the chorus’s debut at the new Ordway Concert Hall—a state of the art performing venue that we hope to make our home for one concert a year.

One Voice’s mission is “building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song.” Artistic prestige only goes so far as it enables our choir to reach new audiences to promote this mission and advocate for the LGBTQ community. Of One Voice and OVation’s 42 performances in the 2014-2015 season, 35 were community engagement performances. One Voice toured to Wisconsin, sang at a Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration, sang at the State Capitol, among many other shows, and OVation performed over twice a month! We also took our groundbreaking education programming, OUT in Our Schools, into middle schools for the first time.

Financially, One Voice is also doing well. Our end of the fiscal year campaign to raise \$20,000 for Jane’s 20 years at One Voice was a huge success, beating our goal. We finished the year with a significant surplus, part which we put right into promoting our upcoming season and preparing for tour. The rest was set aside in a reserve account which was created this year to help us maintain our level of programming during economic hard times, as well as dedicating a portion to the GALA Festival Scholarship fund.

Finally, One Voice’s organizational structure continues to grow. This year we added 7 new board members with a wide array of skills. We also hired an OUT in Our Schools coordinator and a grant writer. One Voice is in a great position to continue growing organizationally, artistically, and ultimately, in our ability to fulfill our mission. The 2015-2016 season aims to do just that!



Artistic and Mission Highlights

Fall

One Voice began our Fall 2014 season in October with an invitation to perform at the Minnesota Choral Showcase. This concert featured eight of the top choirs in Minnesota and we were honored to be a part of it. The week after, on National Coming Out Day, OVation had a concert of their own, with a little help from the chorus. *Come OUT Singing* showed off the talent and skill of our small ensemble as they performed many of their favorite tunes from over the years. OVation had a busy fall performing 13 times, including reprising their concert in Mankato!

In November, One Voice sang at the ACDA state conference with Melanie Demore, our guest artist from last spring, and immediately went on tour to Madison and Stevens Point, Wisconsin, where we performed joint concerts with Perfect Harmony Men’s Chorus.



Eat, Drink & Be Married

One Voice’s homage to the passage of marriage equality in Minnesota, *Eat, Drink & Be Married*, featured light-hearted music about food and drink, woven together with more serious pieces highlighting the struggle for marriage equality in Minnesota and around the country. The concert also featured the premiere of our commission, “Music Makers, Dreamers of Dreams” by Christopher Aspaas, which was funded by the Kevin J. Mossier Foundation. The piece, for cello, piano, and choir, beautifully celebrates the power of raising our collective to bring about positive social change. Also on the set list was American premiere of “The Turing Test,” by Val Reagan, about the persecution of Alan Turing, the inventor of the computer, who was chemically castrated for being gay in 1950’s Britain. The concert took place at Hopkins High School and also featured a lobby display from the Jean Tretter LGBT History Archive at the University of Minnesota.

A friend from church came to our Saturday concert. On Sunday she had a choice of going to the SPCO or ours AGAIN ... She said we were so good on Saturday night that she came back to see One Voice and brought two friends! - One Voice Singer

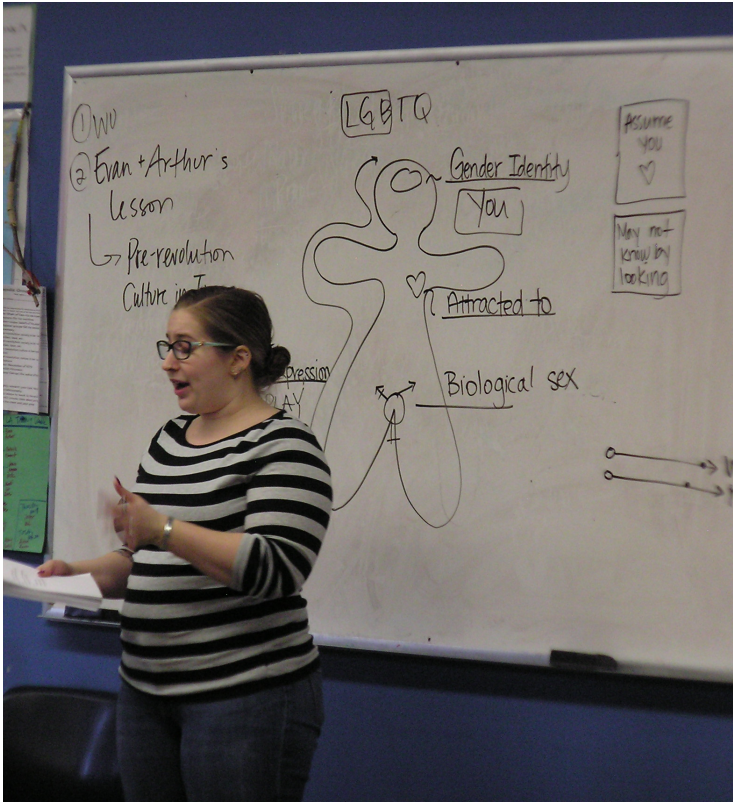
I can't thank you enough for being such an advocate The Turing Test. Of course with the Imitation Game many more people will now get to hear the story but for my own journey as a musician it has been so encouraging that you have programmed the piece. I truly love the sound of your chorus, so it is a privilege to hear them sing it and to hear more of the inspiring work you are doing in the community.
- Val Reagan



Spring

Our spring concert, Gender Unchecked!, marked One Voice’s debut at the Ordway Concert Hall. We were thrilled to be at this state of the art venue, and believe our music belongs there just as much as anyone else. Our theme for the concert, gender identity and stereotypes, drew quite a bit of attention from the media. Minnesota Public Radio, MinnPost, The Star Tribune, and several other outlets, all ran stories leading up to the show. As transgender issues have come to the attention of our national consciousness, this concert was relevant, and a unique lens through which to view gender.

For the show, One Voice partnered with puppeteer, Bart Buch, to design gender-bending puppets, and end the concert with giant butterfly wings above the choir (below)—the gasp in the audience was audible! We also partnered with Reclaim, an organization that provides counseling to queer youth, many of whom are exploring their own gender identity. Reclaim youth read poetry and helped create our lobby display. Our interactive lobby display, created by many volunteers, featured everything from a gender spectrum to a “gender advice booth,” and many other resources for our audience to understand the trans and genderqueer experience.



OUT in Our Schools

In March of 2015, One Voice debuted OUT in Our Schools in middle schools! Previously our programming has focused on high school students, however, in our program evaluations high school teachers identified the issues of homophobia and bullying originating in middle schools, so we are responding to their identified need in programming for middle school students. Our advisory group of teachers also identified middle schools as the best age to engage students in conversations regarding gender. We hired One Voice member and teaching artist Emily Tinawi (above) to coordinate our program, the first time we’ve had a coordinator on staff!

At one of the middle schools, a parent who was also a coach threatened to kick students off the basketball team if they participated with One Voice further. Even in the oases of cities, our work in schools to promote understanding and celebrate diversity is still sorely needed.