One Voice closed its twentieth year with amazing results across the board: artistically, financially, and organizationally.

The 2007-08 season brought about exciting changes on the board of directors, as we made new connections and increased our focus on strategic opportunities. We closed out the first year of our strategic plan and celebrated many successes, including hiring a full-time development and public relations manager and a part-time operations manager, bringing our total paid staff up to five.

Our 20th season also brought a renewed focus for financial management and donor relationship management. The board of directors took on the role of donor development with gusto, redoubling their efforts at donor recruitment and retention. Also this year, the organization was honored as Jane Ramseyer Miller, our Artistic and Executive Director, received the GALA Choruses Legacy Award for her outstanding leadership with One Voice, the Twin Cities, and the community at large. Jane, and thus our organization, stands as a beacon for other GALA choruses, giving us national recognition and paving the way for other organizations’ success.

In July, we received exciting news. One Voice Mixed Chorus was selected for ArtsLab, an intensive leadership program for organizations like One Voice who want to take their groups to a higher level. The three year program focuses on strategic planning and peer-based mentoring.

ArtsLab also provides us access to industry experts through consulting services and access to best practices. At the end of the three year process, One Voice will have improved capacities in all areas of our organization, from leadership and planning to financial resources management.

As we continue to take steps to build capacity in the organization, the board of directors, leadership team, and members thank you for all you do help us deliver our mission. We appreciate the exceptional support we receive from our volunteers, donors, sponsors, foundations and other organizations.

Kate Reilly and Lisette Schlosser, Co-chairs
One Voice kicked off our 2007-2008 performing season in November 2007 with an outreach tour to northern Iowa. Our presence in communities like Des Moines, Cedar Falls and Iowa City brought together GLBT and allied people from all across the region who greatly appreciate our music and messages of acceptance and hope.

A pastor at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Cedar Falls summed up her feelings after the concert: “You have come at the right time—just a couple of days ago the quarterback of our football team was arrested for gay bashing. We need your message of hope and your mission of social change so deeply right now.”

In Des Moines, one audience member was struck by the experience of seeing members of the GLBT community sharing a stage together: “In Des Moines the men and women’s communities are completely separate. I watched the interactions between your singers and I could see your mission come alive in their care and enjoyment of each other.”

In January 2008, One Voice performed with guest conductor Dr. Vance George, a four-time Grammy winner, in collaboration with guest conductor Dr. Vance George, a four-time Grammy winner, in collaboration with guest conductor Dr. Vance George, a four-time Grammy winner. These concerts addressed our mission in an effort to break negative stereotypes and present positive role models for the youth in our community. One student privately confided to Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller that the concert was healing for her family—her father came out as transgender during the months we rehearsed together and the entire family came to the concert.

Another student wrote that working with One Voice helped him reevaluate his perceptions of GLBT individuals: “At first I felt slightly uncomfortable in the whole situation, but over time my attitude and maturity developed and everything was totally cool.”

One Voice celebrated its 20th anniversary with a concert hosted by beloved humorist, musician and storyteller Dan Chouinard. The June concert, Old New

In addition to these full-scale concerts, One Voice and our ensemble, OVation, performed many free community concerts throughout the metro area for a total of 23 season concerts reaching 8,500 audience members! Our 2007-2008 season concluded with performances at the GALA music festival in Miami. Our GALA appearance itself was a smashing success—in addition to a sold-out concert at the festival’s main stage, Jane Ramseyer Miller was honored for her work in community outreach with the prestigious GALA Legacy Award.

Dynamic Donors

One Voice Mixed Chorus relies on the generous gifts of individuals whose hopes and dreams harmonize with our mission. In our 2007-2008 fiscal year we were blessed with many gifts; we wish to express our profound gratitude to these supporters:
October 8, 2007
OVation
United Church of Christ
New Ulm, MN

November 9, 2007
One Voice Donor Breakfast
Zuhrah Shrine
Minneapolis, MN

November 9-11, 2007
Fall Outreach Tour to Iowa
with Des Moines Gay Men’s Chorus
Plymouth Congregational Church
Des Moines, IA
with The Quire
The Englert
Iowa City, IA
St. Luke Episcopal
Cedar Falls, IA

December 8, 2007
People of Hope Church
Healing Spirit MCC
Rochester, MN

January 25-26, 2008
Uncommon Light: Brahms and the Beauty of Shadow
with Central High School Concert Choir
Central High School & Central Presbyterian Church
St. Paul, MN

February 13 & 14, 2008
OVation
Val-o-gram Fundraiser

April 4, 2008
OVation
Opening Our Doors Conference
Duluth, MN

April 19, 2008
Spring Fever 2008
Zuhrah Shrine
Minneapolis, MN

April 25, 2008
OVation
Park Square Theatre
St. Paul, MN

May 4, 2008
Unity Church—Unitarian
St. Paul, MN

May 4, 2008
OVation
Benefit concert for OutFront
St. Luke Presbyterian
Minnetonka, MN

June 2, 2008
Queer Music Consortium Pride Concert
Como Park Pavilion
St. Paul, MN

July 21-22, 2008
Old, New, Borrowed, Q: Celebrating 20 Years
History Theatre
St. Paul, MN

June 29, 2008
OVation
Pride Parade Grandstand
Minneapolis, MN

June 30, 2008
OVation
Hennepin County Government Center
Minneapolis, MN

July 7, 2008
One Voice
Unity—Unitarian
St. Paul, MN

July 12-19, 2008
GALA Festival VIII
One Voice and OVation
Miami, FL

I went into the project with no real reflections on what I was doing, but I left it with a renewed awareness – I don’t have many GLBT friends. I felt a stronger connection with the singers than many other adults I have known for a long time. I just really liked the vibe that I could spill my guts and I would already be accepted…
– Central High School Student

I just wanted to tell you how grateful I am for your music and the One Voice mission. I am deeply inspired by the courage of GLBT individuals to be “true to themselves” even though it is not always easy. There is still much work to be done in the area of understanding and the need to address ignorance and fear.
– Audience member

Kate Reilly, Co-chair
Lisette Schlosser, Co-chair
Carolee Lindsey, Treasurer
Dawn Dougherty, Secretary
Lousene Hoppe
Earl D. Moore, Jr.
Kristi Rendahl
Marylou Steeden

Multi-Year Giving

Multi-Year giving is an important component of our strategic development plans. We have a number of individuals who have pledged multi-year gifts in varying amounts and continue to add to this list of wonderful donors. We are grateful for your commitment to the long-term viability of One Voice Mixed Chorus.

Crescendo Society Founding Members, April 2006

Christi Anderson • Martha Bentley & Becky Sechrist • Neec Bowyer & Amy Gifford • Anita L. Bradshaw • Scott Burglechner & Britt Abel • Linda Coffin & Kathy Webster • Marisa Squadrito Giesler & Chris Geisler • Max Gries • Scott Griesbach • Kyle Gunderson • Cate Hesser & Laurie Dickinson • Jo Ann Jones • Katrina Johnson • Joe Kestel • Robin Keck & Cecilia Miller • Rachael Kroog & Shannon Pierce • Lynne Larsen & Linda Alton • Carolee Lindsey • Kim Makie • Jane Ramseyer Miller & Anne Breckbill • Mathew Peak & Spencer Putney • Paul Petrella • Carla Peck • Betty Perry • Kevin Reardon & Tim Hansen • Karen & Jay Rusthoven • Jane Sage • Barbara Van Deinse & Gwen Wilson • Elaine Voboril & Marnie Milbert • Allan Warrior & Duane Dial • Colleen Watson & Mary McGaugill • Anita Wheeler • John Whalen, in memory of Bernice Whalen • Cheryl Winch & Christine Hazel