One Voice Performs in Ireland

In our first ever European tour, One Voice traveled with 42 singers and 20 partners and friends to perform in the Various Voices LGBT Choral Festival in Dublin, Ireland from June 12-16, 2014. Our concert set from Helix stage was a highlight for our singers and for Various Voices audiences. After our performance an audience member told One Voice, “the world needs to see more of American like that.” Many One Voice singers also performed in the closing concert with the GALA North American Chorus on the final evening of Various Voices.

On June 17 the chorus boarded two buses and traveled to southern Ireland where we met up with OurSong (LGBT chorus from Atlanta) and our hosts, Choral Con Fusion (an LGBT chorus from Cork, Ireland). Together we spent an evening sharing songs, stories and rehearsing together. The following night all three choirs performed on the courthouse steps in Cork and then performed a concert at a gay bar across the street.

From Cork, the chorus traveled across the south part of the country visiting ancient Celtic sites, learning about Irish history and getting to know each other in a whole new way! We were thrilled with the ways that One Voice was able to build community, share and learn music, and give voice to our mission on the other side of the globe.

One Voice Budget By the Numbers

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Individual Donors</td>
<td>154</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average donation Amt:</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2014 Income:</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY2014 Expense:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net</td>
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Performing an impromptu concert at Bantry House, Ireland

2014 Annual Report

One Voice’s 2013-2014 season was phenomenal with a record 130 singers reaching just under 12,000 audience members in over 40 performances plus additional viewers through our website, TPT documentary broadcasts, and radio interviews. Our season included interesting collaborations with guest artists, schools and non-profit organizations.

“My favorite part was when the older and the younger people started singing together.” – student participant

The successful year was topped off by a trip to Ireland to participate in the Various Voices Festival. This event placed One Voice on stage with choirs from all over Europe in both Dublin and Cork.

Not only was One Voice triumphant musically, but also financially. An end-of-year fundraising campaign helped raise over $20,000, balancing our fiscal year budget. The One Voice Board of Directors welcomed three new board members: Paul Halvorson, Julia Reed and Liz Vaught and said farewell and thank-you to outgoing board members Jon Lewis, Steve Greenburg and Carolee Lindsey.

The organization, with the support of donors and singers alike, embodies its mission of building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song. At the close of our 26th year, One Voice is proud to bring this message to audiences both in our back yard and around the world.

“...The world needs to see more of America like that.” – audience member after One Voice concert in Dublin
Art and Mission Highlights

One Voice began our 2013-2014 season with a fabulous Cabaret featuring some of the Twin Cities best performers, a huge silent auction and excellent attendance at the event which was held at the Metropolitan on October 6, 2013.

Other fall highlights included an invitation (by audition) to perform at the MN American Choral Director’s Association annual conference. The chorus premiered a new commission, “The Birthday Party,” which was enthusiastically received by our audience.

One Voice was fortunate to partner with Twin Cities Public Television (TPT) in the filming of a documentary about our community engagement in greater Minnesota. The completed documentary, Changing Our World Through Song, premiered on Sunday, November 17, 2013 and has been broadcast over a dozen times throughout the past year. Thank you to the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment for making both our outreach and this documentary possible!

A Midnight Queer

One Voice’s first ever holiday concert explored images of light and home from diverse cultural traditions. The music was drawn from holiday traditions including Chanukah, Kwanza, Pagan Solstice, Diwali (Hindu festival of lights), Mawlid an-Nabi (Sufi birth of Mohammed), and Christmas. Four spoken word artists added their own voice to this powerful concert: Andrea Jenkins, Tish Jones, Kate Lynn Hibbard and Elijah Rose. The concert included holiday sing along opportunities for the audience and a pick-up chorus of community singers that joined One Voice on several selections.

“Your holiday programming worked brilliantly. There were songs from so many spiritual traditions and yet none were watered down. They presented a multi-faceted celebration of a holiday season. This event, celebrating diversity and unity came, perhaps, closer than any performance I’ve experienced to reflecting my own understanding of creator and his/her diverse creation growing together and leading toward universal reconciliation. Thank you.”

Spring Programming

Our spring programming featured guest artist and Grammy Award nominee Melanie DeMore, a “vocal activist” who taught One Voice the Gullah tradition of stick pounding. For our April concerts at the Lab Theater, One Voice traveled on a musical journey featuring foot stomping, hand clapping, and stick pounding. Youth from Avenues from Homeless Youth joined us for rehearsals several months before the concerts and performed with the chorus and Melanie.

“We loved the Inside OUT concerts. Each youth commented that they were glad to be there. There were themes that hit home for everyone and much conversation in the van back.”

- New Day Counseling LGBT youth, St. Cloud

Outreach Tour

Our community outreach took us to Wisconsin for a chorus retreat at the St. Croix YMCA, Saturday evening concert at the University of WI River Falls and a Sunday concert at Century College. Melanie DeMore joined us for the retreat and both concerts to the great thrill of our audiences.

OUT in Our Schools

One Voice and Melanie DeMore partnered with seven schools and five non-profit organizations serving LGBT youth and homeless youth in 2013-2014. These concerts give youth a chance to interact, rehearse, sing and perform with LGBT and allied adults dispelling stereotypes and erasing phobias.

“I learned that you should learn to stick up for yourself and that you should always learn to love yourself no matter who you are.” – student participant

OVation

One Voice’s portable ensemble of 14 singers performed twenty concerts in addition to the full-chorus concerts during our 2013-2014 season. OVation performed to a wide variety of audiences including the Minnesota State Fair, numerous marriage celebrations and Twin Cities Public Television.