

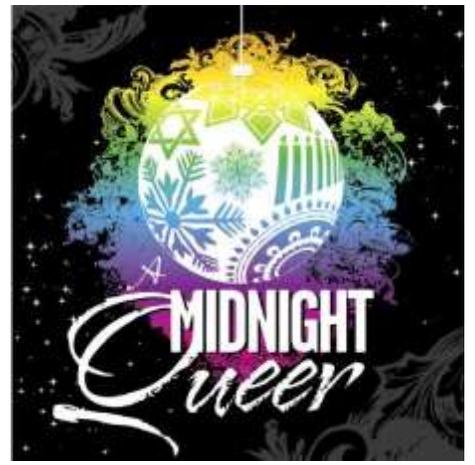
# A Midnight Queer

Join One Voice on a musical journey honoring winter holiday traditions from across the globe: Chanukah, Kwanzaa, Pagan Solstice, Christmas, Diwali (the Hindu Festival of Lights), Mawlid an-Nabi (Sufi birth of Mohammed), Dr. Martin Luther King Day and New Year's. **A Midnight Queer** is sure to warm your heart as we celebrate this season of light and darkness.

– Jane Ramseyer Miller

## One Voice Mixed Chorus

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



## A MIDNIGHT QUEER TRACK LIST

### 1. Jingle Bells Hallelujah Chorus (3:41)

Music and lyrics by James Lord Pierpont and George Frederick Handel  
Arr. Jonathan Miller

### 2. You're Home for the Holidays (3:31)

Music by Scott Henderson, lyrics by Bob Daggett, Arr. Jim Grady

### 3. Deck the Halls - in 7/8 (1:34)

Traditional, Arr. by James McKelvy

### 4. Seven Principles (2:20)

*Honoring the holiday of Kwanza*

Music and lyrics by Bernice Johnson Reagon, Arr. by Jane Ramseyer Miller

*Umoja - Unity that brings us together  
Kujichagalia - We will determine who we are  
Ujima - Working and building our union  
Ujamaa - We'll spend our money wisely  
Nia - We know the purpose of our lives  
Kuumba - All that we touch is more beautiful  
Imani - We believe that we can*

### 5. Ocho Kandelikas (3:09)

*This unique Chanukah song comes from the Sephardic tradition audible in the Spanish influences and dance rhythms.*

Music and lyrics by Flory Jagoda, arr. Jay Kawarsky

Solo: Kristen Schweiloch

*Beautiful Chanukah is here, eight candles for me.  
One candle, two candles, three candles, four candles,  
Five candles, six candles, seven candles,  
Eight candles for me.  
I will eat the little pies with almonds and honey.  
I will give many parties with happiness and pleasure*

### 6. Run, Toboggan, Run (1:51)

Music by Abbie Burt Betinis, Poem by Holly Windle

Performed by OVation

### 7. Night of Silence (4:58)

Music and lyrics by Daniel Kantor, Arr. John Ferguson

### 8. Y'mei Chanukah (2:24)

Traditional, Arr. by Steve Barnett

*The days of Chanukah, the rededication of our Temple.  
With joy and happiness and our hearts are filled.  
Night and day, our dreidls (tops) spin,  
Jelly doughnuts we shall eat aplenty.  
Illuminate, light the many Chanukah candles.  
For the miracles and for the wonders  
Which the Maccabees completed.  
The victory of the Maccabees, we'll recount, we will sing,  
About our enemies whose hands were overcome.  
Jerusalem will return to life,  
The People of Israel have been rescued.*

**9. The Sleigh** (1:36)

Music and lyrics by Richard Kountz  
Arr. by W. Riegger

**10. Zikr** (4:07)

*Honoring the Sufi birth of Muhammad*

Music and lyrics by A.R. Rahman

Arr. Ethan Sperry

Soloists: Jay Kurvers, Stephen Schacht

*While the text of Zikr is religious, the music is based on the tunes of the whirling dervishes, Sufi Muslim musicians who perform this style of music from Egypt across the Silk Road to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Thailand, and Malaysia. Sufi musicians pick a chant and elaborate upon it while dancers spin in a circle. As the tempo of the music increases, the dancers spin faster and faster to achieve a trance-like state to commune with the divine. The chant of this chorus is Hu Allah (God is One).*

Abbreviated translation:

*Light of Muhammad, may peace be upon him. Allah is One.*

*In every heart every moment, may the zikr of Allah stay*

*zikr is better than hatred*

*zikr is better than carelessness*

*zikr is better than disobedience*

*zikr is better than saying bad things*

*Light of Muhammad, may peace be upon him. Allah is One.*

**11. The Birthday Party** (5:14)

*This incredible song by a Minnesota composer Peter Mayer was arranged by One Voice for our first “A Midnight Queer” concert.*

Music and lyrics by Peter Mayer

Arr. by J. David Ostenso Moore

**12. Hiney Mah Tov** (1:48)

Text from Psalm 133

Traditional tune arr. Iris Levine

*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for all people to dwell together in unity!*

**13. Be Careful, Don't Tear the Paper** (1:21)

*For those loved ones who can't throw anything away!*

Music traditional, lyrics by Jean Sramek

Arr. J. David Ostenso Moore

**14. Shed a Little Light** (4:09)

*In honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Music and lyrics by James Taylor

Arr. J. David Ostenso Moore

**15. Auld Lang Syne** (4:53)

Traditional New Year's carol, Arr. by Mark Sirett

Solo: Saylem Olberg

**16. Bonus Track: Music Makers, Dreamers of Dreams** (4:04)

*Commissioned by One Voice Mixed Chorus (2014)*

Music by Christopher Aspaas

Lyrics by Arthur O'Shaughnessy and Walt Whitman

Soloist: Michael Gruber



Recorded live on December 7, 2013 (First Universalist Church)  
and October 19, 2015 (Unity Church Unitarian).

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## 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 when the holy Temple oil that was sufficient for only a single day burned brightly for eight days. Chanukah is a time to celebrate light and the myriad of 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 in connection with Epiphany. A feast central to the Christian liturgical year, it closes the Advent season and initiates the twelve days of Christmastide. Customs associated with Christmas include a mix of pre-Christian and secular origins. Modern customs include gift giving, caroling, exchange of cards, church celebrations, food and decorations including 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.

**Kwanzaa** has its roots in the black nationalist movement of the 1960s, and was established to help African Americans reconnect with their African cultural and historical heritage by uniting in meditation and the study of African traditions. A week-long celebration, Kwanzaa is observed from December 26 to January 1 culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Kwanzaa has seven core principles (Nguzo Saba) outlined in the song text for Seven Principles.

**Martin Luther King Jr. Day** is an American federal holiday marking the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. King was the chief spokesperson for nonviolent activism during the civil rights movement which successfully protested racial discrimination in federal and state law. The campaign for a federal holiday in King's honor began soon after his assassination in 1968. After initially opposing the law, President Ronald 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.

**Mawlid an-Nabi** is the observance of the birthday of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. Organized in some countries by the Sufi orders, Mawlid is celebrated in a carnival manner, large street processions are held and homes and mosques are decorated. Charity and food is distributed, and stories about the life of Muhammad are narrated with recitation of poetry by children.

**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, the Annunciation of Jesus, or other 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 the Christian and secular celebrations of Christmas.

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If you think that there's an important difference  
between a Muslim and a Jew  
and a Christian and a Buddhist  
and a Hindu and a Shamanist,  
then you're making a division  
between your heart  
— what you love with —  
and your ability to act in the world.

Let the beauty we love be what we do.  
There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground.  
— Jalāl ad-Dīn Muhammad Rūmī



One Voice Mixed Chorus is Minnesota's only lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and straight allies (LGBTQA) chorus. Founded in 1988, One Voice has been “**building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song**” for over 25 years. Known for their musical excellence, diverse programming, innovative collaborations, and deep commitment to community outreach, One Voice is the largest LGBT chorus in North America 125 singing members ranging from ages 17 to 77, and nearly 50 non-singing “Fifth Section” volunteers. Under the direction of Artistic Director Jane Ramseyer Miller, the award-winning chorus inspires transformation through passionate, vibrant, and creative performances at concerts, during Outreach Tours and through their pioneering OUT in Our Schools program, now in its 16th year. One Voice has performed for thousands of people throughout the Twin Cities, Greater Minnesota and beyond, and is described by Chorus America as “**one of the region's best ensembles.**”

One Voice Mixed Chorus  
732 Holly Avenue, Suite Q – Saint Paul, MN 55104-7125  
651-298-1954 www.OneVoiceMN.org

#### **ONE VOICE PERSONNEL**

Artistic Director	Jane Ramseyer Miller
Accompanist	Mindy Eschedor
Assistant Director	Kelli Heckman
OVation Ensemble Coach	J. David Moore
Executive Director	Josh Wise
Operations & Communications	Rocky Jones

#### **ARTISTS**

CD Graphic Design	Tony Horning
Cello	Scott Lykins
Flute	Danielle Boor
Guitar	Paul Pederson
Oboe	Steve Humerickhouse
Percussion	Sarah Johnson
Ladino pronunciation coach	David Harris (Ocho Kandelikas)
Scottish pronunciation coach	Katherine Grant (Auld Lang Syne)
Hebrew pronunciation coaches	Steve Greenberg, Cheryl Hornstein (Y'mei Chanukah)

OVation	Ashley Hannahs, Cate Hesser, Kate Lynn Hibbard, Lynn Holden, Heidi Jensen, Jim Miller, Sarah Olson, Wayne Schneider, Anna Schultz, Kristen Schweiloch, Dutch Van Haaften, Gloria Vande Hoef, Allan Warrior
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#### **Jane Ramseyer Miller, Artistic Director**

Jane Ramseyer Miller is in her 21<sup>st</sup> year as Artistic Director for One Voice and also serves as Artistic Director for GALA Choruses, a national association of LGBT choruses. She holds 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 is an active Twin Cities collaborative pianist whose engagements regularly include vocal coaching/accompanying, chamber music, and theater work. She has performed with such companies as the Ordway Center for Performing Arts, Nautilus Music-Theater, Guthrie Theater, Chanhassen Dinner Theatres, Interact Theatre, Theater in the Round, Skylark Opera, and Minneapolis Musical Theater. Mindy is a Music Director for Nautilus' Wesley Balk Opera/Music-Theater Institute, and a frequent artist on the *Rough Cuts* series. Mindy was Principal Staff Accompanist at MacPhail Center for Music from 1999-2010 and currently serves as choral accompanist at the University of St. Thomas and Robbinsdale Armstrong High School.

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