

11/20/2015

Name

Address 1

Address 2

Dear name,

Thank You.

Thank you for all you do that builds community and creates social change for LGBTQ and Allied people. From attending concerts, to making donations, the support you show One Voice Mixed Chorus makes a huge difference in peoples' lives. As I write this end of year appeal, I am doing so from a place of joy, but also a place of sorrow.

This has been a landmark year for our community. Marriage equality is the law of our nation, an openly gay man serves as Secretary of the Army, and a trans woman appeared on the cover of Vanity Fair magazine. Think about how amazing that is for a minute. At One Voice, we solidified our reputation as a top-tier choral ensemble, performing at the Minnesota Choral Showcase, the American Choral Directors Association State Conference, and the Ordway Concert Hall - twice. We also pioneered a middle school curriculum about gender stereotypes and reached nearly a thousand students.

It has been a good year.

However, being out still can get you fired in the majority of US states. Around the world, homosexuality and gender nonconformity continue to be punishable by death. And so far in 2015, 24 transgender women, primarily women of color, have been murdered.

My point is that while we can and we have changed laws, **deep and lasting change can only come by aggressively acting to change culture.** Art changes culture. Music changes culture. **One Voice changes culture.** The music we sing builds bonds that transcend public policy and takes equality off paper and puts it into people's hearts.

To illustrate that point: Last week, we performed in two schools that we have been working with in Southeast Minnesota. Rural areas continue to be isolating and dangerous areas for our community. In Faribault, the principal of the school thought One Voice would be "too controversial" for normal school hours and wanted to move our concert to optional after school. However, the choir teacher at the school stood up for us and called the principal out on his prejudices, eventually getting him to relent and let us perform. The energy at the concert was electric as the students were excited to be our hosts and get to sing with us. The smiles on their faces and their open and eager participation were a testament to the power of music to bring people together. One Voice have been performing in schools for 17 years, but **we continue to evolve our OUT in Our Schools program to expand safe places for LGBTQ students around the state and at every grade level.** We know that exposure to an out, proud group of adult musicians has a profound impact on those students and their communities.

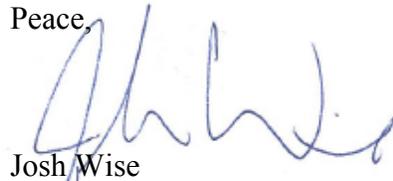
We are only able to be effective at this level because people like you invest in One Voice. Your donations are the backbone of our community engagement work, and allow us to leverage the support of major funders from the Minnesota State Arts Board to, as you may have heard, a \$60,000 matching grant from the Knight Foundation. **We do not receive these funds unless we demonstrate equal support from our community.**

This year, as you consider your gift, I would invite you to convert your donation from a one-time donation to smaller monthly amounts. As with so many nonprofits, monthly giving makes our finances predictable and allows us to better plan our outreach and our concerts. For example, if you gave \$100 last year, would you consider \$10 per month instead? You can give monthly, or make a one-time donation, by filling out the enclosed envelope (simply include a voided check or use a credit card to give monthly), or going to www.onevoicemn.org and clicking the donate button. Whether it's \$100 per month or \$50 per year, your donation makes a difference.

You make One Voice happen. You are what gives us a mighty voice. **You are the fuel that enables us to aggressively change culture around Minnesota and throughout our world.**

Thank you!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Josh Wise', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Josh Wise
Executive Director

P.S. – Please join us on December 19 & 20 for *A Midnight Queer*, a concert of winter holiday music from around the globe including music from Nepal, Scotland, Spain and more! Get your tickets at www.onevoicemn.org and click on Buy Tickets.