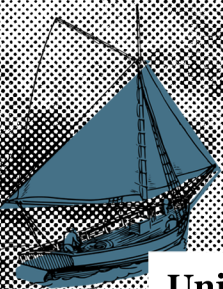


One Voice
charlotte



the Ocean Between us



Saturday, April 1 // 7 pm

Unitarian Universalist Community of Charlotte

OVC is supported, in part, with funding from



Infusion Fund
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**FOUNDATION FOR
THE CAROLINAS**



// **About One Voice** //

Through artistic excellence, One Voice Chorus works to increase understanding and acceptance of LGBTQIA+ people. OVC brings together Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and affirming-ally singers of Charlotte to celebrate our lives in song, to overcome intolerance, and to promote inclusion. One Voice Chorus exists to present a public face and voice of the LGBTQIA+ community as we work for social justice. All are welcome in this non-auditioned group, which is one of the few mixed choruses in the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses (GALA).

// **Our Singers** //

Many singers have been with the group for more than a decade—some for as long as 30 years. When we began in 1990, many of our singers were hesitant to print their full names in the concert programs for fear of persecution. Much has changed since then, but the LGBTQIA+ community still does not enjoy full equal rights—even recent advances are countered by setbacks and backlash.

We are your friends, neighbors, coworkers and family. The chorus serves as a powerful, yet accessible, way for some of our singers to come out. One singer said, “Our concerts are the only times of the year when my relatives and coworkers participate in something so completely gay-positive ... and celebrate and applaud me in the process. It’s powerful.”

// **Chroma** //

Chroma is our newly-formed small ensemble, taking the place of Sotto Voce. Chroma comes from “chromatic,” a type of musical scale, and the other meaning of the word, “relating to or produced by color.” An auditioned ensemble, Chroma is a space for our more experienced musicians to tackle more challenging repertoire and produce a rainbow of sound.



// **Artistic Director** //

Cory Davis is a conductor, pianist, tenor & nonprofit professional. He is the Artistic Director of One Voice Chorus in Charlotte, NC.

While in Philadelphia, Cory was the Music Director at Marple Christian Church, Assistant Conductor of Voices Chorale New Jersey, Conducting Intern for Philadelphia Voices of Pride, and Development Associate at Project HOME, an organization dedicated to eradicating street homelessness in Philadelphia. Cory also lived in Washington, DC, for twelve years, where he was the Music Director of the Gaithersburg Chorus, Assistant Director for the Washington Men's Camerata, and Development Manager at Chorus America, the national service organization for choruses. He previously worked at Washington Concert Opera, and Castleton Festival, Maestro Lorin Maazel's summer opera festival.

Cory holds a BA from George Washington University and an MM in Choral Conducting from Temple University where he was the recipient of the Elaine Brown Tribute Award, given to a choral conducting student who most reflects the musicianship, dedication to excellence, and humanitarianism that distinguished her career. His primary conducting teacher was Paul Rardin, and he has also participated in master classes with Alice Parker, Andre Thomas, John Alexander, Rob Istad, Duain Wolfe, and David Hayes.



// **Principal Accompanist** //

Adam Micah Ward is the Director of Music Ministries at Providence United Methodist Church in Charlotte, where he leads a multi-faceted music ministry that includes four staff, ten choirs and countless volunteers. Since coming to Providence, he has overseen the purchase and installation of Aeolian-Skinner Opus 1472 in the church's worship space; and, in the summer of 2018, he conducted members of the church's Chancel Choir on an eleven-day performance tour of Prague, Vienna and Salzburg. Receiving the Doctor of Musical Arts, Master of Music, and Bachelor of Music degrees in Organ Performance from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Adam also studied piano, harpsichord, voice and choral conducting at the University. During his time at the University, he accompanied the University Chorale, the University Men's Glee Club, and was an adjunct lecturer in organ. He is in demand as a performer, clinician and collaborative artist.

Ward is a Past Dean of the Charlotte Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and North Carolina District Convener of the same organization. His recording "For the Beauty of the Earth" has been featured on the Nationally syndicated radio broadcast "PipeDreams". He has performed throughout the Eastern United States as well as multiple performances in the United Kingdom and Italy.

Most importantly, Adam is the proud father of his son, Benjamin.



Guided by
principles.
Inspired by
diversity.
Supported by
community.

We share a
humanity
based in love.



Charlotte-Mecklenburg's
LGBTQ+ Community Fund

Founded in 2003 as Charlotte Lesbian and Gay Fund, The Plus Collective is a giving program and foundation that awards grants to organizations that support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community in the Charlotte, North Carolina region while also cultivating partnerships with community allies.
Learn more at thepluscollective.org.

thepluscollective.org



one voice chorus
proudly presents

the Ocean Between us

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Human beings are hardwired for connection, and studies have shown that isolation affects the same part of the brain as physical pain. There are many things we can't control (and some we can) that draw us apart like politics, technology, global pandemics, and even death. We should strive to make the most of the time we have. - Cory Davis

Famine Song

Words and Music by VIDA, arr. Matthew Culloton

Inspired by stories of Sudanese basket weavers, this song expresses the pain and hope experienced by those in the famine of the 1980s. In the midst of hardship, a wonderful new sense of creativity emerged when women began weaving baskets as a means of survival.

Ease my spirit, ease my soul,
Please free my hands from this barren soil.
Ease my mother, ease my child,
Earth and sky be reconciled.

Rain, rain, rain.
Rain, rain, rain.
Weave, my mother, weave, my child,
Weave your baskets of rushes wild.

Out of heat, under sun,
Comes the hunger to ev'ry one.
Famine's teeth, famine's claw
On the sands of Africa.

Hymn of Acxiom

Vienna Teng (b. 1978) arr. Kerry Marsh

In Hymn of Acxiom, singer-songwriter Vienna Teng imagined the “thoughts” of a marketing database company. Arkansas-based marketing company, Acxiom, collects both offline and online marketing data, and collates it into profiles of individual people. Acxiom then sells that information back to the retailers through which the company had collected the data. Suffice it to say, our phones are learning to know us so well that a “brand new need is born.”

Program note adapted from Tom’s Guide

The movement for this performance was based on a performance by the Coastal Sound Youth Choir directed by Carrie Tenant.

Somebody hears you. You know that. You know that
Somebody hears you. You know that inside
Someone is learning the colors of all your moods, to
(say just the right thing and) show that you’re understood
Here you’re known

Leave your life open. You don’t have. You don’t have
Leave your life open. You don’t have to hide
Someone is gathering every crumb you drop, these
(mindless decisions and) moments you long forgot
Keep them all

Let our formulas find your soul
We’ll divine your artesian source (in your mind)
Marshal feed and force (our machines will)
To design you a perfect love—
Or (better still) a perfect lust
O how glorious, glorious: a brand new need is born

Now we possess you. You’ll own that. You’ll own that
Now we possess you. You’ll own that in time
Now we will build you an endlessly upward world
(reach in your pocket) embrace you for all you’re worth

Is that wrong?
Isn’t this what you want?
Amen

Say Her Name

Words and Music by Alysia Lee

“My family began celebrating Kwanzaa over 30 years ago. Every winter, my extended family gathers on December 26, the first day of Kwanzaa, for a celebration that is part ceremony, part reunion, and part feast. We open the celebration with a libation ceremony. After a moment of silence, individual voices call out the names of our familial and historical ancestors. After each name resounds in the room, everyone responds “ashe.” Names are powerful. As the names are called, memories and stories fill the room. Love fills the room.

“I wrote this piece to bring this powerful ceremony to the concert stage with a call to action. The #SayHerName movement resists police brutality against Black women. Kimberlé Crenshaw, a central leader of the movement shares, ‘If you say the name, you’re prompted to learn the story, and if you know the story, then you have a broader sense of all the ways Black bodies are made vulnerable to police violence.’” - Alysia Lee

Say her name.

She cannot be forgotten by us.

Put her name in the air.

Say her name.

Belong

Music by Jocelyn Hagan (b. 1980); Text by Marisha Chamberlain

“The text to Belong was created specifically for this work, and commissioned by the Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota. The message is timeless, and focuses on what “you” and “I” can do to create a sense of community, even if that very community is being challenged or facing hardship. Musically, the melody of the refrain is the same in its first and second statements, yet in two different keys. The first refrain is based on the lydian mode in F, while the second refrain is based on the lydian mode in C. For the final refrain, I combined both phrases in their original harmonic progression on “Come, you belong with me.” I wanted to reflect on the fact that these two different melodies (or ways of thinking) could be stated together. They can come together and work together, and create a wonderful new sound. It is my belief that this is what needs to be happening in the world as well. Effective solutions are built on compromise and the ability to find creative ways of resolving the issue. The result of which can be the most surprising and gorgeous harmony.” - Jocelyn Hagen

Belong *(continued)*

Home is home no longer.
I'm grown and gone,
Where will I belong?

Could I belong with you?
Could I shelter and share bread with
you?
Could we belong?

The house is sold.
The family scatters.
Sisters, brothers far away.

Could you belong with me?
Would you shelter and share bread with
me?
Could we belong?

Our country boils with anger.
Bullets fly, friendships shatter.
Life is short. But life, it matters.

Come, you belong with me.
We'll shelter and share bread together.
We belong.

People

Julie Styne (1905-1994) arr. Mac Huff

Despite often trying very hard to be independent and completely self-sufficient, the truth of the matter is that we all need one another to survive. I think of Carl Sagan's book, and the seminal image "Pale Blue Dot" (google it if you don't know what I'm referring to)! Despite our differences, if humanity is to survive, we must ultimately find ways to work together. - Cory Davis

People, people who need people
Are the luckiest people in the world.
We're children needing other children,
And yet letting our grown-up pride
Hide all the need inside
Acting more like children than children.

Lovers are very special people,
They're the luckiest people in the world.
With one person, one very special person,
A feeling deep in your soul
Says you were half now you're whole.
No more hunger and thirst but first
Be a person who needs people.

No Time

Traditional Camp Meeting Songs, arr. Susan Brumfield

Rise, oh fathers, rise,
Let's go meet 'em in the skies,
We will hear the angels singing
In that morning.

Oh I really do believe that just before
the end of time,
We will hear the angels singing
In that morning.

Rise, oh mothers, rise,
let's go meet 'em in the skies,
We will hear the angels singing
In that morning.

Oh I really do believe that just before
The end of time,
We will hear the angels singing
In that morning.

No time to tarry here, no time to wait for you,
No time to tarry here, for I'm on my journey home.
Brothers, oh fare ye well, Sisters, oh fare ye well,
For I'm on my journey home.

Sing As One

Music and Lyrics by Cory Davis (b. 1986)

I created this piece during the height of the pandemic when we could not meet in person, and I was overwhelmed by trying to understand the copyright snarl that was involved with "performing" published pieces online. I decided the best way to get around it was to compose a brand new piece for the chorus, and so I asked chorus members why they participated and adapted the lyrics based on their responses. It premiered in August of 2020 as part of our virtual summer performance, but this is the first time it has been performed live. - Cory Davis

Sing as One (continued)

When the darkness comes to find you
When you don't see eye to eye
When it's hard to catch your breath
When you lose the strength to try
When you can't think of a reason
When someone needs your help
While you're standing side by side
To become your true self

Sing as one

Fill your heart with joy
Feed your hungry soul

Remind yourself you're safe
Be greater than the whole

If you feel misunderstood
And you need to shine your light
Find the meaning in the song
We glow when we unite

We sing when words fail
We sing to be better than ourselves
We sing with the family that we choose
We sing with One Voice.

The Ocean Between Us

Music by Matthew Lyon Hazzard (b. 1989)

Text from *Ocean Poems* by Jonathan Talberg

In the wake of grief, The Ocean Between Us explores life after the storm, with songs of joy, sorrow, and renewal.

From the composer during the premiere of The Ocean Between Us:

"During this past Spring, Jon and I discussed collaborating and creating a new work for choir. As some of you may know, Jonathan Talberg is not only an exceptional conductor, but a wonderfully expressive poet. At the beginning of summer, he handed me a collection of ocean poems, written for his dearest friends and family in the wake of his father's passing earlier this year.

A week later, my own father passed away.

Mired in grief, losing my father was like losing a piece of myself. I immediately turned to Jon's Ocean Poems for comfort, and in doing so, found that my feelings had been given words; and in words, music.

Throughout the summer, I set these words, and with each poem I set, I found myself healing. The second movement came first. Titled There Is No Sea, Jon's words brought me back to the airport – waiting for that flight to my father's home that I never thought I'd take – and expressing the grief I had no words for.

The next was The Prow: fueled by Jon's memories of dolphins playing in the wake

the Ocean Between us // program notes

of his own mentor's boat, the piece reconnected me with joy. And last came So Much to Seek, a beautiful poem Jon had written for his mother, expressing how in the limited time we have, we owe it to ourselves to live life to the fullest.

These three pieces create The Ocean Between Us: the ocean between my father and I; between Jon's father and his; the ocean of grief that separates us from being ourselves; and the ocean between who we were and who we are now.

Through joy and through pain, Jon's texts serve as a reminder that with our three score and ten, we should explore while we can."

Dedicated to and commissioned by Jonathan Talberg and the Bob Cole Conservatory Chamber Choir. In loving memory of Timothy "Tiger" Hazzard.

IV. The Prow

The prow, the best place on the boat for a seat.

Wind whipping, salt spraying, sun shining,
dolphins playing above darkness and creeps in the deep,

Gliding o'er brilliance
Sea air, crack of sails,
No one can catch us,
Not even the whales!

III. There Is No Sea

"There is no sea that can drown my pain," the text said.

"It takes 13 hours to fly to Auckland.
You're over the ocean the whole time," I thought.

Yeah. It is not enough.

VII. So Much to Seek

So much to see and to seek
So much to sing and to dance
So much to gather and reap
So much to sow and to row
With only three score and ten
We should explore while we can
Seven seas. Seven stars. Seven continents.

Can We Sing the Darkness to Light

Words and Music by Kyle Pederson (b. 1971)

The text invites the listener to imagine a world without weapons or war—where the human experience is defined not through continued judgment of others, but through the lens of mercy and compassion. It could be beautiful. - Kyle Pederson

What if instead of more violence
We let our weapons fall silent?
No more revenge or retribution
No more war or persecution.

It could be beautiful.

What if instead of our judgment
We soften our hearts that have hardened?
Instead of certainty and pride
We love and sacrifice.
It could be beautiful.

Can we see the other as our brother?
Can we sing the darkness to light?
Sounding chords of compassion and grace
Set the swords of judgement aside

Let mercy's eyes
See the other human face.

Stand In That River

Words and Music by Moira Smiley (b. 1976)

I went to the river
But my river was dry
The dust rose up
To a darkened sky
Tell me, where is hope?
Where do the waters run clear?
I do not know my way from here

Stand In That River *(continued)*

Come, and stand in that river
Current, gentle and slow
Send your troubles down water
Down on that water flow

When you stand in that river
Angels sing in your head
Secrets beyond every worry
Dreams beyond every dread

Tell me, sister, brother
Where does that river flow?
It flows down to the great water
Where soon my people will go

Come, and stand in that river
Current, gentle and slow
Send your troubles down water
Down on that water flow

When you stand in that river
Angels sing in your head
Secrets beyond every worry
Dreams beyond every dread

Tell me, sister
Tell me, brother
Where does that river flow?
It flows down to the great water
Where soon my people will go

Oh, time passes
Passes on down the stream
Some days are so much sweeter
Some days pass like a dark dream

Come, and stand in that river
Current, gentle and slow
Send your troubles down water
Down on that water flow

Come, and stand in that river
Current, gentle and slow
Send your troubles down water
Down on that water flow

You Will Be Found

Words and Music by Benj Pasek (b. 1985) and Justin Paul (b. 1985) arr. Mac Huff
From *Dear Evan Hansen*

Have you ever felt like nobody was there?
Have you ever felt forgotten in the middle of nowhere?
Have you ever felt like you could disappear?
Like you could fall, and no one would hear?

Well, let that lonely feeling wash away
Maybe there's a reason to believe you'll be okay
'Cause when you don't feel strong enough to stand
You can reach, reach out your hand

You Will Be Found *(continued)*

And oh, someone will come running
And I know, they'll take you home

Even when the dark comes crashing
through
When you need a friend to carry you
And when you're broken on the ground
You will be found

So let the sun come streaming in
'Cause you'll reach up and you'll rise
again
Lift your head and look around
You will be found

There's a place where we don't have to
feel unknown
And every time that you call out
You're a little less alone
If you only say the word
From across the silence your voice is
heard

Even when the dark comes crashing
through
When you need a friend to carry you
When you're broken on the ground
You will be found
So let the sun come streaming in
'Cause you'll reach up and you'll rise
again
If you only look around
You will be found

Out of the shadows
The morning is breaking
And all is new, all is new
It's filling up the empty

And suddenly I see that
All is new, all is new
You are not alone

Even when the dark comes crashin'
through
When you need someone to carry you
When you're broken on the ground
You will be found!

So when the sun comes streaming in
'Cause you'll reach up and you'll rise
again
If you only look around
You will be found

// Soprano //

- Adrienne Alair *she/her*
Ayanna-Moné Arnold *she/her; they/them*
• Kayla Brown *she/her*
Maggie Bunzey *she/her*
McKenzie Coleman *she/her*
• Julia Culbreth *she/her*
• Danielle DeFrancesco *she/her*
Liz Fitzgerald *she/her*
Meghan Howard *she/her*
Nicole Kniep *she/her*
Amy Lambert *she/her*
Ellie Little *she/her*
Grey Martineau *they/them*
Wydea Merchant *she/her*
Mary Miller *she/her*
Kathie Murphy *she/her*
Faith Pressley *she/her; they/them*
Angel Schoeck *she/her*
Angela Spaulding *she/her*
Molly Unrath *they/them*
• Kaitlin Wightman-Ausman *she/they*
• Jillian Witz *she/her*

// Alto //

- Lee Barnes *she/they*
Casey Brown *they/them*
• Jess Brown *she/her*
Shelley Burton-Manning *she/her*
• Caroline Cave *she/her*
Bailee Craig *she/her*
Tiffany Crooks *she/her*
Andrea Decker *she/her*
Jordan Frederick *she/her*
Emery Gardener-Parks *they/them*
• Eileen Geiger *she/they*
Olivia (Liv) Gren *she/her*
Jenny Kant *she/her*
Beth Kingaby *she/her; they/them*
Jan Maynard *she/her*
Tammie McCagg *she/her*
Janet Miller *she/her*
Melanie Moore *she/her*
• Desiree Ott *she/her*
Rebeca Perez Bernal *she/her*
• Kym Randall *she/her*
Kell Rippy *they/them*
Kim Rowe *she/her*
Stephanie Spencer *she/her*
Jessica Swanson *she/her*
Candice Torres *she/her*

// Tenor //

Tyler Albright *he/him*

Kerlin Arroyo *he/him*

• Matty Barbour *he/him*

Tyler Faulkner *he/him*

John Floyd *he/him*

Robbie Furr *he/him*

Kelly Hall *he/him*

• Jonathan Kluttz *he/him*

Sheryl Manning *she/her*

Carlos Moore *he/him*

• Anthony Porter *he/him*

Keith Primas *he/him*

• Eleanor Reali *she/her*

Brian Joel Rosario *he/him; they/them*

• Erick Senethep *he/him*

Will Stewart *he/him*

// Bass //

Richard Cyrus *he/him*

• Brian DuBois *he/him*

Djaq Harris *he/him*

Harold Lowry *he/him*

Chad Mackie *he/him*

• Wesley Martin *he/him*

Shaun Panado *he/him*

• Dan Purdy *he/him*

Zach Smith *he/him*

Jarret Ward *he/him*

• Cody Warren *he/him*

Marcus Wilson *he/him*

• indicates member of Chroma

// Instrumentalists //

Peter DeVries, violin 1

Sarah Case, violin 2

Leigh Marsh, viola

Peter Case, cello

Nixon Bustos, bass

Adam Ward, piano

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Harold Lowry

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Cory Davis

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