



GLAD TIDINGS

The Newsletter of the Jubilate! Sacred Singers

March 2012

In this issue: Tenth Anniversary; Arturo Completes DMA; Benefit for Think Humanity; Faure *Requiem*; New members; A Word from the Artistic Director; Jobs Well Done; Farewell to Pastor Groh

Ten Years!

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Jubilate! Sacred Singers. The first rehearsal was held on August 1, 2002. Original members are fond of saying that they “opened on Broadway” because the group’s first performance was before a group of homeless people at the shelter on North Broadway in Boulder. Ultimately, the group did make it to Broadway in June 2008, with an exclusive engagement at Carnegie Hall in New York City, which was given as benefit for New York City’s Coalition Against Hunger.

Jubilate was inspired by David Harris, who was a doctoral student in music at the University of Colorado at the time. During the 2001-02 season, David was interim director of Chancel Choir at First Presbyterian Church in Boulder. Choir members so thoroughly enjoyed singing with David that they began a grassroots effort to form a chorus to sing under his direction after his time at First Presbyterian was completed.

The result of this grassroots effort was the Jubilate! Sacred Singers, whose purpose was to bring choral music to a wider community. Members agreed to pledge to pay the director’s salary and that the group would sing for whomever wanted to listen at no charge. Members felt blessed and wanted to share their gift of song to the Boulder community and beyond. In this capacity Jubilate has sung for churches, for residents of nursing homes and retirement communities, and has performed benefit concerts for non-profit organizations.

During the ensuing years, Jubilate made concert tours to the Northwest, Southeast, Northeast, New York City, and Breckenridge, Colorado. The group has produced five CD recordings.

Jubilate has provided quality a cappella choral music to audiences from 10 to 40,000. The group has sung in such historic places as the Old North Church, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Boothbay Harbor Opera House in Maine, St. Patrick’s Cathedral, the Stanley Hotel, and the Boulder

Chautauqua auditorium. Jubilate has done benefit concerts for the Boulder Chautauqua Association, Dushanbe Sister Cities, Make a Difference Educate!, and participated in Mozart’s Rolling Requiem in remembrance of those who died on 9/11/01.

By the end of 2011, Jubilate had done 337 formal performances. This number includes 22 benefit concerts, 139 church services, 110 concerts in general, 51 holiday concerts, 10 memorial services, and 5 performances of the *National Anthem* at Colorado Rockies’ games and at Independence Day celebrations. Of these, fifteen were done in collaboration with other musical groups. This tally does not include informal singing engagements for patients in hospice care and impromptu singing on buses, in restaurants, or wherever there was a receptive audience.

Now under the direction of Dr. J. Arturo Gonzalez, Jubilate has several special events planned for its tenth anniversary year in addition to its usual performances. These include a benefit concert for Think Humanity in April, a performance of the Faure *Requiem* in June, the Tenth Anniversary Concert in August, the release of another CD later in the year, and a tour to North Carolina in the fall.

2011 in Review

For the past year or so, the Jubilate! Sacred Singers have kept a relatively low profile. Nevertheless, the group is very much alive and well, as it observes its tenth anniversary in 2012. Jubilate has done its regular performances for church services and at nursing homes and retirement communities, but there was no shortage of other highlights in 2011. In May the group did a joint concert with the Arvada Chorale, which was highly successful. The now annual Christmas concerts at the Stanley Hotel in Estes Park and at Covenant Village in Westminster were well received.

2012 Executive Board

Executive Board members from last year serving in 2012 include Madeline Anderson as Chair, David Simmons as Past Chair, Sheri Isele as Director at Large, serving the second half of a two-year term, and Tom Boyd who was re-elected as a Director at Large. Joining them is Bruce Rose as Chair Elect. Non-voting members of the Board include Artistic Director Dr. Arturo Gonzalez and Treasurer Michelle Hofmeister.

Congrats to Arturo

There is a new doctor in the house. Like David Harris before him, Arturo Gonzalez completed his DMA at CU. Fifteen members of the choir attended his departmental graduation ceremony in Grusin Hall on the CU campus last December 15. This was followed by refreshments at rehearsal that evening where Arturo was honored by the whole group. Arturo's thesis is entitled "The History of Choral Music in Mexico in the 20th Century". Arturo is looking forward to many more years as the Artistic Director of Jubilate.

In addition to Jubilate, Arturo is actively involved with several other musical groups in the area. He is the director of the newly formed Flatirons Community Orchestra. He directs the Ft. Collins Youth Orchestra, and is one of the teachers for El Sistema-Colorado in Denver, a children's chorus. He is one of the finalists for conductor of the Aurora Symphony. Two or three times a year Arturo also serves as a special guest conductor for orchestras and choruses in his native Mexico.

Want to Help? Think Humanity

On April 27 Jubilate will present a benefit concert for Think Humanity at Boulder Valley Christian Church at 7:00 PM. Pat Troeltsch is taking the lead in organizing this effort. Although it has not been finalized, it looks like this will be a collaborative effort with the newly formed Flatirons Community Orchestra.

Clean drinking water is something we commonly take for granted, but in many parts of the world that is not the case. Pat is working with Think Humanity to raise funds to drill wells to provide clean water for a refugee camp in Uganda. The dollars spent to provide clean water are dollars well spent. They pay for themselves many times over in less disease and an overall improved quality of life for those affected.

Join us in April and help support this worthy cause.

Faure *Requiem*

On Sunday, June 3, Jubilate will collaborate with the Flatirons Community Orchestra, to perform the Faure *Requiem*. This performance will be at the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Boulder at 3:00 PM. This orchestra is a new group based in Boulder, and Arturo is its director.

New Members

Last summer, Jason Ching, a meteorologist from North Carolina joined us for a few months while he was at NCAR for a short term project. He heard us sing at a church service; he was very impressed and sang baritone with us for the remainder of his stay here.

Over the past year or so, Jubilate welcomed several other new members to the group. These include Mary Mitchell, Susan Zapata, Jamela Reifsnnyder, Jeanne Phipps, and Pat Smith. All are sopranos except for Pat, who is a tenor.

At the end of a recent rehearsal, thanks to Jean Bedell and Barb Donaldson, we learned some interesting things about these diverse and talented people.

Mary Mitchell: Mary is a Colorado native and a retired English teacher. She is a CU graduate and plays several musical instruments. At one time she owned a metallic pink 1958 Ford Thunderbird.

Susan Zapata: Susan has been a world traveler of sorts and has worked in Kuwait and Germany. Her cousin is folk singer John McCutcheon.

Jamela Reifsnnyder: Jamela was born in the Philippines and aspired to be an opera singer. One of her proudest moments was singing for the Queen of England. Jamela's husband, Dan, is an excellent pianist and has performed at several Jubilate concerts.

Jeanne Phipps: Jeanne comes from a large family with six other siblings. She numbers Abraham Lincoln and Elvis Presley among her favorite heroes and celebrities, respectively.

Pat Smith: Pat is also a native of Colorado, who attended the University of Northern Colorado. She, too, plays a number of instruments and will be our percussionist when needed.

We welcome these people to our number. They bring with them not only a passion for singing and our mission, but also a range of skills and talents that will be beneficial as we go forward. And you? We still have some empty chairs, particularly in the tenor and bass sections. If you are interested in joining us, or know of someone who is, contact Dr. Arturo Gonzalez at (720) 935-8115.

A Word from the Artistic Director

As I sit down in front of the computer I don't know quite where to start. This year is crucial for our ministry because we are facing challenges, but we also have dreams and expectations for our group. This year marks the tenth anniversary of the creation of Jubilate. To celebrate that we have selected the pieces we want to record for our new CD, and we are ready to start recording. We are planning a major tenth anniversary concert, we are going to participate in a concert to help the ministries in Africa, and a few weeks ago God presented the opportunity to have a concert along with the Flatirons Community Orchestra singing the beautiful Faure *Requiem*. We hope that you will be able to attend as many of these events as you can. Look for more details in future issues of *Glad Tidings*.

While some members have decided to part ways, others have joined and we remain strong with people with extraordinary gifts and talents that make us a unique group. The group remains firm to praise the Lord through choral music. Our numbers may not be as high as in the past, but I really think we are going through a very important musical moment. The Jubilate sound right now is very refined, well balanced, and expressive. These qualities are hard to find in a volunteer choir.

As we look back to reflect on the last ten years, and furthermore as we see and perceive our present reality, I bring to my memory 1 Samuel 7:12 "Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Shen. He named it Ebenezer, saying, "Thus far the Lord has helped us." Just think about all the places where we have sung, all the music we have rehearsed, all the people our music has touched, and I'm sure you can say it with me: Thus far the Lord has helped us; the Lord has been our Ebenezer, our stone of help.

There have been challenges as there always are when there is a change in leadership, but let me tell you, the Lord is not done with us. God has many more years prepared for us with beautiful plans, with more singers joining us, with more churches, nursing homes, concert halls, even restaurants being blessed by our voices. I don't know where to start, but I know where to finish - with a promise that the Lord has for us: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Is. 41:10)

Reading this promise, and holding to it I think it is not too hard to think that in another ten years, the newsletter is going to read once again: Thus far, the Lord has helped us.

Jobs Well Done!

Bev Spotz, one of Jubilate's charter members, retired from Jubilate as of last December. Even when her voice no longer allowed her to sing with us, she remained on the Board to help as Michelle Hofmeister assumed the duties of Treasurer. To recognize her continued presence on the Board and her years of service, she was honored with the title, Treasurer Emerita. In her capacity as Treasurer, Bev did more than we ever imagined. We are infinitely grateful for her service and wish her and Bill all the best.

Two other charter members who were not with us at the start of the year are Bill Rawsy and Judy Gunkler. They are taking what they describe as some time off to recharge the batteries, and we expect to see them back with us sometime in the future. Bill served the group in many capacities. He was Chair for 2008. He was our webmaster and helped keep track of the group's policies and official documents. Seemingly a perennial Board member for various reasons, his institutional memory was highly valued by newer Board members. Judy did many things behind the scenes to help the organization run smoothly. Most recently, she served as Music Librarian. As it is when anyone moves on, we are finding out how much Bill and Judy really did for the group.

In Memoriam

2011 saw the passing of one of Jubilate's dearest friends and supporters. Pastor Richard Groh passed away last October after a long illness. Pastor Groh was a long time supporter of the group and was special to us. Jubilate members, past and present, sang a number of his favorite songs at his celebration of life service.

In Closing...

In a recent Board meeting David Simmons pointed out that no other group does what Jubilate does. Other choral groups do only a few concerts a year. No other individual group sings for church services and at nursing homes on a regular basis as we do - with no charge for the privilege.

At the beginning of this year, Jubilate received a donation of \$3000 from an anonymous donor. Jubilate operates on pledges from its members and the generosity of those who appreciate what we do. If you appreciate our efforts and would like to see our unique mission continue, we welcome and appreciate your financial support. Any donations can be sent to Jubilate at P.O. Box 3381, Boulder, CO 80307.

Jubilate! Sacred Singers
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Boulder, CO 80307-3381

Jubilatesacredsingers.org

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Upcoming Events in 2012

Sunday, March 11	10:30 AM	Valmont Community Presbyterian Church, Boulder
Wednesday, March 14	12:00 PM	Lenten Service, First Presbyterian Church, Boulder
Sunday, April 15	5:30 PM	Covenant Village Retirement Community, Boulder
Friday, April 27	7:00 PM	Think Humanity Benefit, Boulder Valley Christian Church
Sunday, June 3	3:00 PM	Faure <i>Requiem</i>, Seventh Day Adventist Church, Boulder
Sunday, June 10	3:00 PM	Church in the Pines, Salina (west of Boulder)
Sunday, July 15	9:30 AM	Chautauqua Cottagers, Chautauqua, Boulder
Friday, August 3	7:00 PM	Tenth Anniversary Concert, Mt. View Methodist, Boulder
Friday, November 16	7:00 PM	Thanksgiving Service, The Lodge at Balfour, Louisville
Sunday, December 2	2:00 PM	Christmas Concert, Stanley Hotel, Estes Park
Sunday, December 16	5:30 PM	Christmas Concert, Covenant Village, Westminster