



## A Note From our Chair

By Susan Zapata



### Gratitude, Appreciation, and Thankfulness

There are many variations of these, each appropriate for a different occasion or situation. Yet each can be applied to our Jubilate Sacred Singers. Let's start with appreciation. As members of Jubilate, we are blessed with an opportunity to provide sacred music to those who might not otherwise have it. As singers, we appreciate the beauty of the music we offer. In return, our audience appreciates the gift we give them, often providing a life changing moment

for someone. Wow - how powerful is that?

I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say Jubilate! Sacred Singers is thankful for the opportunity to gather weekly to join our voices. That thankfulness extends to the Balfour Retirement community who hosts our rehearsals, and to our talented director, Dr. Arturo Gonzalez, who leads us. We are thankful to the many members who share the load so that our choir can continue our mission of serving others through music. We are thankful that we join together in prayer as a group to lift up our joys and concerns.

Finally, we are grateful to have the opportunity to share the beautiful music we learn with others. We are also grateful to see those prayers answered.

Ultimately, we are grateful to and thankful for a loving God who watches over us and cares for us. The concept of gratitude is often overlooked, when we take it for granted instead of expressing thankfulness or appreciation or gratefulness. Let's always remember the words of the Lord's Prayer - "Thy will be done." Let's remember that God knows the plan. We need to appreciate that knowledge and accept it with thankfulness.



## Grateful for Music

By Dr. J. Arturo Gonzalez



Dr. J Arturo Gonzalez  
Jubilate Artistic Director

### As the New Year starts, it is story time

In January, my family and I traveled to the mountains of Chihuahua, in northern Mexico. We spent the first days of 2015 in Jobvalles, a tiny town of about 60 people, where my mother-in-law was born, and where my wife's family has property. Needless to say, it was freezing cold, no running water, and the house (using the word "house" very loosely) where we were staying was also small and crowded. However, we were there on a mission. Because my mother-in-law grew up at a level of poverty beyond what I can imagine, she goes back to her home town every year around Epiphany with loads of toys, jackets, shoes, and even soap and toothpaste for the people of Jobvalles. So, there we are with the family, preparing food for the entire town, getting ready

for a party for the children, with cake, a piñata, and the works.

After the party my wife's family is back in the house singing worship songs, with me playing the guitar. Along with my wife's family is Mr. Perfecto's family. Mr. Perfecto takes care of my in-laws' property and keeps an eye on the house. He and his wife have two children. Pedro, the 12 year old, was leaving the house every night, something that can be very dangerous. However, Pedro's parents discovered he wanted to fulfill his dream of having a guitar, so at night he was gathering pieces of scrap wood and even chicken wire to make his own. What he didn't know was that the guitar I was playing was a gift my wife's family was going to give him. At the end of the worship time I was the one who had the privilege of saying: 'Here Pedro, this guitar is actually yours to keep.' Pedro, a 12 year old, rural Mexican tough kid, barely said thank you (almost mumbling) and nodded...until his hands actually touched the guitar. At that moment he broke into tears and gave the guitar a great big hug. His face and reaction was very precious that this has become one of the most fulfilling musical experiences of my life.

The lesson I learned: music is a privilege. We are so incredibly lucky that we, here in America, have music, worship, instruments, singing, and voices that can express whatever we feel or think. So, in this New Year, let's never forget that for some people, especially a 12 year old boy in the mountains of Chihuahua, music is a dream, for which he was willing to risk his life. Let's remember that music can change lives. Let's declare that in 2015, with a heart full of joy and gratitude, we acknowledge the privilege we have every time we open our mouths to sing **God is good!**



## Jubilate! Sacred Singers

Volume 11, Issue 1  
January 26, 2015

### Inside This Issue

Jubilate Celebrates Gratitude	2
Venue Highlights	2
Sharing Gratitude	3
A Bit More Fun	3
How You Can Help	4

### Upcoming Performances

#### February

- 8 Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church, Northglenn, CO
- 22 Erie United Methodist Church, Erie, CO

[www.jubilatesacredsingers.org](http://www.jubilatesacredsingers.org)

### Governing Board

Chair	Susan Zapata
Past-Chair	David Simmons
Chair-Elect	Marc Sammartano
Board Member	Deb Haverland
Board Member	Grandin Hammell
Secretary	Karen Tonso
Treasurer	Loren Donaldson
Artistic Director	Dr. J.A. Gonzalez



## Jubilate! Sacred Singers

P.O. Box 3381  
Boulder, CO 80303



Editor-in-Chief,  
Eliza Hines, Ph.D.

Published by:  
Donaldson's Letter Shop



Phone: 303-465-1786  
Fax: 303-465-1786

Email:  
[Loren.donaldson@comcast.net](mailto:Loren.donaldson@comcast.net)



# Jubilate! ... Grateful for the Opportunity to Share!

by Loren Donaldson

## Gratitude is shown through Leadership



Grandin Hammell, Tom Boyd, Sheri Isele, Bruce Rose, Nancy Meise.  
Also receiving an award is Past Chair,  
David Simmons, not shown here.

As 2015 begins, Jubilate Sacred Singers is proud to recognize it's leaders for 2014. A number of members are moving out of their roles and into other ventures, still within Jubilate! At the last annual meet presentations of thanks were given to individuals for their continued support of Jubilate over the years. Pictured here are Grandin Hammell who has organized and sold our CD recordings, in the back is Tom Boyd, who for many years has done a number of jobs to keep Jubilate in business, including new member orientation, producing a yearbook a many other activities. Next is Sheri Isele, who just finished three terms on the board and who has maintained our Prayer Request page on our website. Next to Tom is Bruce Rose, also finishing a board term as Past-Chair and Secretary. Bruce just finished a six month term as Venues Chair, keeping Jubilate singing all over our community. Of course, next to Bruce is the inimitable Nancy Meise, who, for the past twelve years has been the official Venues Czar, working tirelessly to find and maintain relationships with organizations where Jubilate could sing. David Simmons has provided immeasurable direction to Jubilate as Chair the past two years. Each of these wonderful people was presented with

a crystal award thanking them for their long and valuable service to Jubilate! Sacred Singers.

## Sharing the Gratitude of Singing at the Stanley Hotel



The day was cool and blustery, but the Jubilate Sacred Singers made their way to beautiful downtown Estes Park to sing at the Stanley Hotel for the beginning of their Christmas Concert season.

The Stanley Hotel concert hall is a beautiful, old building with some amazing acoustics. Before the hall filled with passengers, the singers prepared for a fun filled afternoon. Director Dr. Arturo Gonzalez had developed a varied and interesting program that would satiate any musical appetite. Choral works by Copland, Rutter, and Bach were featured.

The hall was filled with a wonderful and responsive audience who came from everywhere to see and hear the wonderful readings by Bruce Rose, to sing Christmas carols led by Sue Wedaa, and to hear the very talented Matt Dillon play the instrumental interludes. Jubilate is grateful for the opportunity to share our music with so many. Thanks to the Stanley Hotel and management for providing this venue for all to enjoy.

the  
t





## Jubilate! Celebrates Gratitude

By Nancy Meise



Nancy Meise

### Give Thanks to God

The theme for this issue is gratitude. How we show it varies from experience to experience. We often use words other than gratitude to express our feelings. The ones we most often hear are thankful and grateful. Let's consider how often each day we use any of these words. Do we spread them out throughout the day or just lump them all together at night? How do we express our thanks? Do we use gestures, hugs, words, and smiles? Are the words perfunctory, heartfelt, and spontaneous?

Let's think about what we are thankful for. Yes, there are big things to say **thanks** about, such as family, friends, and health. In our prayers, we always remember to give thanks for these, but what about the smaller everyday occurrences? As our feet hit the floor in the morning, we are grateful for a night of rest and the chance to make the new day a rewarding one. How many times today will you have the chance to say thank you or to have someone say thank you to you? There are more people **to** thank than we could possibly imagine. The sun is up, warming us. The car starts and we are off to a job or to run errands, or meet a friend for lunch. Do we take these for granted? Probably not, but we often do. When someone asks you what you are grateful or thankful for, think about all these things but always remember the most important thing we should be grateful for is God's love for us. He is with us each and every step of the way, every day, throughout our lives. Smile as you thank **God** for the blessings of each and every day. We are who we are through Him.



## The Family of Jubilate! Brings Gratitude into Focus

By Sheri Isele



Sheri Isele

### Thanksgiving 24/7/365

*"For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened" (Romans 1:21).*

I have to admit, there have been times in my life when my foolish heart has been darkened. One such episode (on Thanksgiving Day 2012 (of all days): I was involved in an automobile accident in which I totaled my car, broke my ankle, took prescribed pain medication that made me extremely nauseous and unable to eat for three weeks after surgery, and received a significant pay cut at work (\$500/week). At the same time, my daughter's car died and she had no money to buy a new one. I knew I needed to help her obtain reliable transportation.

*"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much" (Mother Teresa).*

Though my physical injury was minor, the other incidents right at Christmas time were almost more than I could handle financially, and definitely more than I was able to handle financially. I wasn't eating, and I wasn't sleeping.

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Philippians 4:6).*

So how did it all turn out? About a month after my accident, I had a dream in which I saw a person from my past I had known in many, many years, at a party. She had lost two children, one at birth and another at age seven. All this person did was turn around and smile at me. I then abruptly woke up with great energy, realizing how blessed I have been in my life and wanting to fight to get myself up out of the depression and go on, realizing I had much to "go on" for – in other words, *much for which to be thankful*.

I was able to overcome *"...for nothing is impossible with God"* (Luke 1:37).

*When depression or anxiety reach a critical level, it is time to seek professional help. When depression or anxiety reach ANY level, it is time to write to your Jubilate spiritual committee for prayer: [s\\_isele@hotmail.com](mailto:s_isele@hotmail.com). Our mission is to pray for you, especially when you are in such a dark place you cannot pray for yourself. You can request your petition be left off the prayer list if you so desire, but know that we are always willing to pray for you - with thanksgiving and gratitude.*



## The Meaning of our Gratitude

By Eliza Hines

When asked why members of Jubilate! Sacred Singers are Grateful, they responded:

- Having Arturo as our director - who shares the history of great composers, tips on how to breathe and among many other things – like how to "add color and expression" that enhances the pieces we sing.
- The weekly "interlude" – a chance to escape the big, bad, mean world – and to be reminded of good, clean fun.
- The musical satisfaction I feel with the level of repertoire that we work on and Arturo's expertise. It's ALWAYS a joy!
- The magic that comes of making music with a group of people. In my mind, feeling that magic is one way I feel close to God.
- It's wonderful belonging to Jubilate just to receive a lovely Christmas card and a beautiful handmade birthday card from our kind and talented member, Pat Smith.



## For a Bit More Fun

Q: How many tenors does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Four. One to change the bulb and three to whine that they could have done it if they had the high notes.

Q: What's the definition of an optimist? A: A choral director with a mor





Jubilate! Sacred Singers  
PO Box 3381  
Boulder, CO 80303



Submitted by Nancy Meise

**WE'RE ONLINE**

[www.jubilatesacredsingers.org](http://www.jubilatesacredsingers.org)



Like us on Facebook 

[www.facebook.com/jubilatesacredsingers](http://www.facebook.com/jubilatesacredsingers)



Jubilate! Notes Thursday, January 26, 2015

Page 4

## Keeping Our Mission Alive: How You Can Help... Become a Sponsor!

Many thanks to our current sponsors who keep Jubilate! vibrant and singing. Individual donations can be made to Jubilate! with a check or a click at [www.jubilatesacredsingers.org](http://www.jubilatesacredsingers.org).

 <p><b>Wheels Manufacturing, Inc.</b> <a href="http://www.wheelsmfg.com">www.wheelsmfg.com</a> 1-800-361-8422</p> <p>One of the worlds largest suppliers of High-Quality bicycle parts, all proudly Made in the USA!</p>	 <p><b>RM Bedell &amp; Associates, PC</b> Rick Bedell, CPA 3223 Arapahoe Ave., #305 Boulder, CO 80303 303-440-8866 <a href="mailto:rick@rmbedell.com">rick@rmbedell.com</a></p> <p><i>We provide exceptional accounting services, tailored to the unique needs of each of our clients. Tax return preparation, seamless outsourced bookkeeping, payroll, and financial planning are just a few of the services we offer.</i></p>	<p><b>This space is Available!</b></p> 	
 <p><b>Village at Flatiron Crossing</b> 1 West Flatiron Crossing Drive, Suite 100 Broomfield CO 80021 Phone: 720-887-6900</p>	 <p><b>We Help You Find Trusted Home Im- provement Pros</b> (As seen on TV) Visit us at <a href="http://www.homeadvisor.com">www.homeadvisor.com</a></p>	 <p><b>We are the largest tree removal resource on the web.</b> <b>Free estimates.</b> Visit us at <a href="http://www.treeremoval.com">www.treeremoval.com</a></p>	<p><b>Donaldson's Letter Shop</b></p> <p>Where we do very small jobs for very small prices.</p>  <p>303-919-7018</p>

Be kinder than necessary, for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle.