



## Looking Ahead with our President

By Marc Sammartano



Jubilate! We've completed another year in grand fashion. It was a year of music: learning, rehearsing, perfecting, rejoicing; a year of service: bringing our music to those who need it and love it, helping each other with the tasks that keep our outreach alive; a year of fellowship: singing together, praying together, sharing time and meals and laughter; a year of celebration of the Spirit Who binds us to one another.

We took a break from all that: a Christmas break, a busy time filled with friends and family, the celebration of the Birth of the Savior; a Winter break, a quiet time to reflect on the year just ended and to prepare for the year about to begin. I hope you found time and space for both of those vital functions in the cycle of your life.

Now we've started again. In typical Jubilate! fashion, we've hit the ground running. Three rehearsals, two programs, and January isn't over yet! Already we are preparing music of the Renaissance, to bring a touch of the sacred to Longmont in March.

This is what we do and who we are. We rejoice in sacred music, bringing it where it is wanted and needed, and we do it together. Some support us in prayer, some serve on our committees, some help cover the costs, some sing. To those I see every week, and to our extended family reading this newsletter: thank you! May God lead us through another great year of music, service, and fellowship.



## "In the Bleak Midwinter..."

By Assistant Director Sue Wedaa



As a lover of snow, rain, and anything cold that winter brings, I have to say this season has certainly put my family and me to the test. After the passing of my Mom two days before Christmas and her sister a mere three weeks later, I have had to re-analyze and shift my thoughts on winter. Bleak? Yes, undoubtedly. Sad, painful—beyond belief. But even looking past funerals, tears, unexpected time with family that I have not seen for some time, my Mom would tell me to look for the bright side of everything life—and death—throws your way. She was the quintessential ray of sunshine after a torrential downpour, always smiling, always cheerful—with a naturally beautiful singing voice to rival any professional. I can still hear her when I was a child, singing in the kitchen—full voice, lovely, unashamed. She never even gave a thought to pursuing it—dedicating her entire life to her family that brought her the greatest joys. Every act, every thought, every dream was for her children and grandchildren, and her surrounding family, no matter how scattered and far from her they may have been.

My Jubilate family has been there for me during this difficult time, and continues to be supportive with their outpouring of kind words, cards, flowers, thoughts. Now, whenever we sing, whether in rehearsal or performing, I think of my Mom, and how much she would have loved it, even though she never had a chance to see us perform, living out of state and unable to travel, due to the ravages of Parkinson's disease. The first rehearsal I sang in after her passing, my voice felt stronger, deeper, fuller—as if she were right there singing with me, contributing her own loving gift to intertwine with mine (her voice is far better!!). I barely made it through the rehearsal, feeling she was indeed in that rehearsal room. I left that night, feeling better than I had in weeks. The grief comes and goes, as I assume it will forever, until I get to see her again, but music will always bring her closer to me.

So as for winter, and the cold and snow, I still love it. Now it has just taken on a new meaning for me. It has become a time of waiting, a time of renewal, a time to reflect on loved ones lost and waiting to be found again. It is a time to keep singing, no matter how bleak and unforgiving life can seem to be, for someone, somewhere always needs to hear our songs. And for that, I will never stop the music!

Peace. 

**Jubilate!**  
**Sacred Singers**  
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## Upcoming Performances

### February

14 Rinn United Methodist Church  
28 Harvest Church

### March

6 Renaissance Festival  
19 Golden West Sr. Living Comm.

For more venue information visit:  
[www.jubilatesacredsingers.org](http://www.jubilatesacredsingers.org)

## Governing Board

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**Jubilate!**  
**Sacred Singers**

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## Jubilate! Celebrating Our Activities and Venues

Every year Jubilate starts the Winter season with an uplifting concert at the Balfour Lodge. We provide music and the spoken word to inspire our audience and thank God for the many blessings we have been given. Seen here is the choir, center is Bruce as the MC and to the right is one of Irene's beautiful table decorations.



Photos by Laura Simmons

## December Cold brings Warmth to Covenant Village



Covenant Village is a main stop for Jubilate Sacred Singers. In December we provided a thrilled audience with a number of seasonal pieces as well as other sacred music. One of those was a very moving rendition of *Ose Shalom*, with music by John Leavitt and traditional Hebrew text.

Photos by Laura Simmons

## Another Gift to our Community

At Christmas time we grab our Caroling books and don our Santa caps and show up at the Boulder Medical Center employee buffet for an hour of singing and food. Of course, the place was packed and our efforts appreciated. Our thanks to the staff for the invitation and a delicious buffet.



Photos by Loren Donaldson

## A Jubilate! Christmas Party



Jane Brunot, an alumnae of Jubilate is an amazing host. For a number of years Jane has hosted Jubilate for their annual Christmas party. She has a beautiful home in western Arvada,

and is an avid fan of Jubilate. This year we were treated to a wonderful buffet of carved roast beef with all the trimmings. We were even more surprised at having a famous chef flown in just to carve the roast and set the meal. Jane provided the beautiful table settings, room decorations and beverages for everyone to enjoy. As the evening progressed we sang some Christmas carols and enjoyed the company and conversation. It was wonderful to stop and relax for the evening.

Photos by Loren Donaldson



## The Winter Power of God's Grace!

By Shelli Tillery



Shelli Tillery

"In The Bleak Midwinter" – that we are. Gray skies, muddy, dirty snow lines the streets, and everything is dead. All that aside, I have always loved winter. I love the natural sound insulation that a fresh layer of snow provides and I have many fond memories of wintertime.

One memory in particular is from a weekend snowmobiling trip in Grand Lake with my aunt, uncle and two cousins, Brad and Charlie. I was stylin' in my new snowsuit my Mom bought me in Switzerland and was a holy terror on the snowmobile. The problem was I did not have the strength to get my snowmobile out of the snow drifts when I would inevitably crash into them! Enter my cousin Brad - constantly rescuing me and my snowmobile from the drifts. We laugh about that to this day.

Today, Jubilate! is my "Brad." The uplifting music and the prayerful fellowship lift the heavy burdens of day-to-day life and pull me out of the proverbial snow drifts. Ironically, our dear members of Jubilate! helped Brad this past fall as we prayed fervently for his wife, Heather, to come out of a coma. By the power of prayer and grace of God she did, and is now on a long path to recovery.

My relationship with Brad has grown significantly in the years since the snowmobiling trip - transitioning to more of a sister-brother relationship than just cousins. I hope over the years, I can have the same deepening in my musical and spiritual commitment to Jubilate!



## As We Remember the Power of Jubilate!

By Tom Boyd



Tom Boyd

Perhaps the closest Jubilate came to a "bleak midwinter" experience was in the fall of 2003, the start of our second year. The first year had been a full and exciting one. We had forty-six venues under our belts, including six on a very successful concert tour of the Northwest, and we had completed our first CD in May, 2003. However, in the Fall of 2003 we lost our beloved director David Harris when he accompanied his wife to the University of Delaware to pursue her MFA degree. Even though this was to last only two years we wondered whether this would be the end of a great ride. Could we go on, and if so how?

Ultimately, David remained in place as Artistic Director and called the shots musically, although in absentia. An assistant director was chosen to conduct rehearsals and our regular slate of venues. It was a difficult adjustment as we struggled to learn new music, relearn the old music and adjust to functioning on a week to week basis. Some questioned whether or not we should even continue. To compound the issue, twelve members left the group. Still we persisted, doing the usual three or four venues a month.

David returned briefly to conduct our first ever Christmas concert at what was then First Baptist Church, and to conduct our retreat in early January. Four months later he was back for good after leading the Friends and Family concert in May 2004.

Together we not only survived the struggles of 2003, but continued to grow, transforming ourselves into the choir we are today, striving for excellence and continuing our mission of sharing music with others who need and love it.



## Sweet Moments from Jubilate!

by a Jubilate Contributor

"We all like Figgy Pudding..." a 17<sup>th</sup> century warm, sticky sweet pudding, filled with sugar, butter, eggs and dried fruit, flamed with brandy and topped with whipped cream.

Jubilate! had some sweet moments during the past holiday season. We sang at hospital and retirement facilities for people with less than perfect health and energy. We sang at the Community Church of the Rockies after the flooded access road had been opened. We followed every nod and gesture of our student director and pianist Matt Dillon with 'Wonderful Counselor' and listened with pleasure during his piano interludes. We were welcomed by Alum, Jane Brunot, our ex-officio Jubilate hostess, whose home burst with Christmas beauty and a Wassail Bowl. We gobbled down Mark Sammartano's meatballs ("If I had known they would be so popular, I could have doubled the recipe"). We chuckled at the Ad Hoc Quartet singing the Boulder Christmas Song. Madeline Anderson was 'venue-chief' for all these togetherness events. Bruce and Irene Rose detailed the warm and friendly social moments we have had all year.

Being together was a Simple Gift: "the gift to be just right." Norman Lear states the two most important words in the English language are: OVER and NEXT. 2015 is OVER and 2016 is NEXT. What will NEXT offer to Jubilate! Sacred Singers?



**A part of us remains wherever we have been.**

Nancy Meise



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ANY QUESTIONS?



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Jubilate! Notes Thursday, January 28, 2016

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

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