

The Windy City is Blown Away by Joyful Noise By Lela K., Joyful Noise Intern

On Friday, March 11th, 22 exuberant Joyful Noise singers from New Jersey and Delaware soared through the skies from Philadelphia to the windy city of Chicago. "It's good," stated Lizzie casually, "I liked Joyful Noise on the plane." "I liked the flight," Rob agreed. As soon as the chorus landed, they embarked on a grand adventure filled with sightseeing, singing, socializing, and a concert at the Chicago Hilton's premiere venue, the Grand Ballroom, as part of the American Choral Directors' Association 2011 National Conference.

From Midway Airport, the chorus dashed off on a bus tour through Chicago, past President Obama's home, and on to the Shedd Aquarium to visit the whales and dolphins and perform in front of the enormous Caribbean Reef. Museum-goers were mesmerized by the singers' dynamic and lively presence. In Josh's opinion, "The aquarium was the best part; singing and fish."

Afterwards members dined in fine style at Hilton's Pavilion restaurant with their family members, friends, choral directors, Bancroft staff members, and renowned choral conductors, Alice Parker and Nick Page. With their appetites quenched, some members visited the pool and hot tub, and then all rested their voices and eyes.



Joyful Noise warms up on stage in the Chicago Hilton's Grand Ballroom – Photo by Lanny Edelsohn

The next morning at 9:30 am, the singers filled the stage of the Hilton's opulent Grand Ballroom and warmed-up. Alex describes the routine as hard but rewarding. "I felt so excited and proud of myself to be on the stage. Warming up is serious work because it's a vocal exercise to make your voice stronger." By 10:30 am, the once spacious room was crowded with over a thousand conductors. According to Richard, "The concert was exciting. The best part was when all the people came in!" Soon, the conference audience was on its feet, singing along. John was pleased with the choir's spectacular performance. "It was nice. I liked the song and Joyful Noise. I liked Alice Parker's piece. We were on the news!" he said. After the concert, singer Rob E spoke for everyone when he asked, *(continued in next column)*

Director's Notes By Allison Fromm

Our singers were thrilled when over 1,000 conductors joined in singing "You Have a Heart" and then gave them a resounding standing ovation! I was so proud of how beautifully everyone performed! As the performance concluded, dozens of conductors crowded the stage to congratulate us and to ask how to start similar choruses in their own states. *(See page 2 for audience comments.)*



Jodi accepts Joyful Noise's plaque for performing at ACDA's 2011 National Conference – Photo by Lanny Edelsohn

SAVE THE DATES IN 2011-12

- * **Saturday, June 25**, DELAWARE POOH SKIT & CONCERT, Brandywine YMCA, Wilmington, DE
- * **Thursday, June 30**, NATIONAL ANTHEM, TALIAFERRO ALL-STAR FOOTBALL CLASSIC, Rowan U, Glassboro, NJ
- * **Fall 2011**, Highland Park Church of God, Gloucester City, New Jersey
- * **Saturday, September 24**, BANCROFT DAY, Challenge Grove, Cherry Hill, NJ
- * **Tuesday, December 13**, HOLIDAY CONCERT, Voorhees Town Center, NJ
- * **Friday & Saturday, February 17-18, 2012**, AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION'S BUILDING COMMUNITIES FESTIVAL CHOIR WITH ALICE PARKER & NICK PAGE, Providence, RI
- * **March Saturday TBA**, NATIONAL ANTHEM, HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS, Sun National Bank Center, Trenton, NJ
- * **Summer 2012**, CHORAL FESTIVAL WITH ALICE PARKER, Katz JCC (tentative)

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"That was fun. Can we do it again?" Topping her enthusiasm for the flight and the aquarium, Saturday's performance had a special place in Lizzie's heart. "The most fun was singing," she declared with utmost certainty. "All the people cheered and cried and clapped when the show was over because Joyful Noise singers did such a wonderful job, a fantastic job, a sensational job, a perfect job! I felt proud inside because it was a great honor to let me appear on stage and entertain for all the people," beamed Alex.

Singers Wow Conductors in Chicago

“No one was showing off. Joyful Noise was simply singing from their enormous hearts. Alice Parker is right when she says that it is deeply spiritual. Joyful Noise makes Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah into a prayer, a celebration.

For me, Joyful Noise is an unlimited expression of the universe, alive in the wonder of it, engaged and alive. After the celebration, a man said to me, ‘It was so moving. I felt like crying.’ I asked, ‘Why didn't you?’

- Nick Page, *Composer, You Have a Heart*



ACDA conductors join in singing “You Have a Heart” in the Chicago Hilton’s Grand Ballroom – Photo by Lanny Edelsohn

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“The beginning of *Sound of Music* was truly the highlight of my conference experience: It was pure, beautiful, and everything that is excellence in the arts. I needed that cry...THANK YOU!”

- Craig Gregory, *Assistant Director, ACDA*

It was wonderful indeed to be brought back to the central message of singing: do what you love to do. Witnessing the joy coming from your singers (and the pros united to help you as "back-up") was quite inspirational. For me, it was a highlight of the convention. You're making a huge impact, starting a national movement, and generally changing the planet for the good. I don't know if that's what you set out to do, but let's not underestimate the intentional or unintended consequences that our work can have. What I saw at the convention could certainly be planting seeds with wonderfully unpredictable results.”

- Steven Sametz, *Composer, “Bonse Aba”*

Joyful Noise Delaware Presents Winnie the Pooh Skit to Preschoolers

By Mary Ann & Elizabeth Nolan

Nine Joyful Noise singers from Delaware performed in Wilmington for the Brandywine YMCA’s preschool class and their families on Saturday, June 25 at 12:30 PM. The singers’ performance featured a Winnie the Pooh skit entitled, *The Hunt*, with lyrics and original music by Joyful Noise’s Delaware Director, Rob Kennan. Leading roles were sung by: David (Pooh), Elizabeth (Tigger), Fred (Eeyore), Kevin (Piglet), Rob E (Rabbit), and Rob K (Narrator). Andrew, James, Maggie & Ross joined

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ADAM TALIAFERRO FOUNDATION

Joyful Noise to Sing National Anthem for Taliaferro All-Star Football Classic

By Joanne Shea

Joyful Noise has been invited to sing the National Anthem to open the 2011 Adam Taliaferro All-Star Football Classic at Rowan University on Thursday, June 30. This game selects eighty outstanding graduating football players from all eighty South Jersey High Schools and is often attended by about 5,000 spectators!

The game will benefit the Adam Taliaferro Foundation, which “provides emotional, financial and educational support to student athletes who experience catastrophic head or spinal cord injuries in sanctioned team events in New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania.” For more information: <http://www.taliaferrofoundation.org>.

Playing defensive end and center will be Nicholas Foster, son of Miriam Kroon, a nurse at Bancroft’s Flicker Residences. Nicholas will attend Marist College this fall.

The game will be played at Rowan University’s Richard Wacker Stadium on Carpenter Street, Glassboro, NJ, on June 30, 2011 at 7pm. Joyful Noise will sing the National Anthem just prior to kickoff. For directions, click here: <http://www.rowan.edu/map/directions.html>

For game tickets (\$10) or to join Joyful Noise for the tailgate before the game, please email Joanne Shea @ jshea155@gmail.com. (Singers and guests are asked to bring a sandwich on ice and a blanket or folding lawn chair, if desired. Snacks and cold water will be provided.)



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them in singing the choruses. The performance also featured 11 of Joyful Noise’s favorite songs, including “You are my Sunshine,” with added handbells, and “Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah” with kids playing boomwhackers.

Elizabeth was excited about the performance! “We had fun rehearsing for the Pooh skit. My favorite part about being Tigger is that I get to bounce when I say my lines. I'm glad my friend, Maggie, is part of Joyful Noise. We like the song ‘We Need Help.’” During the performance, one YMCA staff member texted another, “This is the sweetest, lovinest concert ever, and the kids are having a great time!”

Every Voice Deserves to be Heard Choral Festival with Alan Harler
By Nancy Longo, Joyful Noise Secretary

In June 2010, Joyful Noise launched the first tri-state choral festival for singers with disabilities, with Nick Page and Singing from the Heart at the Katz JCC in Cherry Hill. Following the tremendous success of our inaugural event, The Kardon Chorale from Philadelphia and their director, Christine Wineberg, sponsored our second choral festival, the Every Voice Deserves to Be Heard festival on April 29, 2011 at the Unitarian Church in Cherry Hill. The afternoon and evening singing get-together became a lavish affair of marvelous music, fine food, and new connections for the 75 singers and over 100 guests.

The Festival culminated in a finale with a brass quintet and audience participation, rehearsed and conducted by Joyful Noise International Advisory Committee member, Alan Harler, who serves as Artistic Director of the Mendelssohn Club of Philadelphia and Professor Emeritus of Choral Music at Temple University.



Every Voice Choral Festival participants – Photo by Kerri Williams, Kardon Institute for Arts Therapy

For this festival, Joyful Noise and Kardon Chorale were joined by a new choir from the Hunterdon Developmental Center in Clinton, NJ, a 2-1/2 hour drive – each way! A sense of camaraderie developed between the three choirs that lasted throughout the evening. As each event unfolded, the harmony between the groups enriched everyone’s experience. Hunterdon’s director, Steve Heineman, writes that the choir’s singers are excited about the prospects of joining with Joyful Noise again next year. “I wanted to let you know how much our folks enjoyed your performance and participating in this special event with you. We don’t typically have the opportunity to see, let alone be part of, a concert featuring individuals with disabilities. It was an inspiration to our singers!”

Stephen J. Lalka, a proud 90-year-old and father of George, traveled even further, over 5 hours from Chatham, NY, to be part of the April 29 concert. “I enjoyed the concert very much. I am very proud of George. George is learning to express more with words through singing and his speech therapy. I am so happy with the interest that is taken in him.”

During afternoon rehearsals and the breathtaking moments of the concert finale, conductor Alan Harler had a lasting
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Singer’s Heart Rejoices at April Festival
By Lisa Fay, Joyful Noise Member

I thought being a part of other choruses was wonderful! I've never done that before. We all blended well with the other choruses at the festival. Everyone did an awesome job. Alan Harler was a wonderful director and seemed to know what he was doing. I think he did a great job.

I enjoyed the tunes we sang...it takes time to practice. Our practices went well. It's hard work but if you're going to perform, you have to put the work in.



Guest Conductor Alan Harler rehearses the combined choirs – Photo by Kerri Williams, Kardon Institute for Arts Therapy

I thought I did a fabulous job singing a solo for the first time. I felt bad when I got nervous and scared and didn't know when to come in for DO-RE-MI, but I didn't feel bad for long. I feel I did an awesome solo and I'm so proud! My mom would have been proud of me from heaven. She used to go to church with my dad and me, just to hear me sing.

My heart felt it was rejoicing, like singing for the dear Lord and my mother. I just have to sing. It's in my heart!



George and Stephen Lalka – Photo by Kerri Williams, Kardon

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impact on the three choruses and everyone in attendance. Joyful Noise also touched Alan, as he later wrote, “Your concert was a highlight of the national ACDA conference in Chicago, and what a joy to conduct you and the Kardon Chorale at the festival in May! I'm looking forward to hearing you at the regional conference in February.”



Joyful Noise Members Invited to Form Core of Nation's First ACDA Festival Choir for Singers with Disabilities **By Paula Siegel, Joyful Noise Board**

After the astounding success of Joyful Noise in Chicago, the applause of the thousand ACDA conference attendees is still echoing throughout the country! Our long-awaited encore performance will occur at the American Choral Directors Association's Eastern Division Conference, which will be held in February 2012 in Providence, Rhode Island.

Once again, members of Joyful Noise will break ground as the core of the first-ever ACDA Festival Choir, which will be composed of singers with neurological and physical challenges singing along with music therapists and choral directors drawn from the Eastern Division's eleven states and the District of Columbia. As the inspiration for this new Festival Choir, we are honored that our own conductor, Allison Fromm, was invited to direct this historic choir. Allison will be joined by our longtime dear friends and renowned choral composers, Alice Parker and Nick Page.

As composer Steven Sametz predicted, our Chicago concert has been "planting seeds with wonderfully unpredictable results." Since our Chicago ACDA performance, dozens of choral leaders have contacted us, and choirs modeled after Joyful Noise have begun to spring up in many states, including Arizona, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Carolina, Texas, and Wisconsin. Our goal of spreading music to everyone is becoming a mission of ACDA and countless others. In February, we shall lead the Building Communities Festival Choir and spread the joy of music even further – just wait and see!

If you are interested in learning more and perhaps participating in the Building Communities Festival Choir in Providence, Rhode Island, February 17-18, 2012, please contact Cathy Sonnenberg: (215) 771-1003 or Cathy@JoyfulNoiseChorus.org.

To join Joyful Noise, or for more information, please contact Cathy Sonnenberg: 215-771-1003 or Cathy@JoyfulNoiseChorus.org or visit www.joyfulnoisechorus.org.

2010-11 Fund Drive Update **By Christine Dwyer, Joyful Noise Co-Treasurer**

Traveling to Chicago and singing with Alice Parker and Nick Page for the American Choral Directors Association conference was absolutely thrilling for our members! Yet, as you can imagine, substantial travel expenses were involved. This extraordinary opportunity to sing at a prestigious national conference inspired many of our supporters to help defray the costs. To date, 147 donors have contributed \$24,784 toward our \$30,000 goal. In addition to many individual gifts, Joyful Noise is fortunate to have received 11 corporate sponsorships and charitable grants from: Bancroft, Blessed Teresa of Calcutta Parish, BNY Mellon, Center Metal Fabricators, English & Associates, First United Methodist Church of Moorestown, NJ, Glenmede Foundation, Heels and Soles, Homes for Life Foundation, Masterwire Manufacturing, Party of Six – Passariello's Pizzeria, and Wild Rock, West Virginia.

We are so thankful for everyone who helped provide for the historic Chicago performance and for rehearsals every week in New Jersey and Delaware! Even the smallest donation makes a difference by supporting musical opportunities for our singers. Contributions of any amount are always needed and will be most gratefully received. Please send checks made payable to Joyful Noise to:

Christine Dwyer, Treasurer
Joyful Noise
17 Springbrook Road
Morristown, NJ 07960

Donors may also contribute online via PayPal by accessing Joyful Noise's website: www.joyfulnoisechorus.org.



Coming Soon: **11 New Members Love Singing with Joyful Noise**

Since 2011 began, 11 new singers have joined Joyful Noise! Wow! Please watch for our second summer newsletter to meet our 8 new singers from New Jersey and 3 new members from Delaware!