

Joyful Noise Celebrates July 4th with Bernie

By Bernie King* and Maura Church

On July 4th, 2013, Joyful Noise's dear friend and former member, Bernie King, was surprised and delighted by a visit from long-time friends from New Jersey and new friends from Delaware and Boston. More than 100 residents of Genesis Healthcare in Voorhees, NJ and their families enjoyed Joyful Noise's concert and sing-along of patriotic songs and songs written for our ensemble. Before Joyful Noise sang, "I will try," conductor Allison Fromm read an "Independence Day greeting" from its composer Mark Conley, who was working with choirs in Africa. On behalf of the chorus, singer Richard Kalinski presented Bernie with a commemorative plaque naming him, "Forever a member of Joyful Noise!"

To the delight of singers and audience, Joyful Noise Chorus was joined by three guests from Harvard University: Andrew Clark, Harvard's Director of Choral Activities, Choral Associate Mike Pfitzer, and Maura Church, President of Harvard's Collegium Musicum. All three musicians conducted and sang with Joyful Noise.



Photo by Gary Herman

Joyful Noise entertains the crowd in honor of Bernie King

Maura was struck by just how positive a force the choir seems to be in the members' lives. She offered, "I know from my own experience that choir is a wonderful, almost sacred place, but this is the first time I've experienced a choir that seems to have truly transformational power. The singers were all a joy to work with, and were so enthusiastic and excited about being there and singing."

Bernie King later reminisced about how he felt that day, saying, "I loved seeing you! My friends loved seeing you . . . and I want you to come back!"

What better review could a choir ever hope for?

** Bernie King is an emeritus member of Joyful Noise. Maura Church, Harvard University Class of 2014, serves as President of the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum.*

Save the Dates

- Thursday, February 6, 2014, **Choral Connections: Joyful Noise and the Harvard Collegium**, First United Methodist Church, Moorestown, NJ
- April 10-12, 2014, **Beyond the Concert Hall**, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- May 17-18, 2014, **Possibility Players**, Haddonfield, NJ

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

Harvard University to Host Joyful Noise in Concert

By Andrew Clark and Mike Pfitzer*

Following Joyful Noise's moving July 4th performance honoring Bernie King, the ensemble was invited for a weekend residency at Harvard!

On Thursday, April 10, Joyful Noise's very excited singers will board a bus for Harvard. Once they arrive in Cambridge, they will rehearse with renowned American conductor, composer, and educator, Alice Parker. Joyful Noise will perform alongside the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum and The Brattle Street Chamber Players in Harvard's prestigious Sanders Theatre on Friday, April 11 at 8 PM. They will also play a major role in a Saturday symposium on music in community.

The Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, Harvard's premier mixed choir, is thrilled to welcome Joyful Noise to Cambridge for what we know will be a transformational weekend of choral music for us!

Joyful Noise is the perfect group to help lead our symposium on singing in community and on music and wellness. We look forward to having Alice Parker and Joyful Noise lead audience members in singing, imagining, movement, and expression. April 12 will be a meaningful day filled with singers' thoughts on the songs we sing, being a part of Joyful Noise, singing with friends, and meeting new people.

Harvard students will learn a great deal from the character, poise, and spirit of this remarkable ensemble, and we hope that through the exchange of our musical experiences, the Collegium and our local community will grow through collaborative learning with Joyful Noise.

We anticipate that Joyful Noise's trip to Massachusetts in April, combined with Collegium's trip to visit Joyful Noise in South Jersey in February, will inspire new projects and partnerships for the choral program at Harvard.

** Andrew Clark is director of choral activities at Harvard University, and Mike Pfitzer is choral associate.*

DFRC Holidazzle: Love & Lyrics

Joyful Noise was proud to participate in a six-choir fundraiser for Delaware Foundation Reaching Citizens on October 27, 2012, at the Grand Opera House in Wilmington, Delaware. Here are just a few comments from the performance:

Saturday evening was one of the most love-filled moments that I have ever participated in. Every voice rang out with pure love.
Anthony T. Glenn, Ed. D., Executive Director, DFRC

The highlight of the concert was singing alongside Joyful Noise. It inspired all of us to remember the joy in our music making...
Kimberly Doucette, Director, Wilmington Children's Chorus



The slogan of "one community, one voice" came through loud and clear, and there was not a dry eye in the

Bancroft Day Birthday Inspires Brett

By Brett Rosen and Mindy Rosen



Photo by Gary Herman

Singing “Do you shine?”

October 5th was Brett’s 31st birthday and Bancroft Day. Singing with Joyful Noise – what a great way to spend a birthday! Music is Brett’s passion and Joyful Noise has given him the opportunity to harmonize with friends, learn new songs and sing every Tuesday.

During this performance, Brett was given two solos, and he was excited about the challenge. He learned “Imagine,” by John Lennon and performed it beautifully. His other solo, “Why do we always see what makes us different?,” comes from a wonderful and meaningful song written for Joyful Noise by Providence composer Mark Alan Conley. Brett dedicated his performance to Todd, who originally had the solo before his accident. Watching the choir sing that day was truly JOYFUL.

Standing Ovation at Yale

By Nancy Lalka Longo

Thanks to support from friends like you and the Knorr Foundation, on June 21, 2012, 32 Joyful Noise members and their caregivers traveled to Yale to perform with and for an international audience of musicians.

Yale University’s choral faculty invited Joyful Noise to participate in the first Yale International Choral Festival along with choirs from four continents. Joyful Noise was invited to perform at the Festival’s Symposium, “Choirs Transforming Our World,” and was featured as a choir that is “using choral music in creative ways to create positive change.”

Our 50-minute presentation in Yale’s Sprague Hall involved audience participation, both musically and artistically. Singers and audience members shared in the creation of quilt squares for a mural conveying the impact of our singing.

The audience responded with a standing ovation, tears, requests for assistance in forming new choirs, and heartfelt expressions of appreciation. Among the expressions of appreciation for Joyful Noise’s conference performances are new pieces of music by composers from Illinois, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Allison Fromm, director of Joyful Noise, led a session on how choral music contributes to the well-being of singers with disabilities and mental illness and how audiences view the impact of such singers.

Joyful Noise chorus members dedicated their Yale performances in memory of George Lalka, who earned his master’s degree in chemistry from Yale. George was a member of Joyful Noise for 10 years until his passing in November 2011. As Cathy Sonnenberg assured the chorus, surely he was with his fellow singers as our “Star in the Sky.”



Photo by Marshall Kurtzman

Joyful Noise Friends Fill Todd’s Heart

By Todd Emmons and Marie Emmons

Todd is working hard on his physical therapy in a Voorhees care facility. He is on the road to recovery after being hit by a car in July. After several very tough months, he seems to be on the upswing and is in good spirits.

Todd has received an outpouring of love and support from all his Joyful Noise friends, whose visits brighten his days.



Photo by Cathy Sonnenberg

Todd and Marie Emmons

Todd beams when he describes his surprise visit from Boston composer Nick Page. “I almost started to cry. I couldn’t believe it!” Todd exclaimed, covering his eyes with his hand. “We sang my favorite song, ‘You Have A Heart,’ and ‘Do You Shine?’ Nick let me try his ukulele. I want to go to Harvard and see him there.” Todd said, his eyes shining.

His mom and brothers are grateful. “I thank you Joyful Noise. I don’t know what I would have done without you,” says his mom. “You’ve been a morale booster.”

Todd said, “I love you all – You’re in my heart.”

About Joyful Noise



Photo by Bill Cossaboon

Joyful Noise is a chorus of forty-five adults, ages 17–70, with physical and neurological disabilities. Founded in 2000 by Director Allison Fromm and her sister, Beth Fromm, a chorus member, the ensemble is hosted by Bancroft in southern New Jersey and Delaware. Joyful Noise fosters an atmosphere of community, acceptance, and teamwork in which members can discover their voices and express themselves through music.

We Need Your Help!

Help Joyful Noise share the love at Harvard by making a tax-deductible contribution to help offset travel expenses for our singers and their caregivers.

To make your donation today, please contact Cathy Sonnenberg: (215) 771-1003 or cathy@joyfulnoisechorus.org, or visit our website: www.joyfulnoisechorus.org.

Checks made out to “Joyful Noise” may be mailed to:

Joyful Noise Singers, Inc.
17 Springbrook Road
Morristown, NJ 07960

Joyful Noise is a 501(c)(3) hosted by Bancroft in New Jersey & Delaware.