



*A Community Chorus for Singers with
Alzheimer's or other Dementias
& their Caregivers*

Here are some comments from our Joyful Voices Chorus and audience members.....

"Many thanks for your work with this group--Your enthusiasm and encouragement are infectious. --We have always been a musical family--either performing or listening—Since my wife began with Joyful Voices she now sings around the house and is quite a "whistler". The experience has "reawakened" her enjoyment and ability. I cannot thank you enough for that! Just seeing her enjoying herself makes me enjoy the time there."

-Bob L. (Spouse/caregiver of a chorus member living with Alzheimer's)

"What an amazing idea to do this chorus. Finding out that you have Alzheimer's is shocking and depressing enough to find out, and to reclus is your first reaction. Joining this chorus puts me with people who understand what you are going through, and gives you a chance to relax and do some of the silly things without being embarrassed and just be with people that are going through this experience. Caregivers have a perfect opportunity to learn and share plus and minus thoughts with each other. Thank you for this opportunity."

-Judy S. (Chorus member living with Alzheimer's)

"Every week after rehearsal my mother thanks me for doing this with her. She loves it. I know for our experience, her expressions on her face are not an accurate reflection of her feelings about choir and practice. She loves it! I love the stretching and moving that we do, too. Shoot! I'd love that every day. I think it is the most exercise she gets all week! :) The addition of the shakers and the kazoos was perfect! Homework assignments like that are great! Sometimes finding things we can do together is not easy.

-Lori L. (Caregiver and member of Joyful Voices Chorus)

“My mom has been a singer all her life, and even worked as a music teacher before my brother and I were born. She's the reason I began to sing in the first place, and I'm glad she influenced me in that regard, as I currently live (and work) in Nashville as a professional musician.

Singing has always helped me sort out my own issues. As a child with a debilitating stutter, I was relieved to learn that I could sing fluidly, without any blocks in my speech. Through choir performances and school musicals, I was able to get in front of large crowds and express myself, which is something I'd never been able to do before. The experience gave me renewed confidence, which helped me gain control over my speech impediment.

And now, your choir is helping my mother. I can't tell you how moved this makes me. She auditioned for a different choir several years back, before her Alzheimer's diagnosis, and was crushed when she failed the audition due to her issues with pitch recall. Now, thanks to you, she can put that wonderful voice to use again, and remember how great it feels to sing with other people.

When your parent has Alzheimer's and you live 10 hours away, you can feel helpless. There's not always a lot of good news to share. But hearing about your choir was VERY good news, and I wanted to thank you for it. You are doing such great work. I hope you know that.

-Andrew L.

Audience Feedback.....

I just watched "Joyful Voices". It was extraordinary...the joy and fellowship you all have together and the beloved souls you do it for is beyond special. We saw the posters your grandkids did!!! So sweet! I went through a box of Kleenex during 'Can't Help Falling in Love with You'. I can hear you say, "It was fun!" It sure was! God Bless you and all the joyful singers for the heartfelt gifts you share.

-Gina F.

"Just watched the Joyful Voices concert!! You continue to do magic with this group"!

-Ashton V.

"What a wonderful, inspiring performance by all those who have continued to share their love of music through Zoom with our friends having dementia/Alzheimer's".

-Sylvia L.

"My husband and I so enjoyed the Spring 2021 concert. It was nice that you were able to keep the chorus singing during the pandemic."

-Becky R.

"Fantastic, Joyful Voices Chorus!!! What an awesome and amazing production. I not only loved the music and seeing everyone's creative costumes and backgrounds, but also so enjoyed the narrations and love stories! What an accomplishment!

-Jeanne K.