

Dear friends,

Delft, January 30th, 2011

even later than usual, we finally managed to wrap up what should have been our Christmas and New Year's greetings to everyone. At least it looks like we'll manage to broadcast it while it's still January! We shall not dwell upon the various reasons for this lateness, as it would be contrary to our purpose here, to summarise last year's most significant developments and events in our family.

Sunniva (now 7½) started out last year by qualifying for her last "grade C" swimming diploma in a record time. Not having to attend swimming lessons twice a week anymore, she filled the gaps in her agenda by enrolling at the choir school in The Hague (where Ursula has already been for 6 years), with singing lessons, solfège and theory. Following another proud family tradition, she also joined the Viotta children's orchestra last fall, with which she performed in the Anton Philipszaal (the biggest classical concert hall in The Hague). She has also embraced the opportunity to wear really cool glasses for school use!



Ursula (13) is now in the 2nd year of the Dutch secondary school system, enjoying classes in six different foreign languages, amongst which Greek, Latin and Chinese! Her parents are dumbfounded ☺. With choir, orchestra, viola and piano lessons things are busier than ever. One of the highlights included a week-long Choir tour to Luzern, Switzerland. At the Delft Chamber Music Festival in August, she achieved mascot status by contributing on the viola in a spontaneous late-night performance of the Schubert string quintet at a local pub!



Marianna joined the board of the Dutch Carillon Society (NKV) last year, and has been kept quite busy with that. Her international women's choir has grown considerably and now has a healthy following. She also plays and conducts in the church, but more on a "project" basis and less frequently than before. In the evenings she can be found at various dancing classes (modern, classical, hip-hop) – with the exception of a few weeks before the summer that were entirely "danceless", due to a broken big toe (!). Beside the obvious enjoyment, these dance classes also bring inspiring ideas for her music lessons with pre-school children.



Kristofer experienced a challenging year in many ways. On the professional side, his company moved to a new splendid building in Noordwijk, more than four times the size of the old humble shack. You should come and see it someday, with its 6-metre satellite dish on the roof it has already become a local landmark! The musical performance highlight of the year was no doubt the Bach St. John passion (in April), although there were several other unforgettable musical moments. 2010 was also the year when Kristofer surrendered to the irresistible charms of the iPhone, although he had long stubbornly sworn he would not give in to "the hype". The addiction became embarrassingly clear when his new iToy literally drowned in a puddle...!



The family summer vacation was spent at the *hytte* in the Norwegian mountains this year, including some memorable round trips by car to the monumental sights in the neighbouring regions (Romsdalen, Geiranger). Shorter trips went to Oslo and to Haderslev (Denmark, where Katrine currently lives) where we celebrated Rusken's 70th anniversary, and the birth of Katrine's son Gustav. A very cold and white Christmas (*so quiet!*) was celebrated in Delft, allowing just barely the rest needed to let the impressions from a busy year settle, giving room for some basic forward-looking thoughts: May the new year bring health and happiness to you all!

Sunniva, Ursula, Marianna and Kristofer

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