

Dear friends,

Delft, January 31st, 2012

Let's just say it wasn't any easier to get this letter written than last year's edition. It's like getting out of bed on a Sunday morning (for some of us) – it has to be driven purely by goodwill and without threats of sanction. But I complete this foreword by observing that the yearly miracle has nevertheless repeated itself.

When asking **Sunniva** (now 8½) what she thought of as the major highlight of 2011, we had expected her to mention her First Holy Communion in May, or her promotion to the Hague Concert Choir in September, or maybe that she got to conduct a big orchestra playing the birthday song in her honour. But in fact, the most spectacular event according to Sunniva was seeing Ursula fall into a public fountain in Alghero last summer. She also enjoyed playing with her cousin Esmeralda in Romania, and Skyping with her cousin Gustav in Haderslev.

Ursula (14) made giant leaps on the viola last year, receiving a 3rd prize at a national competition in May. She was admitted to the Young Talent class at the Hellendaal music institute in Rotterdam, and this fall she played the Telemann viola concerto solo with orchestra. In the spring she also celebrated her catholic confirmation. But none of this could compare with the joy of finally owning an iPhone! She can effortlessly follow hundreds of people on Twitter, but checking her e-mails is still oddly problematic.



Marianna has once again had a busy year, teaching, bell-playing and conducting. She has also ensured that our family is technologically up to date. Thanks to her efforts, both her father and mother-in-law now sport their own iPads, and can stay in touch with us using FaceTime. Our household calendar has migrated to “the cloud”, so that we can be timely aware of each other's many schedules. The calendar tells us that she turned a milestone age last November, but she doesn't want to mention it, so we won't either ☺.

Kristofer had a bit of an unfortunate start of 2011 (minimum story length exceeds the quota here), but things picked up quickly with new and exciting musical adventures, resulting in a total of 17 concert performances, three of which with his new viola ensemble Forza Viola. At work, Kristofer celebrated his 15th anniversary at SSBV.



Last year saw a marked increase in family-related travel: Spring break and summer weeks were spent in Sardinia (mostly by the ladies), in October we celebrated the baptism of uncle Mario's newborn Estelle in Bucharest (Romania), and summer and Christmas holidays were spent in Norway. Additionally, Kristofer went on two shorter trips to Oslo, for the 1st birthday of his nephew Gustav, and for the sad occasion of uncle Kjell-Otto's funeral.



A big change last year was the introduction of a car in our household. The little sky-blue Fiat Panda allows the many weekly trips to practice this and that to be done in shorter time and with less physical exertion. This is all very good in general, but it is generally agreed that Kristofer will now really have to start exercising more, lest he grow stuck in the driver's seat.

Happy New Year!

Sunniva, Ursula, Marianna and Kristofer

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