

Marcia Van Voorene: Mother-Daughter Time

I've been with Westwinds for eight years, enjoying singing in the Women's Choir with a great group of ladies. Prior to that, I hadn't sung since high school, and was missing the pure pleasure of being part of a musical group. Running into an old high school classmate, Kevin Willms, at a Heritage Park concert provided me with the impetus to try Westwinds. Although Kevin tried to recruit me to play flute in his band, I chose to register for choir instead. Kevin and I used to sing madrigals for fun at lunch with six other students around the grand piano of Marilyn Perkins at Viscount Bennett High School, and from behind from the sax section he used to tease us girls in the flute section....or jump in to conduct when the band teacher was late or we had a substitute teacher (no surprise). However, the truly heart-warming part of my story is about my mom.

My mom, Christina DeBruin, had always wanted to sing and read music. Being exposed to Westwinds and trying out for the Green Choir a few years ago has been a wonderful experience for her. She can read music now; she currently sings with the Mixed Choir, has her group of "choir buddies", and she enjoys Julie's tutelage and spirit on Wednesdays and the performances. Another bonus for us is that we carpool to choir practice together, giving us some mother-daughter time alone in our busy lives. It took courage for my mom to try this, and I'm really proud of her.

It's also a great example for my daughter to see her mom and Oma singing in our choirs, enjoying ourselves - to see that people are capable of learning and pursuing their interests at any stage of life.