

Fol-de-rol *de-rol-rol-rol*

Newsletter of the
Yale Glee Club Associates
Winter 2011

The YGC at 150: Skilled, Talented, Better than Ever!



Bass Notes

Editorial Comment • Linus Travers

Nearly four years ago, Marv Berenblum, then president of the Glee Club Associates, empaneled a sesquicentennial committee and charged them with planning and executing a celebration of the YGC's 150th in 2011. "Make it first-rate," he said, "something we can never forget."



And so here it is, a three-day weekend in the midst of an event-packed year. The Princeton and Harvard concerts in the fall kicked it off; the February 11-13 gala weekend will draw more than 600 alumni to the campus for workshops and concerts and meals and fellowship. Carnegie Hall's April 8th performance with the Yale Symphony will bring hundreds more to the celebration. The undergraduate group's partial reenactment of Barty's 1928 European tour in May and June, culminating in a joint performance Istanbul of Ralph Vaughn Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* with the Yale Alumni Chorus will bring the sesquicentennial year to a close.

The Alumni Chorus will continue, under Jeff's direction, for another ten days singing elsewhere in Turkey, then in Georgia and Armenia, where the group's connections with the family of Aran Khachaturian and with Constantin Orbelian, former conductor of the Moscow Chamber Orchestra who led the YAC in a series of Khachaturian Centennial concerts in 2003 in New Haven and New York, will be renewed.

Placed in your hands at the February celebration will be two important containers for the Glee Club's 150 years of existence: an hour-long Video DVD, "Yale Glee Club 150: Raising Voices," created by Rob Blanchard and Ric Serrenho, and *Louder Yet the Chorus Raise: The Yale Glee Club 150 Years*, 200-plus pages of documents and commentary corralled and created largely by Tim DeWerff.

Both track the club from its earliest days. Filmmakers Blanchard and Serrenho travelled with the Glee Club to South America in 2009, capturing the incredible spirit both of Yale's singers and the folks with whom they sang and worked. They

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Milton March Choral Weekend Rolls Fill

Registration materials for this year's March 25-27 Boston Choral Festival were emailed to prior attendees, YGCA members from eastern New England, and Yale Alumni Chorus singers in mid-January. More than 80 singers so far are slated to attend.

Jeff Douma is selecting the weekend's music—some of the repertoire the Alumni Chorus will use in next June's concerts in Turkey, Armenia, and Georgia, plus several of Yale's familiar spirituals and folk songs

The Choral Festival, begun in 1997, is cosponsored by the Yale Alumni Chorus and the Yale Club of Boston. For the past decade it has been held at Milton Academy,



minutes from downtown Boston, where participants can concentrate on singing (and eating) without interruption, from Friday evening through Sunday afternoon.

If you have not received an email notice, and if you wish to attend or just to know more about the weekend, please email Linus Travers, the weekend's producer—ltravers@umassd.edu.

trailed Barty's 1941 South America tour, which inspired the founding of several choruses in La Plata, Argentina, celebrating the vitality of this style of choral music—and they replaced with new *Yale Songbooks* some of the original 1937 editions given to La Plata's singers by the 1941 contingent.

The sesquicentennial book is a tour de force, a work of scholarship and feeling, of sense and sensibility. Yale's Sterling Library archives hold the Glee Club's documentary history—concert programs, posters, photos, the works—and Tim has told the story of the club by selecting only several hundred of those archived memories. A dozen or more living alumni also wrote some of their most poignant memories of their singing experiences for the book. Inside the book's covers are two CD's, containing selections from every recording of the Glee Club ever made.

If you can't come to New Haven in February, you should be able to purchase copies of these two works. Ordering instructions and prices will be available after the celebration weekend on the YGC and YGCA websites.

So much is scheduled for the very few available hours—workshops, rehearsals, screening the video, poring over the extraordinary Sterling Library exhibits (also curated by Tim DeWerff), performances, première of Lew Spratlan's new piece, a setting of Elizabeth Alexander's "City Song," and so much more.

For those who do mornings, there's a Saturday 9:00 a.m. panel discussion of YGC experiences chaired by Naomi Lewin, with panelists from '39 to '09, and a wonderfully complete Sunday morning event in Sprague Hall, chaired by Peter Sipple, which includes a performance of "Alleluia" by all singers present.

Next issue: where do we go from here!

In Senior Year . . . YGC President's Note

Emily Howell, President 2010-11

Happy 150th birthday to the Yale Glee Club! With the addition of a stellar bunch of new members this fall, we're looking (and sounding) pretty good for our age. And we're just as active as ever—in the winter we toured from Chicago to Bethesda, while in the summer we're traveling all over Europe, from Uppsala to Istanbul.

As is natural around such an important birthday, the Glee Club is feeling kind of introspective these days, and has been spending some time reflecting on its long, happy life. That's why the theme of this year seems to be a melding of our past and our future. On our international tour, we're recreating the first international tour of 1928, with a few key updates (for one thing, we're flying, not sailing, across the Atlantic).

At the reunion weekend in February, old and new members will eat together, talk together, and, best of all, sing together. On our tour program, we're singing favorites of all ages: old Glee Club songs ("Shenandoah"), much newer old Glee Club songs ("Red River Valley"), Glee Club songs we premiered during my time at Yale ("Zephyr Rounds"), and a couple of brand new Glee Club songs written just in time for this season ("Raise Your Voices Here").

The fall 2010 schedule was both familiar and successful. The usual line-up of events—retreat, Family Weekend, Yale-Princeton, Yale-Harvard, and the Yale Club concert—went smoothly, with a few fun diversions along the way. Social events included apple-picking, apple crisp-making, and Gleetoberfest, one of the Glee Club's newest traditions, which served up a side of sauerkraut with the glee.

The Yale-Princeton and Yale-Harvard Glee Club concerts featured pranks, merriment, and general victory for the YGC. The December trip to sing at the Yale Club in New York was, as it always is, one of the semester's highlights (so was the train ride home).

Next semester we look forward to a concert of French music with guest conductor Simon Carrington in February and concerts in Woolsey and Carnegie Hall in April, which will include premieres of two exciting commissioned works by award-winning composers, Ted Hearne and Glee Club alumnus Lewis Spratlan.



Fortunately for all of us singing, both composers have been able to visit rehearsals

and to share some insights on their music. And, of course, there's the 150th reunion to look forward to, where we'll all meet again, undoubtedly with mirth and song in abundance (melody will probably flow).

When I look over that schedule of events I frequently congratulate myself on having the good timing to be a senior in 2011, right in time for this anniversary. But then I remember that this year isn't about my class, or even about the current Glee Club. It's about all of us, every class from the founding members of 1861 through this year's freshman, the class of 2014, and beyond, the classes I'll only meet at reunions. I look forward to watching the Glee Club's future unfold from the ranks of the Yale Alumni Chorus. In the meantime, thanks for letting me be a part of this, and for keeping the Yale Glee Club strong for so many years.

See you at the reunion!

YGC's 2010-11 Leadership Teams

Officer Corps, 2009 – 2010

President:	Emily Howell
Manager:	Rachel Wilf
Stage Manager:	Dylan Morris
Social Chairs:	Eli Mitchell-Larson and Jenny Witthuhn
Wardrobe Manager:	Ben Robbins
Publicity Chair:	Mari Oye
Archivist:	Samantha Sanders
Domestic Tour Managers:	Arshia Chatterjee and Abigail Droge
International Tour Managers:	Kate Carter and Claire Paulson
Outreach Manager:	Adam Fishman
150th Anniversary	Jasmine Dyba

Alumni Coordinators:

'01	Cariann Chan
'02	Julianne Parolisi
'03	Kat Kunz
'04	Charlie Billington
'05	Jen Catena
'06	David Gershkoff
'07	Rebecca Blum
'08	Matthew Dell
'09	Casey Klippel
'10	Nicholas Clemm

Spring Term 2011 Concert Schedule

**February 11-13
150th Anniversary
Celebration**
Concert February 12
Woolsey Hall

**April 13
New Haven High
Schools Festival**
Woolsey Hall
7:30PM

**February 27
French Music with
Simon Carrington**
Woolsey Hall

**May 21
Commencement
Concert**
8:00PM

**March 4-6
Possible Los Angeles
Concert**

**May 24 – June 15
European Tour**
Copenhagen
Uppsala
Stockholm
Berlin
Munich
Lucerne
Paris
Istanbul (joint concert with the Yale Alumni Chorus)

**April 2
Yale Symphony Orchestra Concert**
Woolsey Hall
8:00PM

**April 8
Carnegie Hall
with Yale Symphony**

Director Jeff Douma's View

Musings from Hendrie 201



Dear friends,

Our 150th anniversary season is well underway and we could not be more excited! Auditions in the fall yielded a great crop of Glee Clubbers, and we have had a wonderful time making music together at all of our fall concerts. As I write, the finishing touches are being added to our documentary film, our 150th anniversary book, and our new edition of *Songs of Yale*, which will feature nine brand new titles. Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Lewis Spratlan (YGC '62) visited our last rehearsal of the fall semester to help us with *City Song*, the piece he has composed for our reunion in February (and which you are invited to sing with us at the reunion in February!), and we have also begun work on Ted Hearne's *partition*, an exciting new work for chorus and orchestra which we will premiere with the Yale Symphony in April.

In a just over two weeks, the Glee Club will start the new year together in Chicago for the first concert of our 2011 Winter Tour. We'll be joined in our concert by a chorus of Chicago area alumni, and will also spend an entire day working with young singers at the Morton School and the Chicago Academy. After continuing through Michigan and Ohio, we will end our tour in the Washington, DC/Baltimore area for a gala concert at the magnificent Strathmore Hall with pianist and vocalist John Easton, Whim 'n Rhythm, The Whiffenpoofs, and a chorus of DC area alumni. The YGC, Whiffs, and Whim we will even join together on a new Yale song, *Raise Your Voices Here* – as far as we can tell, it may be the first time all three groups have performed together!

My sincere thanks to the members of the Yale Glee Club Associates board, who have been working tirelessly over the past year to help with the year's events, and in particular over the past several months to make sure you all know about our Reunion Weekend, Feb. 11-13. I trust you've seen the registration announcements and have heard about all the exciting things we have planned, but in case you haven't, please visit the Alumni page at www.yalegleeclub.org,



where we have all the important information posted.

As YGCA President Clay Kaufmann has said, our sesquicentennial celebration is not only about the past. The Glee Club has always been at the forefront of what it means to be a collegiate chorus in the US, and we aim to continue that leadership role. That's why our Apr. 8 Carnegie Hall performance will focus on new music, including not only Ted's piece but other pieces premiered by the Glee Club in recent years. And although our international tour in the summer will retrace the steps on the Glee Club's landmark 1928 trip, we will forge new relationships through collaborations with ensembles from Uppsala University, Humboldt University, and Charles University. (We'll even find time to share a concert in Munich with the Harvard Collegium Musicum, our coeducational counterpart from Cambridge!). And stay tuned in the months to come for news about an exciting new international choral festival to be held in New Haven in the summer of 2012.

Thanks for all you do to keep our tradition of song strong as we enter our second 150 years. I hope to see you all in February!

Warmly,

Jeff



YGCA Board Met in New Haven in October: (L-R) Jeff Douma, Steve Billings, Rita Helfand, Tim DeWerff, Harriet Goren, Marion Hanold, Bert Ifill, Ken Wood, Cathy Nijstrom, Naomi Lewin, Roy Byrd, Stephanie Sato, Clay Kaufman, Ying Hsu, Jeff Freeman, John Clune, and Sean Maher.

And Then Into The World We Come . . .

YGCA President Clay Kaufman '84



Dear Alumni Choristers,

I hope you have made your reservations for the incredible 150th reunion weekend coming up before you know it. The weekend is filled with events, from panels of experts talking about choral singing to panels of Glee Club alumni reminiscing about the history of the Glee Club to singing, singing and more singing.

I think Fenno said about once every rehearsal, "As Barty used to say, there's too much talking and not enough singing." Well, we promise you plenty

of singing, whether it's the SATB group or the TTBB group, the united voices on Lew Spratlan's new composition based on a poem by Elizabeth Alexander '84, or pickup singing with friends Friday night. And of course the reunion concert will allow us to join in on many of our favorites.

We also encourage recent tenors and basses to sing with the TTBB chorus to join in the fun and keep that tradition strong. I remember how much fun I had sneaking into that chorus at the 125th anniversary!

A number of you have already asked me when you will get the chance to sing Randall Thompson's *Alleluia* during the reunion, a song so near and dear to us all. Sunday morning at Sprague Hall will be your chance! We will have a celebration of those who have gone before us, and the morning will be filled with glorious song, including the Alleluia. Many thanks to Ken Wood and Peter Sipple for organizing this important event.

The power of music to uplift us was present in full force at the recent Glee Club concert in Washington DC, the final stop on the group's domestic tour. Jazz pianist John Eaton, the Whiffs, Whim, a chorus of alumni (55 strong!) and of course the Yale Glee Club sang to a sold out house of over 1800 at Strathmore Hall. As part of the concert, the Whiffs, Whim and the Glee Club joined in a new composition, "Raise Your Voices," the first time we believe all three groups have ever collaborated on a song. Hats off to both a cappella groups for their enthusiastic support of this amazing concert.

I brought my three children to the concert, and my 11-year-old son brought two of his friends. One is truly a "dude"—a football-playing, skateboarding, rough and tumble young man. On the way home, I asked him how he liked the concert. He said somewhat tentatively, "Well, I've never really heard that kind of music before." After a short pause he added, "It was pretty cool." That made my day!

The final song of the concert featured 150 singers on stage, ages 18-87, spanning 70 years of Glee Club singing, almost half of the Glee Club's 150 year history. 150 years. Wow. What a privilege to be part of the celebration.

See you February 11!

Yours in song,

Clay Kaufman '84
President, YGCA

Yale Glee Club Associates

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Stephanie Sato '01, Vice President
Jeff Freeman '57, Treasurer
Cathy Neijstrom '98, Secretary

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Term expires 2011

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Lee Davis '05
Sandra Davis '92
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Cathy Neijstrom '98

Term expires 2012

Sonya Baker '87
Jonathan Bush '53
Jeff Freeman '57
Marion Hanold '83
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Term expires 2013

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David H. Connell MusM'83, DMus'91,
Director 1992-2002
Mark Dollhopf '77 Pres. 2001-2003
Jeffrey Douma, Director, 2003-
Conner Fay '51, Pres. 1977-80
Rita Helfand, MD '83, Pres. 2003-06
Charles Kaufmann '66, Pres. 1974-77
Richard Kimball '52, Pres. 1980-85
Kyle Pruett, MD '65, Pres. 1985-89
Rev. Peter Sipple '62, Pres. 1995-2001
Kenneth Wood, Jr. '50, Pres. 1989-95
Ed Greenburg '59, YAC President

Georgia Whitney, Administrative Assoc., Ret.
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Linus Travers '58 MAT'59, Fol-de-Rol Editor

Yale Glee Club Conductors

Gustave J. Stoeckel, 1868-1873
Thomas G. Shepard, 1873-1905
G. Frank Goodale, 1905-1921
Marshall Bartholomew, 1921-1953
Fenno Heath, 1953-1992
David H. Connell, 1992-2002
Jeffrey Douma 2003-

Winter Tour 2011: From One Windy City to Another

By Arshia Chatterjee and Abigail Droge

This year's Winter Tour takes us to Chicago, Ann Arbor, Cleveland, and Washington, DC, allowing us, in our 150th year, to continue the time-honored Glee Club tradition of touring across the country.

We assembled at Hendrie Hall from across the country on New Year's Day. The Glee Club had been collecting in stages, something like a snowball, since the first bus left at 7 am from New Haven.

A bleary-eyed crew joined at the LaGuardia central terminal and were greeted by our inimitable tour



managers, Abigail Droge '12 and Arshia Chatterjee '11, who looked typically perky and handed out bags of sweets. "We're lucky to have the Yale Glee Club

on board with us today," the flight captain announced as we took off for Chicago. We thanked him—and then collectively went back to sleep. I mean, it was New Year's Day.

Publicity Manager Mari Oye

We reached our concert venue January 1 in time for an evening rehearsal—the beautiful First United Methodist Church at the Chicago Temple, in the Loop. On the morning of January 2, we explored the sights (and favorite deep-dish pizza places) of Chicago before an afternoon rehearsal and 4:00 pm concert.

Three genuine Chicagoans from the ranks of the YGC, Hana Zegeye '13, Ayanna Woods '14, and Adam Fishman '12, introduced us to their city with pride. Hana regaled us with stories of the time she ordered extra cheese on a deep-dish pizza and "almost died of a cheese coma" and then guided us through a similar experience at Pizano's Restaurant.

Mari Oye

Our Chicago concert was the first, a wonderful beginning as returning members again embraced the touring spirit and new members become introduced to the magic of sharing our repertoire with audiences across the country.

It was wonderful to share the concert with alumni, who, after working with Jeff in the afternoon, performed a few songs separately and then joined us to sing a piece together. After the concert, we bonded further with alumni over a singing dinner at Petterino's Restaurant). Since tours do not usually include singing dinners, this was a wonderful

chance to get to know the alumni who have contributed so much to the organization that we love so well. Sharing good food and singing old favorites – what could be better?

We sang in the church's beautiful wood-painted interior to an enthusiastic and Yale-filled audience. The life-collisions continued afterwards, as recent and less-recent alums welcomed us with a Singing Dinner. We usually don't think about all the generations of Glee Clubbers over the last 150 years—about the hundreds and hundreds of people who have stood in our places singing "Little Innocent Lamb" or "Shenandoah." Appearing all at once, we'd make one very crowded stage. Connecting with alumni like the group in Chicago gave us a chance to compare notes on increasingly legendary stories from tours past (and traditions like certain requirements for particularly brave renditions of "Bandolero").

Mari Oye

On January 3, we began two outreach projects at Chicago schools. In the morning, we visited the Morton School of Excellence, where we sang for the elementary school students and the 8th graders. In the afternoon, we visited The Chicago Academy, where we ate lunch with the students in the high school choral program and held a workshop with the kids, followed by a joint performance at a school assembly.

"I can't think of a good rhyme for excellence!" sang YGC president Emily Howell in "Eli Yale" at the Morton School for Excellence. At The Chicago Academy, where Julia Myers '12 caught a brief nap before lunch (photo), we were impressed by their cougar mascot and glad Handsome Dan didn't have to face off against it.

"What's college like?" a middle-schooler in the audience asked. Adam Fishman '13, YGC outreach chair, took the mike and said "It's like summer camp. You study what you want to study. So I really like math and music, and I study that." Those of us familiar with Adam's all-nighters looked up in surprise. "Well," he amended, "summer camp with a lot of homework." There we go.

The day ended with some free time to see the sights of Chicago, the city's brilliant architecture at once elegant and industrial. Some YGC alums from the classes of '04-'07 held a potluck in Hyde Park with the current YGC-ers they were hosting. Sylvia Glauster '05 introduced us to her cats Credo, Kyrie and Gloria. Adam Varner and Hen Kennedy '07 rounded out our impromptu choir. The altos sang tenor, half the sopranos sang alto, Adam held down the bass, and we pulled out the Yale Songbooks again for a second, more casual singing dinner.

The night gave us hope that "you can keep the glee in your life after Yale," whether or not you end up marrying a fellow Glee Clubber.

Mari Oye

Early the next morning, we bused to Ann Arbor, MI, where we performed at the First Presbyterian Church with the Miami University of Ohio Men's Glee Club, conducted by Jeremy Jones.

I had the wonderful fortune to hear the Yale Glee Club twice in the last week—once in Chicago and once in my hometown of Ann Arbor. YGC's visit to Ann Arbor was particularly special because I was not content to simply sit in the audience. As the traditional tour saying goes, "Be the first to help out and the last to complain," so I helped out with a number of miscellaneous tasks.

One of the only joys of not singing in the Glee Club is observing the Glee Club. On those rare occasions when we are sick and have to sit out, or when we have already graduated and are shamelessly tagging along, we get to see YGC's defining characteristics at work. The attentive, humorous, hard-working but easy-going attitude we all seem to share has a direct effect on the rehears-

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'11 Winter Tour Ends with Sold-Out Washington Gala Performances

al process, which is as fun as it is efficient.

I also felt, more than ever before, in touch with the smooth continuity of YGC tradition across the years. Speaking with Bruce Ryan ('71) in Chicago, I discovered that the contest for members between a cappella and YGC has barely changed in almost half a century. On stage for the Football Medley in Ann Arbor, I found myself next to Derek Tam, who was still jumping out of time on "Oh Yale, Eli Yale," so I reprised my old role of trying to coerce him into the right rhythm. Best of all, I got to hear some of the pieces that have become legendary amid the older singers of my generation, especially MacMillan's infamous and stunning "Nemo."

Bram Wayman, Saybrook '09

On January 5, we headed to Cleveland, OH, arriving in time for lunch and some free time to explore the sights downtown. Our concert was held at the Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights.

Before the concert, the Glee Club was treated to gourmet pizza at a beautiful house near the church. Afterwards, we enjoyed a delicious reception while we met our homestays and mingled with the audience. Over and over, I heard "Thank you for coming to Cleveland!" Then I had a fantastic homestay with Glee Clubber Ellen Ray, where our hosts gave us a full second dinner, held off my impending cold with cough syrup, and made sure Ellen, a vegan, had a tasty vegan feast.

After dinner, Jeff was interviewed briefly by a local TV station, who wanted to know two things: his name, and why we chose to come to Cleveland. (His answer: "Because it's been a while since we were last here.")

It was the only time all tour I had to request that the audience stay standing for Yale's alma mater, Bright College Years, because we got a standing ovation after the football medley. This was the third concert of tour, and the night before in Ann Arbor we had really hit our stride. Every once in a while when we sing there are moments when it seems like we're one voice and one mind, because everyone is so focused, so responsive to Jeff, and so perfectly together. Those moments are exhilarating, and I felt a few of them in Cleveland, particularly in "Dover Beach Revisited."

Glee Clubber Michael Haycock, himself born in Ohio, taught the Glee Club about Ohio native William Howard Taft in his pre-concert pep talk. Taft attended Yale, then went on to become President of the United States (one of eight from Ohio!) and, later, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Taft is also known for his general largeness: he once got stuck in a White House bathtub and had to be rescued by his staff. [Some accounts credit butter; others cite olive oil.] He then had a bathtub installed that was big enough for four men. Michael used the experience to teach the Glee Club how, when caught in a tight place, like a bathtub, you just need to "wait it out and get a bigger one next time." Also, that teamwork is important.

YGC President Emily Howell '11

Our visit to Washington, DC, was a wonderful end to a wonderful tour. On the evening of January 6 we bused to Georgetown Prep School in North Bethesda, MD) for a lovely dinner and a brief rehearsal with Glee Club alums. The next morning we had a tour of the White House and then visited Piney Branch Elementary School (grades 3-5) to work with students who participate in the school's thriving music program. In the afternoon, we got ready for the evening's historic concert at the beautiful Strathmore Music Center in North Bethesda.

We shared the stage with other wonderful Eli performers: a chorus of 55 Yale alumni from the DC area, brilliant jazz pianist John Eaton '56, the Whiffenpoofs, and Whim 'n Rhythm, all before a sold out crowd of over 1800. Each group performed its own set before joining the Glee Club This was the first time in history that the Glee Club, the Whiffenpoofs, and Whim 'n Rhythm have all sung together

in concert.

The alumni chorus sang "Away to Rio," "Good News," Franz Biebl's "Ave Maria" (arranged by Fenno Heath '50) and delighted the crowd with the triple yodel, "Switzer Boy" featuring the fine yodeling technique of Bert Iffill MA '79, Buzz Mauro '84, and Marty Brennan '85. The Whiffenpoofs, Whim 'n Rhythm and the Yale Glee Club made history, joining forces for the first time to sing Jeff's new composition, "Raise your voices here," written in honor of the 150th Anniversary; the alumni joined forces with the Yale Glee Club for a powerful "Shenandoah."

The Washington Post's reviewer, Alfred Thigpen, praised the vocal technique of the current Yale Glee Club, under the amazing Jeff Douma: "sopranos sang as one instrument and with flawless intonation. There was uniform vowel placement and the proscription of vibrato, which can sound like the choral equivalent of uneven pavement. Without this discipline, the contemporary sacred works of James MacMillan and Robert Vuichard would have fallen like bad soufflés. Instead, their treacherously clustered semitones and contrapuntal subtleties became otherworldly, transcendent even.

"In a evening laced with truly commendable performances," Thigpen continued, "the only standing ovation—scattered but richly deserved—went to senior Whiffenpoofs member Nathan Calixto for his performance of 'Salley Gardens.' Jokingly referred to as the group's "'cash cow,' Calixto, with his Rostropovich-like high baritone, momentarily erased the infamy that was 2010. . . With the backing of Yale's prowess and ambassadorship, clearly Douma is taking his group into a strongly viable third century."

The ultimate sign of the popularity of the Glee Club? As of the Thursday night before the concert, Craig's List in Washington DC featured numerous posts pleading for tickets to the sold-out concert!

Clay Kaufman '84

What a wonderful way to kick off our 150th Anniversary! As always, we owe a big thank-you to all of the alumni who have gone above and beyond in helping us to coordinate this tour. We would not be able to experience such a wonderful tour were it not for their support. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing all of you in February and in our singing lives ahead!

Note: Winter Tour managers Arshia Chatterjee and Abigail Droge wrote the tour's outline, which was combined with italicized excerpts from the YGC's tour blog.—ed.

As NYC Police Sought Silence in Grand Central YGC Herald Angels Sang Their Carols and Gleees

By Dylan Morris '11

The first Friday in December is always a day of celebration at Yale. Fall term classes end that afternoon. Exams and papers remain, but with the seeming eternity of reading week stretched out before us, we students feel as if we can ignore them (a week later, we feel differently).

The Glee Club has its own traditional way of celebrating this campus holiday. We board the Metro-North train and head down to New York City for our yearly Holiday Concert at the Yale Club of New York. When announcing the trip at rehearsal, our manager Rachel Wilf told us that the Yale Club is her favorite yearly YGC concert. Or, as YGC president Emily Howell put it in her ad-libbed solo during "Eli Yale": "Out of all our fall concerts, the Yale Club is always a winner / And that's not *just* because we all like free dinner."

We are indeed treated to a tasty meal before we sing, but Emily is right; there's plenty to like about the concert besides the grub. We couldn't ask for a friendlier audience than a crowd of Yale alums and New York-area YGC family members, and the approaching winter holidays give us an excuse to add traditional Christmas carols like "Es ist ein rose entsprungen" and the "Gloucestershire Wassail" to our repertoire.

Yet what Glee Clubbers most eagerly anticipate each year is the night's second concert. We head back from the Yale Club to Grand Central Station to catch the Metro-North. Before we board, we assemble on the double-stairway at the west end of Vanderbilt Hall, the station's largest atrium. There, our director Jeff conducts us as we sing a semi-spontaneous mix of carols and concert repertoire.

There's a bit of an [ImprovEverywhere](#) or flashmob aspect to the Grand Central concert. A number of people know about the tradition (in 2008, Time Out New York featured it as a "must see for the holiday season"), but most of the crowd that gathers to listen is made up of travelers who take a break during their Friday commute to listen to the choir that has mysteriously appeared in their train station. We've learned to watch for looks of surprise-turning-into-pleasure on passing commuters' faces.

This year, though, the concert was not all smiles. As we were starting our second carol, "Silent Night," a pair of uniformed New York City Policemen walked purposefully out toward Jeff, who stopped conducting and began to talk to them. We could not hear the conversation, but the officers' expressions said enough.

Then the crowd stood up to The Law on our behalf. "They do this every year!" one bystander shouted. "They're singing about *peace!*" an indignant listener told the gun-toting cops.

As for the Glee Club, we turned and looked expectantly at our assistant conductor, Max Blum. He rose to the occasion, giving us the first pitch and the downbeat of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." We began again; the crowd began to cheer. The officers, who knew how to recognize a lost cause when they saw one, begrudgingly broke off their dispute with Jeff. Missing neither a literal nor a figurative beat, he turned back to us and conducted the end of the carol.

We sang the rest of the concert without incident, boarded the MetroNorth, and sang our way home to New Haven. On the ride, I kept thinking back to the supportive Grand Central audience and smiling.

"They do this every year." "They're singing about peace."

YGC Stage manager Dylan Morris '11 wrote this piece for the YGC Blog, from which Fol-de-Rol gratefully reprints it.



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