

Issue III
Commencement 2021



Fol-de-Rol

The newsletter of the
Yale Glee Club
Associates

World Premiere: “A Prayer for Deliverance”

On May 22, the Glee Club (virtually) premiered a brand-new composition by Joel Thompson, “A Prayer for Deliverance.” This project was a collaboration with Kaleidoscope Vocal Ensemble and Morse Chorale; the directors of the two groups – Arianne Abela and Stephanie Tubiolo, respectively – are both Yale Glee Club alumni.



“When Dr. Jeff Douma and I started this collaboration more than a year ago, we had originally intended to create an experience that would be in dialogue with young Handel’s masterwork, *Dixit Dominus*, something more oriented towards peace and comfort, in direct contrast with the more militaristic language in that setting of Psalm 110. But then the pandemic arose, and we realized it would last a lot longer than we anticipated. And then the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and many others. This project then took on new meaning for me. I wanted to write something that was honest about the turmoil and the distress that we were all feeling, but yet oriented our hearts and minds towards hope and comfort. And Psalm 13 ended up being the perfect template for that emotional trajectory.”

For more about Joel Thompson, check out his [profile in the New York Times](#) from last summer.

—Joel Thompson

Yale Glee Club Class of 2021

Congratulations to the Yale Glee Club Class of 2021! We are happy to share profiles of some of our amazing graduating seniors below.

John Cooper



College: Hopper
Major: Economics
Voice Part: Tenor 1

Interests: In addition to the Glee Club, John was active in the musical theatre scene on campus. Having interned for CBS News this semester while developing a solo cabaret, John plans to work in journalism and continue performing after leaving Yale.

Rianna Turner



College: Hopper
Major: English
Voice Part: Alto 2
YGC Officer Position(s): Web Manager

Interests: Creative writing, literary scholarship, journalism, law, cooking, amateur athletics

Dayrin Jones



College: Stiles

Major: Classics

Voice Part: Bass 2

Interests: I am currently an academic tutor & test prep instructor, but will be taking on the role of director of charitable outreach this summer!

Angela Gong



College: Franklin

Major: Chemistry

Voice Part: Soprano 1

YGC Officer Position(s): Spring Tour Manager (2019-2020)

Interests: I'll be headed to the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine this August to start my MD/PhD training! I'll be pursuing my PhD in chemistry, and am looking forward to combining chemical biology and medicine. Outside of Glee and research, I've been involved in various service and volunteering organizations, including teaching swim lessons and serving as a chemistry peer mentor. I love to cook and bake, eat good food, and do things outdoors.

Sophie Latham



College: Hopper

Major: Environmental Studies

Voice Part: Soprano 1

YGC Officer Position(s): Archivist,
Publicity, Manager

Interests: Negative emissions (that's career and interests lol), Scottish Fiddle, the Yale Carbon Containment Lab (if student jobs count as extracurriculars), hiking

Eleanor Iskander



College: TD

Major: Psychology

Voice Part: Alto 1

Interests: Crafting/sewing, sometimes cosplay, animals!

Brooke Milosh



College: Silliman

Major: Cognitive Science

Voice Part: Soprano 2

YGC Officer Position(s): Co-Stage Manager 2019, Co-Winter Tour Manager 2020, Student Conductor 2020

Interests: While singing is my main extracurricular passion, I have also spent ample time engaging in comparative cognition research at the Canine Cognition Center. What started as a love for dogs quickly turned into a passion for psychology, research, and using animal models to better understand the human mind. I also discovered a love of medicine through my premed and History of Science and Medicine courses, which has led me to attend medical school next year. I also love drawing, baking, and watching whatever the newest Netflix series is.

Divine Uchegbu



College: Davenport

Major: Political Science

Voice Part: Alto 2

YGC Officer Position(s): Publicity chair, wardrobe chair, president

Interests: Law/public policy, cooking

Raquel Sequeira



College: TD

Major: Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry

Voice Part: Alto 1

YGC Officer Position(s): Alumni Coordinator, Spring 2020 Tour Manager (rip)

Interests: Philosophy of Science, Shakespeare, Law, Soccer...among many things :)

Ethan McBride



College: Davenport

Major: Mathematics & Philosophy

Voice Part: Bass 1

Interests: Table tennis - was the captain of the team at Yale

Chinese - will be studying abroad on the Light fellowship this coming year (post graduation) in Taiwan.

Mary Clare McMahon



College: Stiles

Major: History

Voice Part: Soprano 1

YGC Officer Position(s): Wardrobe chair,
2018-2019

Interests: Road tripping, reading, eating ice cream for dinner, studying postcolonial history, talking about US politics

Lauryn Phinney



College: Pierson

Major: Urban Studies

Voice Part: Alto 2

Interests: Affordable housing, issues of homelessness, urban development and participatory design.

Robert Crystal



College: Hopper

Major: Ethics, Politics & Economics; Classics

Voice Part: Bass 2

Interests: Career TBD / Marketing, graphic design, food & cooking, travel, music

Mark Barnett



College: Hopper

Major: Music

Voice Part: Bass 1

Interests: Strategist at Google; avid lover of opera; runner (okay.. sometimes)

Emery Kerekes



College: Silliman

Major: Music

Voice Part: Bass 1

YGC Officer Position(s): Student Conductor 2019-2020; Archivist 2018-2019

Interests: Music, music, music -- admin for now, that might change in five years

Lara Schull



College: Silliman

Major: Computer Science

Voice Part: Soprano 1

YGC Officer Position(s): Web Manager

Interests: I love cooking (especially for friends), playing piano, reading, anything outdoors

Josh Brooks



College: Davenport

Major: Political Science

Voice Part: Bass 2

Interests: American politics and public policy; media and public consciousness; amateur food science; disabilities advocacy; fishing without catching anything

Jake Gluckman



College: Saybrook

Major: American Studies

Voice Part: Tenor 2

Interests: Psychiatry/Musical Theater

“What Carries Us”

On May 19, the YGC Chamber Singers aired their spring virtual performance, “What Carries Us.” Under Joe Lerangís’ direction, students explored three pieces and six poems about flight. Over the course of the semester, this collection of pieces and poems deepened and broadened our understanding of flight into something freeing, powerful, frightening, traumatic, rupturing, and hopeful all at once. It became a meditation on the perennial choice between finding your dreams and staying rooted in safety, to the tune of a swallow watching her young take wing for the first time. Flight was also an escape: from emotions, from abuse, from love. And the landing – that became a part of flight, too.

*“What dreams we have and how they fly
Like rosy clouds across the sky.”*
–Dunbar, as set by Rollo Dilworth

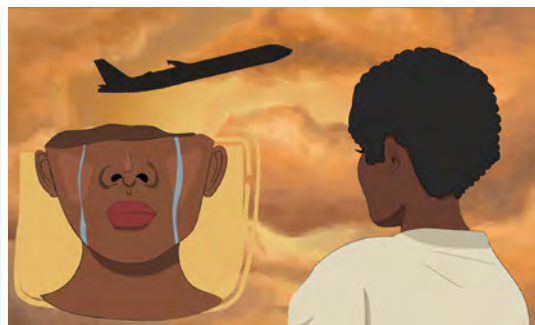
*“The sparrow found a house
And the swallow her nest
Where she may raise her young.”*
–Psalm 84, as set by Caroline Shaw



*“Think about us—a distance
apart only a flying thing could connect
us—
standing and pacing, tamed and
watching,
then finally with each other, laughing
as if to collapse, unbridled as wild
horses.”*
–Emily Jungmin Yoon

As with last semester, Lerangís brought on a dynamic slate of creatives in order to bring this project to life. Simone Habede developed illustrations and animations to accompany each poem in the reading. Shaina Cantino developed choreography to “and the swallow,” which was performed with Prema Kelley and filmed by Megan Moss Freeman. And each member of the Chamber Singers, as well as audience members, contributed their own words about the meaning of flight, which overlapped with aleatoric musical themes to provide interludes throughout the performance.

*“Away I’ll go now, past the moon,
past the stars, past my life.
I’m letting go now of the pain
of the fear of the night.
And I can feel you no more.
And I can touch you no more.”*
–Michael Bussewitz-Quarm,
“I’ll Fly Away”



*“I call to ask my mother the name
of the street where we bought the
suitcases when we left Brooklyn. A
better question would have been
how did it feel to be sliced from the
rib of Pine and Loring and sent,
like a kite, up North.”*
–Idrissa Simmonds

You can view the program [here](#), and watch the Chamber Singers’ performance of “and the swallow” [here](#). Special thanks to Joe Lerangís for their thoughtful, dedicated, inspiring work with the Chamber Singers this year!

Favorite VGC Memories from the class of 2021

“Mexico Tour—the music, the friendships, the country, and all of the sights—is a highlight of not only my time in the Glee Club, but also of my life.”

-John Cooper



“At the end of a concert we performed in Mexico City, we sang a song called Cielito Lindo. While Jeff told us that it is a song many people in Mexico know by heart, nothing could prepare me for the audience’s reaction to the piece. By the end of the first chord, the entire audience was on their feet, cheering and singing along with us. For that moment, music brought us all together.”

-Brooke Milosh

“Besides tours, one of my favorite Glee memories is singing in-person this spring after not having sung with other people in over a year (!). Everyone was so excited, and the first few notes were extremely powerful and literally sent chills down my spine.”

-Angela Gong



“Retreat every single year was always such a great time. It was a fantastic way to enter back into the school year, make so many new friends, meet the new glee clubbers, catch up, and sing great new music. I will always treasure every minute we spent at retreat over the years.”

- *Divine Uchegbu*

“Dancing with the glee club in the middle of a restaurant in Cuba!”

- *Dayrin Jones*

“One of our Montreal concerts, I was sick (which was unfortunate) but it meant I got to watch YGC for the first time as an audience member. It was so much fun to see Glee in action from a different perspective; it really made me value the music even more than I already did. Plus, I got to spend the whole time trying to make everyone laugh mid-concert! (With some success- sorry Jeff)”

- *Sophie Latham*



“Climbing the pyramids in Mexico! Also, trying to find vegetarian food in Mexico.”

- *Eleanor Iskander*



“My first year, our first concert after Family Weekend was Beethoven’s 9th with the New Haven Philharmonic; the musical fireworks explosion at the end of the last movement was followed by an uproarious standing ovation, and I was just standing there beaming in the stage lights wondering how I could be so blessed.”

- *Raquel Sequeira*



“Singing in front of Diego Rivera’s murals in Mexico and getting a standing ovation from an enthusiastic audience.”

- *Mary Clare McMahon*

“My first in-person singing session with the entire Glee Club in the TD Courtyard!”

- *Robert Crystal*



“Conducting Caroline Shaw’s ‘and the swallow’ on my birthday in Montreal.”

- *Emery Kerekes*



“Retreat my sophomore year -- I remember reminiscing on how terrified my freshman self was by the prospect of retreat, and realising how much more at-home I felt a year later. One of many occasions that I’ve felt enormous love and gratitude for the Glee Club.”

- *Lara Schull*



“Every single concert. I could forget about being a person in a body, and become part of the music.”

- *Rianna Turner*

“My favorite YGC memory was my first time singing with the Glee Club. I sang in a choir from 6th grade all the way until I came to Yale. I stopped when I got to Yale and didn’t join the Glee Club until my junior year. The very first piece we sang was ‘The Last Invocation’ by Clausen, and the second we started, I realized how much I had missed choir.”

- *Ethan McBride*

“My favorite YGC memory would have to be the Mexico tour in 2018.”

- *Mark Barnett*



“My second year, on tour in the UK, we sang an impromptu rendition of Beati Quorum Via by Charles Villiers Stanford on the steps of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London. Later we sang it in the King’s College Chapel in Cambridge; just at the most tender moment, an almost tangible beam of light came streaming through the window above us.”

- *Raquel Sequeira*



“Among my favorite memories are forever and always the New York City singing dinners, caroling in Grand Central, and singing with friends on the train all the way back to New Haven!”

- *Lauryn Phinney*

“Wandering along the riverbank in Stratford-upon-Avon and conquering my fear of large birds during spring tour 2019!”

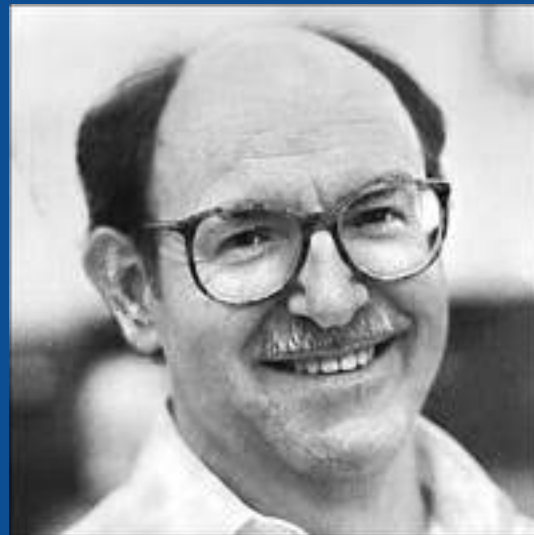
- *Josh Brooks*

In Memoriam

Bruce G. McInnes

Bruce McInnes, well known to Yale singers of the 1960's and an inspiration to founding members of the Yale Alumni Chorus, died on April 15, 2021, in Auburn Maine.

After graduating from Dartmouth, Bruce studied at the Conservatoire de Paris on a Fulbright. Returning to the United States, he earned his master's in pipe organ studies and choral conducting at Yale. Bruce conducted the Apollo Glee Club and sang with the Yale Glee Club, serving as Fenno Heath's assistant on the YGC's European Tour in summer, 1963.



In 1964, Bruce began a 21-year career at Amherst College where he served as professor of Music, director of choral music, college organist, and chairman of the Music Department. After leaving Amherst, he directed choral programs at other universities and in 1999 became dean of the Conservatory at the Cleveland Institute of Music from which he retired in 2001.

Bruce took great pride in founding and leading Mastersingers USA. A group of 50-100 singers (TTBB), drawn largely from Amherst alumni in the beginning, Mastersingers gathers once a year for a long weekend in an American city or for a European concert tour. The first Mastersingers' European tour inspired Yale Alumni Chorus founders to recognize that Yale graduates might also travel and perform together. Bruce took part in the first of YAC's trips to China.

Throughout his career, Bruce McInnes inspired amateur singers with the dynamism of his leadership, and he provided high musical standards and enjoyment to those with whom he worked. He also served as president of the Intercollegiate Men's Choruses and from that organization received the Marshall Bartholomew Award.

Linus Travers

Linus Travers gave. He gave his time, his energy, his wit, his enthusiasm and his voice. A tireless alum, Linus spent many years working on behalf of the Yale Alumni Fund and so many things Yale, for which he received the Yale Medal several years ago. But more than anything, Linus was a singer and the kind of person who brought singers together.

A Glee Club and Whiff alum, Linus knew the joy of power of song, and was a driving force with both alumni groups, ever with humility and never with a desire for credit or praise. Many knew Linus through his work with the alumni chorus and through annual Milton Yale Choral Festival, which Linus created, organized and ran year after year.



With that same goal of building community, Linus single-handedly created the “Fol-de-rol,” which he initially wrote, laid out and published all by himself, filling its pages with stories of the Glee Club, memories and highlights of singing at Yale and the pleasure it brings. The Fol-de-rol survives him, continuing to bring our community together. He was a recipient of the Yale Glee Club Medal and an active Ex Officio member of the YGCA board for many years.

It seemed like everything Linus did was designed to unite us, help us be grateful for the gifts we have been given and keep our spirits up. If you ever attended a singing dinner, you enjoyed his dry, uproarious monologues during the humming verse of “Bandolero.” One alum still remembers the solemn occasion of Fenno Heath’s memorial service at Battell Chapel, Linus strode slowly to the podium to give a eulogy, opened his notes, then looked up and said “We share our thoughts and prayers today with Carol and the rest of the Heathen.” It brought down the house and lifted the mood. Only Linus could pull that off. Linus, thank you, from all of us. We’re sure you’ve already organized a Yale Alumni Chorus inside the Pearly Gates, and sure you’re still bringing down the house.

Charlie Kaufman

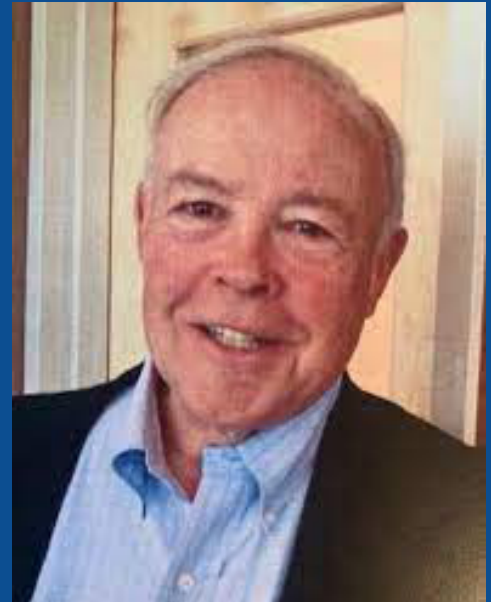
Charlie Kaufmann, a former President of the Yale Glee Club Associates and a recipient of the Yale Glee Club Medal, passed away on May 24, 2021. He was 77 years old.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1944, Charlie was the son of Charles B. Kaufmann II and Elizabeth (Passavant) Kaufmann. He grew up in the Pittsburgh area until the family relocated to Munich, Germany in 1958. After attending school in Switzerland, Charlie

returned stateside in 1961 to finish his high school career at Andover Academy.

Charlie then went to Yale, and his lifelong relationship with the Yale Glee Club and love of Yale singing began. He served as president of the Glee Club during his senior year, traveling on one of the storied “around-the-world” tours after his graduation in 1966. He was one of the youngest alums to serve as president of the Yale Glee Club Associates, holding this position from 1974 to 1977.

He continued to be an active and highly valued member of the board as a Past President for decades thereafter, even attending the most recent YGCA board meeting over Zoom. He was also a frequent and enthusiastic audience member at the Glee Club’s annual concerts at the Yale Club of NYC and in New Haven.



Singing Dinner – Thank you!

Thank you to all who attended our virtual Singing Dinner on May 2! Glee Clubbers past and present gathered via Zoom to join together in song and celebrate our newest class of YGC alumni.

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In-person singing

Enrolled, in-residence students were able to sing in person at the end of the semester! Starting in April, small groups of students gathered in Battell Chapel for socially distanced rehearsals. In May, enrolled, in-residence students came together in the Timothy Dwight College courtyard to rehearse and record Randall Thompson's Alleluia, as well as Raise Your Voices and Bright College Years. These performances were then played at the 2021 Commencement ceremony. You can view the recording [here](#)!

Thank you outgoing officers!

Thank you to our incredible 2020-2021 student officer board!

Assistant Conductor: Joe Lerangís

Student Conductors: Alex Whittington and Sarah Grube

President: Divine Uchegbu

Manager: Sophie Latham

Spring Tour Managers: Julianna Lai and Jonathan Jalbert

Winter Tour Managers: Aria Falcone and Mehana Daftary

Alumni Coordinators: Laura Clapp and Isabella Zou

Archivists: Max Moen and Zev Kazati-Morgan

Community Engagement: Sarah Grube and Hannah Morrison

Publicity Chairs: Annli Nakayama and David Zhu

Stage Manager: Kevin Li

Social Chairs: Peter Sykes and Avery Mitchell

Wardrobe: Elisabeth Moore

Web Managers: Emily Lau and Rianna Turner

Note from the Alumni Coordinators

Hi everyone!

Thank you for sticking with us throughout this wild, unpredictable year. It's been a pleasure serving as your alumni coordinators, from getting to know some of y'all and matching you with students for the alumni mentorship program, to putting these Fol-de-Rols together for the community.

Stay tuned for a fall edition of the Fol-de-Rol, which will introduce next year's alumni coordinators and (hopefully) contain much exciting news about Glee Club's return to in-person glory! Until then, have a fantastic, restorative summer.



Much love,

Laura + Isa

Thank you for reading!