

Issue IV
May 2020



The newsletter of the
Yale Glee Club
Associates



Letter from the Director

Dear friends,

In this special Commencement issue of Fol-de-rol, we pay tribute to the Yale Glee Club Class of 2020: Charlotte, Sofia, Alexa, Ece, Isabel, Ryan, Mahima, Kayla, Amelia, Ella, Ethan, Jack, Eric, Calvin, Andy, Daniel, ECR, Anthony, Devin, and Dustin.

Theirs has been a final semester unlike any other in Yale's history, and we could not be more proud of them, not only for their amazing accomplishments over the past four years, but for the ways they have proven that the ties of friendship binding us together remain strong even in our distance.

Because we could not gather on campus for Commencement, we instead gathered online on Saturday, May 16, to share tears, laughter, and music with each other and with friends and family.

To the YGC Class of 2020: I treasure the extraordinary music you have made together, everything from the Beethoven *Mass in C* and *Tchaka* when many of you were new to Yale, to Poulenc, Bongani Magatyana, Mozart, Caroline Shaw, and so much more. Together we've shared that music with audiences from Cape Town to Washington, DC, and from Guanajuato to Montreal. These are memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life. Whether you were singing music that had never been heard before or music that had been performed thousands of times, you always reminded me that nothing can compare to the sound of voices joined together, especially when those voices are attached to people who care about each other.

I am also greatly comforted to know that, while we celebrate the end of one chapter, we are also beginning a new one. You join the generations of dedicated Glee Club alumni who have gone before you, and we will sing together again. It may not be as soon as we'd like, but when it happens it will be all the more meaningful because of this period of separation.

A few weeks ago, I composed a simple new piece as a gift to our graduating seniors, and their fellow Glee Clubbers have contributed their voices to record a virtual choir premiere, which we unveiled to them at our Commencement gathering. I chose to set a poem by Amy Lowell called *Listening* for a number of reasons, but especially for the first line:

"'Tis you that are the music, not your song."

Though we mourn the loss of the songs we would have sung together in April and May, we recognize that even in our separation the music of our friendship continues, stronger than ever.

And for the last line:

"So is this one music with a thousand cadences."

While this particular cadence of your last semester at Yale has been interrupted, we know that it is only one of a thousand cadences we all will experience throughout our lifetimes, and we take comfort in knowing that we will experience many of those cadences together in the years to come.



Congratulations, Yale Glee Club Class of 2020!

Yours in song,

Jeff

Yale Glee Club Class of 2020



Alexa Vaghenas

College: Silliman

Major: Psychology

Voice Part: Soprano II

YGC Officer Position(s): Spring Tour Manager (2018-19), Soprano section leader

Interests: Peer Wellness Liaison, positive psychology, mindfulness, yoga, hiking



Amelia Haynes

College: JE

Major: Cognitive Science

Voice Part: Alto II

Interests: MoD lab RA, baking/cooking, horseback riding; will be working as an analyst at Korn Ferry in NYC

Andrew Ballard

College: Pierson

Major: English Literature

Voice Part: Bass I

YGC Officer Position(s): Alumni Co-Coordinator (2018-19)

Interests: Through Yale's first year outdoor orientation trips program (FOOT), I led three backpacking trips for incoming first-years and served as the student director. I also like visiting art museums and playing the guitar. Next year I will be pursuing a master's degree at Oxford.



Anthony Hejduk

College: Pauli Murray

Major: Philosophy; Classical Civilization

Voice Part: Bass II

Interests: I'm starting a PhD in Philosophy at Columbia, I love learning new languages, and most of my interests in some way revolve around the Catholic Church



Calvin Schwartzberg

College: Silliman

Major: Mathematics

Voice Part: Tenor II

YGC Officer Position(s): Community Engagement Officer (2017-18), Spring Tour Manager (2018-19)

Interests: music, Olympics, musical theater, teaching, gymnastics, dancing



Charlotte Winkler

College: Davenport

Major: Molecular, Cellular, & Developmental Biology

Voice Part: Soprano I

YGC Officer Position(s): Winter Tour Manager (2017-18), Community Engagement Officer (2018-20)

Interests: triathlon, cycling, medicine, cooking, backcountry skiing, hiking, running, swimming



Daniel Tucker

Major: M.M.A. Choral Conducting, Yale School of Music & Institute of Sacred Music

Voice Part: Bass I

YGC Officer Position(s): Graduate Assistant Conductor (2019-20)

Interests: sacred music, theology, computer science, personal finance



Devin O'Banion

College: Silliman

Major: English

Voice Part: Bass II

YGC Officer Position(s): Winter Tour Manager (2018-19)

Interests: Naval Surface Warfare Officer (my career field)



Dustin Zhao

College: Davenport

Major: Economics

Voice Part: Bass II

Interests: a cappella, energy-adjacent algorithmic trading, environmental sustainability, data science



Ece Bozkurt

College: Morse

Major: Computing & The Arts

Voice Part: Alto I

YGC Officer Position(s): Winter Tour Manager (2018-19), Student Assistant Conductor (2018-19), Alto Section Leader (2019-20)



Ella Henry

College: Silliman

Major: Mathematics; Physics

Voice Part: Alto II

YGC Officer Position(s): Stage Manager (2019-20)

Interests: At Yale, I peer tutored for math classes, was on the Undergrad Council at Saint Thomas More, and played soccer. I love to read and play sports and games with friends.



Emmett Chen-Ran

College: Davenport

Major: Computer Science

Voice Part: Bass II

Interests: CS Department Student Advisory Committee, Yale Queer + Asian, Yale Puzzle League, Yale Law School Information Society Project



Eric Duong

College: Silliman

Major: Math; Philosophy

Voice Part: Tenor II

Interests: coding and hiking (hopefully mountaineering soon)



Ethan Lester

College: Saybrook

Major: Chemistry; Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry

Voice Part: Tenor I

Interests: I do research in a pathology laboratory at the Yale School of Medicine, where I will be working full time next year. I am also currently in the process of applying to medical school.



Isabel Guarco

College: Berkeley
Major: History
Voice Part: Alto I

Interests: music composition, journalism, film



Jack McAuliffe

College: Davenport
Major: Theater Studies
Voice Part: Tenor I
YGC Officer Position(s): Social Chair (2018-19), Alumni Coordinator (2019-20)

Interests: directing theater, producing theater, acting in theater... you get the idea



Kayla Bartsch

College: Hopper

Major: Philosophy; Humanities

Voice Part: Alto II

Interests: I was a Philosophy & Humanities major and was involved with writing, editing, and debating endeavors around campus



Mahima Kumara

College: Pauli Murray

Major: Statistics & Data Science

Voice Part: Alto I

YGC Officer Position(s): Manager (2019-20), Community Engagement (2018-19), Winter Tour Manager (2017-18)

Interests: Music, music education, and public health. I worked at a health equity research center, and in the coming year, I'll be working with Yale's Music in Schools Initiative on the Yale Glee Club Service Through Music Fellowship.



Ryan Howzell

College: Davenport

Major: History

Voice Part: Alto I

YGC Officer Position(s): Social Chair (2018-19), Alumni Coordinator (2019-20)

Interests: Radio and print journalism, archival research, refugee rights, cooking, traveling, hiking, theater, and film



Sofia Laguarda

College: Hopper

Major: English

Voice Part: Soprano II

YGC Officer Position(s): President (2019-20), Stage Manager (2018-19), Archivist (2017-18)

Interests: Writing-related activities (The New Journal, producing a play, the Writing Center, standup comedy). I'm currently working as a volunteer grant writer for an addiction recovery program in New Haven. My personal interests include baking, rewatching Downton Abbey, and my new milk frother.





Favorite YGC Memories from our Seniors

I will always remember the caroling at Grand Central and the late Metro North rides back to New Haven after our annual Holiday concerts at the Yale Club of New York. So much singing and happiness and glee!

— *Ella Henry*



Performing in Mexico City in front of a giant original mural painted by Diego Rivera.

— *Ethan Lester*



My whole year as co-Social Chair with Ryan was a true highlight: holding "office hours" in Glee Central during Dead Week 2018, matching up the Glee Families, hosting post-concert parties, ordering absurdly large amounts of food for the Glee Club and then running all over New Haven to get it... I'm so glad I got to play a role in building the community that is YGC!

— *Jack McAuliffe*



My favorite YGC memory took place over UK tour when we visited St. Paul's Cathedral and spontaneously began singing Beati Quorum Via outside. It was so beautiful.

— *Isabel Guarco*

I loved moments of spontaneous singing, in Grand Central Station, on train rides home from the Yale Club of New York, and on the steps of St. Paul's cathedral in London.

— *Andy Ballard*

Winter Tour conversations on buses and at dinners!

— *Daniel Tucker*

The train ride back from the Yale Club every year!

— *Calvin Schwartzberg*





Even though I was the only one who fell and bruised their tailbone, I loved square dancing on Glee retreat!

— *Emmett Chen-Ran*

My first YGC Dead Week.

— *Devin O'Banion*



I can't pick one! Two of my favorite YGC memories are spotting a leopard on our South African safari and singing at the Anfiteatro Simon Bolívar in Mexico City.

— *Kayla Bartsch*





The virtual commencement ceremony was pretty unforgettable. Only the Glee Club would find a way to make the graduating seniors feel completely at home while we are miles away from each other and in quarantine.

— *Alexa Vaghenas*

Singing
Indodana in
my first
Glee Club
Concert.

— *Amelia
Haynes*





Cross country
skiing in Maine
all the way back
in January 2016.

— *Dustin Zhao*

Square dancing at retreat, singing
Beethoven's 9th and Chichester Psalms with
Marin Alsop, and many memories of shared
conversations on long bus rides to/from
retreat, tour locales, and the football
concerts.

— *Ryan Howzell*



Running up a mountain
in South Africa with
Charlotte and Alexa.

— *Anthony Hejduk*





One of the Glee Club memories I will cherish most is singing at the Baccalaureate services for graduating seniors every spring. We sing Randal Thompson's Alleluia from the second balcony. I loved watching the graduates listen quietly and thinking of all the things that the music might mean for them in that moment.

— *Andy Ballard*

Singing Chichester Psalms and Beethoven 9 with Marin Alsop to a full Woolsey in 2018, and singing BCY together on Cross Campus the night before leaving Yale in March 2020.

— *Mahima Kumara*



Spending a full Saturday in Sean's office during auditions, chatting with new members and Glee officers, and eating too much candy with Mahima was one of my most intense but memorable glee experiences!

— *Sofia LaGuarda*

"Because You Sang" premiere

We are delighted to present the virtual premiere, recorded and performed by 160 Glee Club students and alumni last month, of "Because You Sang."

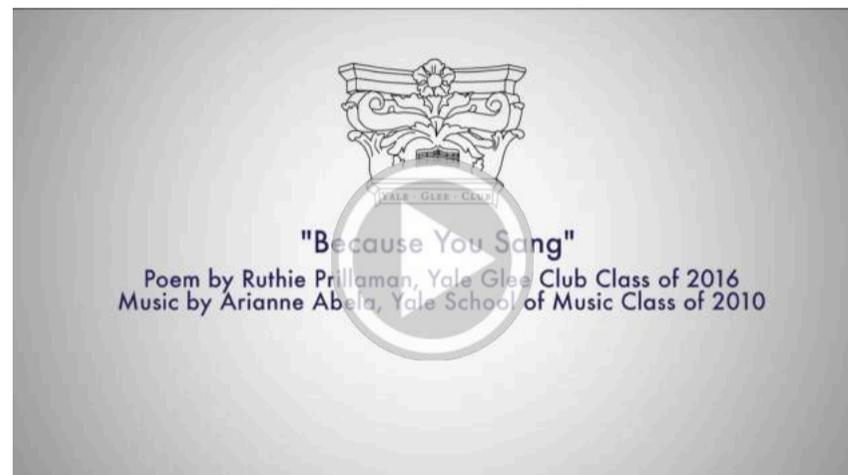
*Commissioned by the Yale Glee Club in
Celebration of 50 years of coeducation in
Yale College and 50 years of a Yale Glee Club
open to all genders*

Music by Arianne Abela, School of Music '10
Poem by Ruthie Prillaman, Yale Glee Club '16

*What harbinger of spring
Will weather storm and clamor
And living future, bring?
Fortified, and boundless,
With voice unwavering
Because you sang I sing, I sing
Because you sang, I sing*

*Armored with each other
Though newly had you met
Sounding ever outwards,
For souls not entered yet
Louder yet the uproar
Against oppression's sting
Because you sang I sing, I sing
Because you sang, I sing*

*A choir of a thousand
Distinguished woven parts
Perfect in its union
Of common beating hearts
I'll add my voice, my vigor
The song you raised will ring
Because you sang I sing, I sing
Because you sang, I sing*



In Other News...

Thank you to our outgoing officer corps for their service to the 159th Yale Glee Club!

Assistant Conductor: Daniel Tucker
Student Conductors: Brooke Milosh & Emery Kerekes
President: Sofia Laguarda
Manager: Mahima Kumara
Spring Tour Managers: Raquel Sequiera & Angela Gong
Winter Tour Managers: SungMi Johnson & Brooke Milosh
Alumni Coordinators: Jack McAuliffe & Ryan Howzell
Archivists: Mehana Daftary & Aria Falcone
Community Engagement: Charlotte Winkler & Sarah Grube
Publicity Chairs: Sophie Latham & Brendan Campbell
Stage Managers: Alex Whittington & Ella Henry
Social Chairs: Angela Zhao & Jonathan Jalbert
Wardrobe : Divine Uchegbu
Web Managers: Lara Schull & Anli Nakayama



A Home in Hendrie Hall premiered on April 3, 2020. This documentary film by Miriam Lewin '80 chronicles how generations of Yalies—of different genders, races, sexual identities, and nationalities—have found a home in the Glee Club as it transitioned to an all-gender ensemble 50 years ago and has continued to evolve since. If you missed the premiere, or just can't wait to watch this moving film again, head to the Yale Glee Club's YouTube page!



Each spring, the Glee Club sings Randall Thompson's "Alleluia" during the Baccalaureate service for the graduating seniors. Although we couldn't gather on the second balcony of Woolsey Hall, we still managed to preserve this tradition and share this beautiful piece of music with one another virtually.

The Glee Club released an album on Spotify in March 2020! Check it out [here](#).

Note from the new Alumni Coordinators

Hi everyone!

We hope you've enjoyed this issue of the Fol-de-Rol. Our names are Laura Clapp and Isa Zou, and we're so excited to be the alumni coordinators and Fol-de-Rol editors for the 2020-2021 school year. We wanted to take on this role together because we're both passionate about community-building. We're excited to record and tell the story of the Glee Club quarter by quarter, doing our part to keep present and former Glee Clubbers connected through this wonderful platform—particularly as the Glee community continues to adapt to the events of COVID.

Throughout the year, please contact us at laura.clapp@yale.edu and isabella.zou@yale.edu with any comments and suggestions about the newsletter, as well as any photos, memories, or other content for us to include!

A little more about us:



Laura Clapp

Pierson '21
Major: Urban Studies
Voice Part: Soprano II
Other activities: A cappella (musical director of The New Blue & Whim 'n Rhythm), former YSO violinist, chamber music, bartending



Isa Zou

TD '22
Major: Ethnicity, Race and Migration
Voice Part: Soprano II
Other activities: Dancing with A Different Drum, writing and editing for the YDN Magazine, misc. theater, FOOT leading

Looking forward to spreading the glove with you all!

Laura + Isa