

Issue II
January 2019



The newsletter of the
Yale Glee Club
Associates



Fall Recap

Good day, glee clubbers! Spring semester is upon us, although the weather in New Haven is nowhere close to springtime weather. Those of us who migrated southward for the winter break are still acclimating to the 20-degree days! Wherever you spent your holiday this year, we hope it was filled with joy and song.

For the 158th Glee Club, the close of the fall semester was a rather busy one! In November, Yale hosted the Princeton Glee Club in Woolsey Hall for the annual Yale-Princeton joint concert, and the following week, travelled to Boston for the Yale-Harvard Glee Club Concert. (Some members stayed in Cambridge for the annual football game; however, The Game was clearly not the main event.)

The Glee Club said goodbye to the fall semester at the Yale Club Concert on December 7 – a concert with many traditions the Glee Club looks forward to. We not only get to sing holiday carols in Grand Central Station, but we have the pleasure of eating dinner at the Yale Club prior to the concert! As high-quality as Yale Dining can be, a break from buffet-style eating is refreshing. The final concert of the semester was the Messiah Sing-along in Battell Chapel, at which Glee Clubbers attempt to engage with the New Haven community by sight-reading Handel’s “Messiah.”

Returns to campus also mark the closure of the Glee Club’s Winter Tour. This year, the Glee Club toured in Annapolis, Maryland and New York City. Concerts were held on January 11 and 12. At the latter performance, the Glee Club had the pleasure of performing at New York City’s Lincoln Center! Check the Yale Glee Club Facebook and Instagram pages to view photos of the chorus.

Rianna Turner '21

Member Biographies



Brooke Milosh

Class : 2021

College: Silliman

Major: Cognitive Science and Music

Interests: Drawing/Painting, photography, baking cookies, and more!



Henry Townley

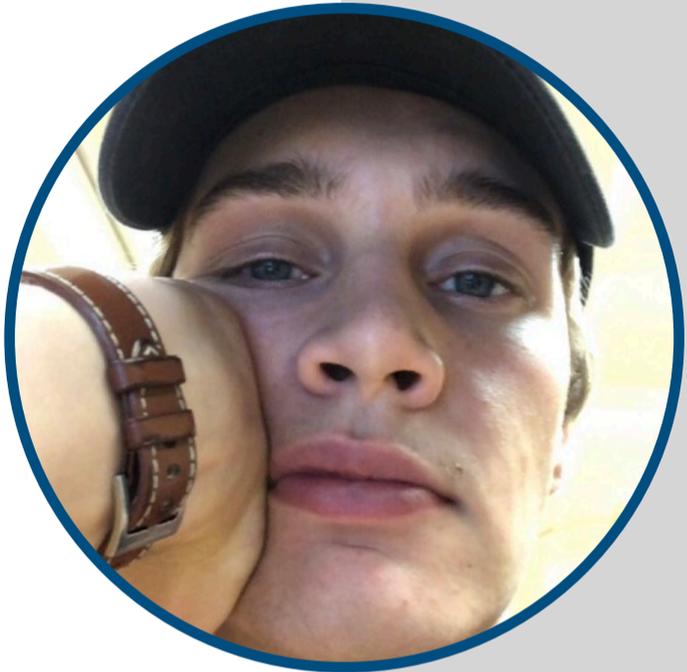
Class : 2019

College: Jonathan Edwards

Major: Computer Science

Interests: thunderstorms, dark chocolate, snow, talking about politics, musical theater and more!

Member Biographies



Josh Brooks

Class : 2021

College: Davenport

Major: Political Science

Interests: testing the bounds of “all you can eat”



Mahima Kumara

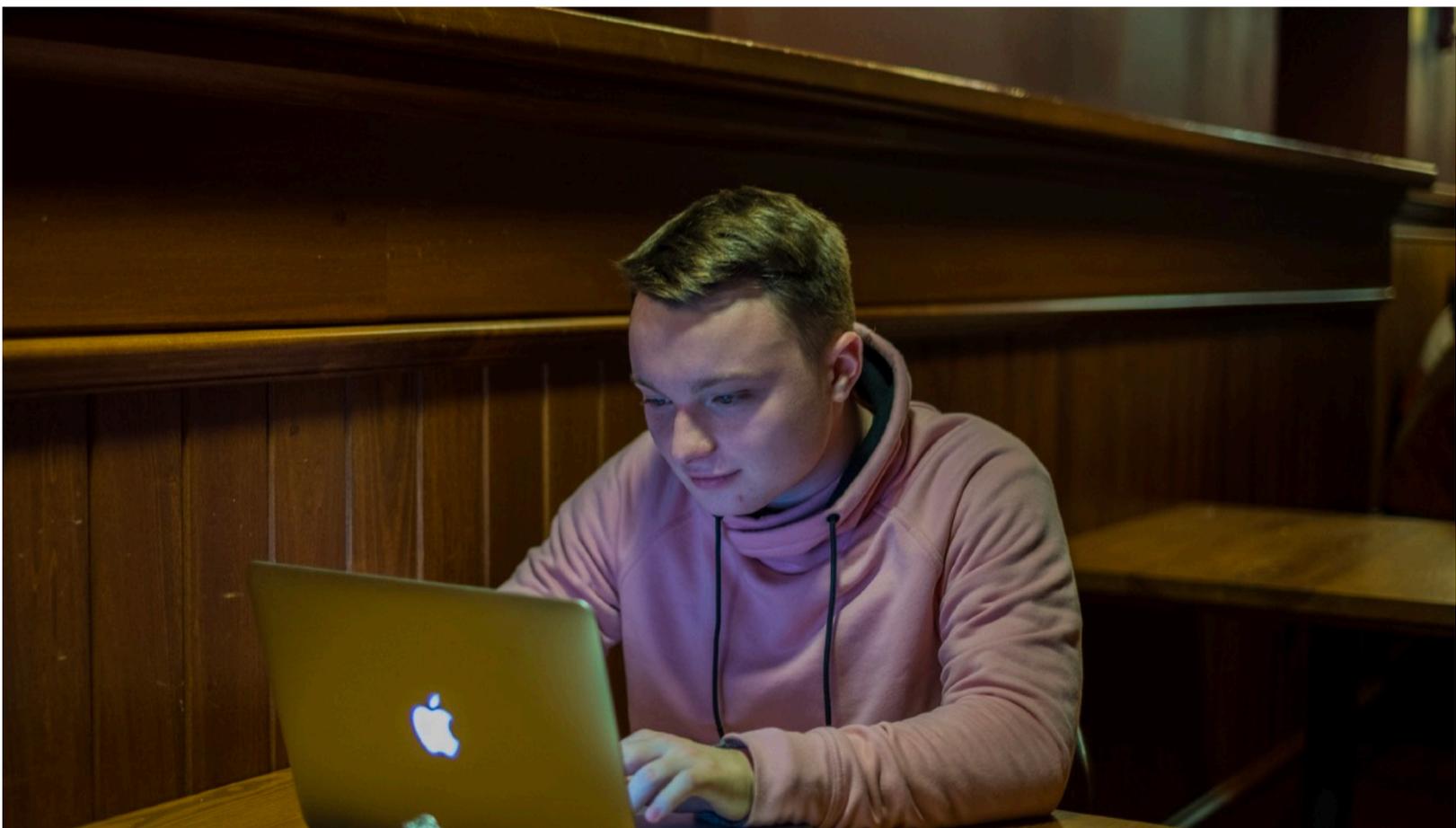
Class : 2020

College: Morse

Major: Statistics and Data Science

Interests: watching and giving unqualified opinions on figure skating, playing music

Brooke, Alexa and Nick pose for a quick photo backstage.



Shawn gets a quick homework session done before the Harvard-Yale concert in Cambridge, MA.

From The President

Greetings to the 158th Yale Glee Club! My name is Sarah Heath. As the new President of the YGCA Board of Directors, I am honored to have a role in supporting all things YGC, both now and in the future.

Choral singing is truly one of the world's best experiences, bringing people together beyond language and borders. The good news, for you, is that it can go on for the rest of your life.

The YGCA does so much, along with the Yale Alumni Chorus, to further your connections and to strengthen what currently exists. We hope to use Fol-de-Rol to highlight things we are working on with Jeff, including plans for celebrating Yale's 50th anniversary of coeducation.

I am a true YGC "lifer". My father, Fenno Heath, was Director from 1953-1992, a record tenure for that position. He began as the conductor of an all male group with a storied tradition, and then, in 1969, undertook the exciting transition into the fully mixed YGC of today. As a freshman and a singer in that first coed class, I was able to experience the early waves of the SATB Yale Glee Club first hand. Thrilling days!

I am so glad to be on board. If you have any concerns or questions, please let me know (sheath@aya.yale.edu).

Yours in Song,
Sarah



Fellow Glee Clubbers share a bite and a laugh before getting read for the upcoming concert at Harvard University.



Rajiv shows off his pearly whites during some downtime in Cambridge, MA



Weekend in Washington

On October 12–14, 60 alumni singers gathered in Washington D.C. for the fourth D.C. Yale Choral Festival, under the always-brilliant guidance of maestro Jeff Douma. The program included Vaughan Williams’ “Serenade to Music”, Biebl’s “Ave Maria” and spirituals arranged and written by Barty, Fenno, David and Jeff (four of the seven Glee Club directors in its illustrious history)! This festival was the third conducted in D.C. by Jeff, and the tremendous weekend was enjoyed by all – in the tradition of the Milton Festival organized for so many years by the one and only Linus Travers.

The singers included Glee Club members spanning from the Yale Class of 1955 to the Class of 2018, as well as friends from Smith College, and remarkably represented 67 years of singing at Yale. We were thrilled to sing alongside Bill Flanders '55, who sang under Barty as a sophomore – one of the few sophomores to make it into the Glee Club in those days, as most sang with the Apollo Glee Club.

Bill started the Yale Alumni Chorus tradition over 30 years ago in D.C. Bill rehearsed over 40 singers in his living room in preparation for a joint concert with the Yale Glee Club at Georgetown University in 1985.

Bill's inspired idea was to rehearse four to five songs and sing them at the concert. It proved to be not only a great success, but the start of a new tradition, in ways few of us imagined. And in the "how times have changed" department, that first alumni chorus included about 44 men and two women. Since then, the Glee Club has visited many times and the D.C. area alumni (and YAC friends) have gathered for many concerts alongside the weekend festival. This year it was great to see a wonderfully balanced SATB chorus of 60.

We all were so appreciative of Jeff's time and attention, and it was wonderful to sing with old friends and meet new friends – perhaps Yale singing's finest tradition of all!

Clay Kaufman '84



Jeff ponders a musical decision during a YAC rehearsal.

2018 Yale Glee Club Medal Recipient



Rita Helfand '83 and members of YAC pose for a quick photograph

Last March, the Yale Glee Club Medal was awarded to Rita Helfand '83. Because of her busy schedule at the Centers for Disease Control, Rita was unable to attend the annual singing dinner at which the Medal - the Glee Club's highest form of recognition for alumni service - is typically awarded, so she was caught by surprise when Director Jeffrey Douma and YGCA Board President Marty Brennan presented her with the Medal at the annual alumni singing weekend at the Milton Academy in Massachusetts.

Rita served as the President of the YGCA from 2003-2006. While presenting the Medal, Jeff remarked, "I don't know how I would have survived my first few year's without Rita's guidance." She has also held numerous leadership positions in the Yale Alumni Chorus over the years, and continues to be a very active presence as an emeritus member of the YGCA board and in many other facets of the Yale singing community. Thank you, Rita, for everything!