Hello, Glee Clubs of the past and present! Fall is finally descending upon New Haven, and we students are finding it difficult to remain focused on our exams, now that the weather finally permits outdoor activities. You could say we’d rather find ourselves ‘neath the elms — although, I personally cannot differentiate between tree species. Is an elm even deciduous? All of this is beyond me, but regardless, it is pretty when the leaves change color.

Since this is the first Fol-de-Rol of the year, there’s quite a bit to recap! Upon returning to campus, we held auditions, and promptly inducted the new members of the 158th Yale Glee Club. A mere week after auditions, the Glee Club took a trip to Sharon, Connecticut, and spent the weekend learning our new repertoire — which we hope all of you will be able to hear and enjoy this season!

We began our concert season early, with a performance of Vaughan Williams’ “Serenade to Music.” The performance was part of a Yale Philharmonia Concert, and the Glee Club sang from the balconies of Woolsey, which always proves to be cumbersome for those of us who fear heights. Last weekend, we returned to the stage of Woolsey for our Family Weekend Concert, at which we performed a set before the Yale Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band.

The Glee Club won’t be performing again in October, but stay on the lookout for our concerts in November! On Friday, November 9th, the Glee Club will host the Princeton Glee Club for a joint concert in New Haven, and the following Friday, the Glee Club will be in Boston for our annual Harvard-Yale Glee Club Concert. We hope to see a contingent of alumni there!

Rianna Turner ’21
Member Biographies

Annli Nakayama
Class: 2022
College: Pierson
Major: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Interests: backpacking, canoeing, rollerskating, playing instruments

Zev Kazati-Morgan
Class: 2022
College: Timothy Dwight
Major: Undeclared, but considering a plethora of options
Interests: distance running, cabaret theater, 20th century European history
Member Biographies

Madeline Stern
Class: 2021
College: Pierson
Major: Undeclared
Interests: playing flute, hiking, hanging out with the Glee Club

Rianna Turner
Class: 2021
College: Grace Hopper
Major: Political Science
Interests: making the Fol-de-Rol!
For those of you who don’t know me, my name is Jared Michaud and I am currently the president of the 158th Yale Glee Club. I’m a senior in Morse College and I’m from a small town in northern Maine called Fort Kent. At Yale, I’m a Theater Studies major and also in the Education Studies Program. Though I’m currently working on my two senior projects, my energy, excitement, and overall joie de vivre at Yale lies in this year’s incredible Glee Club. For this year’s first Fold-erol, I figured I would fill everyone in on how the year is going and what we are looking forward to.

To begin, we had one of the highest turnouts in recent history for auditions (tenor callbacks!) and it was an incredibly selective process. As you can imagine, we have the most incredible new members! Since then, we have been very busy with retreat and our first concert just last weekend. Our officer corps, with over twenty members, is also off to a great start, working hard to ensure that all things YGC run smoothly. I am especially excited about our Community Engagement activities, which are now open for participation to any Yale student. In this way, the Glee Club’s focus this year is not only on spreading the joy of music in our community, but also on empowering those from within to participate.

I am so lucky to be a senior officer this year alongside Evaline Xie, our current student manager, who is organizing and planning everything seamlessly. Together, we are working towards making the Glee Club as inclusive, welcoming, and warm as possible. My personal goal is trying to find ways to celebrate how special each and every member truly is. New this year is a YGC FaceBook: an online directory where each member has their own picture and profile. It has been so fun looking through each page and learning new things about each member… and I’m sure it’s been a real help for the new members to learn names as well! Evaline and I have also tried to make YGC as transparent as possible, which included making a new member packet with all of the information they would possibly need about joining the Glee Club. We have a variety of other plans in store to make YGC as wonderful as possible and we can’t wait to see how they pan out!

At the beginning of the year, I wrote a letter to new members and included a quote from a 1951 YGC letter to new members found in the archives at Sterling Memorial Library (thanks to Jack McAuliffe!). I include Sam Carter’s words here to remind you of what I am most looking forward to this year:

“Singing seems to be more conducive to strong friendship than almost any other activity. Very close, in lasting value, to this experience in friendship is the discovery of the very great and real joys inherent in singing and the “teamwork” involved in it. There are many other things the glee clubs offer which you can only realize for yourselves; they offer a lot, but do require a little.”
Carter then goes on to talk about the importance of attendance, but I argue that the little required of you also includes being open to glee and spreading glee in the world, whether you are a current or past member. I think it’s safe to say we all understand the power of music in bringing people together, and I am so excited to see it do just that in our travels this year to the UK, Maryland, and New York City. But most of all, I am excited for music to bring people together within our very own group. To you and yours wherever you may be, keep spreading glee!

With Glee, Jared Michaud ’19

Calvin Schwarztberg ’20 and Eric Duong ’20 dressing for a concert during last year’s winter tour. The Glee Club is excited for our 2019 winter tour to New York City and Annapolis, Maryland!