The University of Michigan
Women's Glee Club

Arioso

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A Song of Ourselves

The University of Michigan Women's Glee Club has completed an incredible fall semester! Each member has worked extremely hard under the direction of Professor Sandra Snow, who is assisted by Scott Hochstetler, to produce beautiful music. The two main highlights of the semester were the second annual exchange concert with the Michigan State Women's Glee Club held in late October as well as the WGC fall concert in November. In addition, the club is preparing for and anticipating the tour to Europe that will take place in May 2000. The groups will perform at various cathedrals throughout England, France, and the Netherlands. For more information about tour, upcoming events, or WGC in general, please visit the WGC web site at:

http:/www.umich.edu/~wgc

The continued support of U of M Women's Glee Club by the alumnae is extremely appreciated and essential to the future success of the group. Hopefully you will enjoy reading the Arioso to find out about our recent accomplishments and goals. In addition, this will also give you an opportunity to keep in touch with us and your fellow alumnae, and in this manner we can remain updated with the events in each other's lives! Best wishes to each of you in the upcoming Holiday Season.

Julia Arciero, Alumnae Chairperson

Concert Tour Leads Club To Europe

by Julie Haverkate

This May, the Women's Glee Club is off on a tour of Europe, specifically England, France, and the Netherlands. These women will be singing in various revenues, such as historic churches and cathedrals, and will meet up with the Michigan State Men's Glee Club in the Netherlands for a joint performance in Gouda. Of course, along the way, there will be much sight-seeing and free time to explore these wonderful countries.

Because the cost of the trip is quite expensive, especially for college students, there is a way to reduce an individual's cost. Each club member has the opportunity to invite as many friends and relatives as she wants, and by doing so, her price of the trip will be reduced. For each person that she brings on the companion tour, $200 will be deducted from her cost. Although this is a great help to club members, it is also a special opportunity for others to experience Europe and of course, to hear the lovely sounds of the Women's Glee Club in some of the most beautiful and noted cathedrals in the world.

U of M, MSU Women's Glee Clubs Sing in Perfect Harmony

by Elizabeth Anderson

The two schools with the longest rivalry in the Big 10 came together on a Saturday night for . . . a choir concert? Yes, October 30 marked the second annual University of Michigan-Michigan State University Women's Glee Club joint concert, held this year at St. Andrew's Church in Ann Arbor. There were no fights or riots, just two hundred women singing in perfect harmony.

The University of Michigan Women's Glee Club, conducted by Dr. Sandra Snow, began the program with Kodaly's "See the Gypsies." Their repertoire included a mass by Benjamin Britten, a series of women's pieces composed by Gwyneth Walker, and several gospel-inspired numbers. The different types of music illustrated the well-developed range and vocal unity the members have accomplished over the year.

Conductor Jeffrey Brown led the Michigan State University Glee Club through an extensive number of diverse pieces as well. Singing Britten's "This Little Babe," a difficult twentieth century piece using hard consonant sounds and vowels, and "Go Down Moses," this 100+ member group displayed their polished sound and excellent tone quality.

For a special treat, a single number was done by each glee club's a capella group. These student-run groups have ten members or less and arrange their own music. U of M's Harmonettes sang a stunningly beautiful rendition of "What a Wor derful World," and MSU's Ladies First performed a difficult African piece with great imagination and fantastic expression.

The night ended as both groups came together to sing Randall Thompson's "Pueri Herbraeorum." The consensus from the audience, shown by the standing ovation, was that the night was enjoyed immensely by everyone. Audience member Marilyn Vadino summed up the evening commenting, "Both groups did a great job. They should do this more often!"

Women's Vocal Day Begins Second Semester

by Allison Zaleski

This January an event will draw nearly 700 high school women from across the state of Michigan to Hill Auditorium. No, it's not a Backstreet Boys concert, it's Women's Vocal Day! Women's Vocal Day is a one-day workshop in which high school singers will be able to work with and gain vocal information from Professor Sandra Snow, the conductor of the Women's Glee Club. The workshop will focus on aspects of the female voice and will entail learning repertoire on-site for a concert later in the day. Finally, the high school singers will have the opportunity to listen to the WGC perform. Women's Vocal Day should easily achieve its purpose of creating enthusiasm about singing and enriching a young singer's experience, while maintaining a fun and exciting day for all. Professor Snow and the WGC are looking forward to this upcoming event that will face them immediately following winter break!

Facing The Challenge

by Amy Wallace

The Glee Club's annual Fall Retreat took place this year on September 24 and 25. The weekend began with a rehearsal and pizza dinner at the music school on Friday night. At the rehearsal, many of the new pieces that would be performed throughout the semester were read through, and the WGC had the opportunity to hear themselves in a rehearsal space more suitable than the usual lecture room in the MLB. At the end of the evening, everyone went home to sleep in their own beds, a lovely privilege after sleeping on the hard dining hall floor at last year's retreat!

On Saturday morning WGC met bright and early to catch the bus to the UM Challenge Course. The course provided everyone with a fun and exciting chance to meet other members of the Women's Glee Club and develop teamwork skills. The morning began in small groups, during which games were played to learn each other's names and information about one another. Later in these same groups, everyone had to complete tasks, such as walking on a wire suspended between trees, climbing a wall with no support other than one another, and balancing twenty-one people on one small tipping raft. Altogether, it was a wonderful day of bonding and learning to trust one another.

It was a great weekend for the group, and the friendships formed that weekend will undoubtedly last the year and beyond.

WGC Achieves New Level Of Excellence

by Inbal Eshel

The Women's Glee Club winter concert held on November 13 at Hill Auditorium was a smashing success! Under the fabulous direction of Sandra Snow, the group has really flourished. The WGC sang a wide variety of pieces, ranging from Michigan spirit songs such as "Laudes Atque Carmina" and "Yellow and Blue" to two of Brahms' German Folk Songs. Also included in the concert was a beautiful set of three songs by Gwyneth Walker. Walker set the poetry of May Swenson, an American poet, to music, and really managed to capture the essence of the poetic rhythm. A challenging and passionate piece by Benjamin Britten, entitled "Missa Brevis in D," was one of the highlights of the concert. Another highlight was Randall Thompson's "Pueri Hebraeorum," set for a double choir. Imagine seventy women singing in eight-part harmony – it was really an incredible sound. Finally, three African American spiritual-inspired pieces were featured. "A Child is Born," by Nick Page, is a joyful celebration of birth and life. "Deep River," arranged by Donald Patriquin, is a lush piece full of traditional spiritual sounds. Uzee Brown Jr. wrote "Oh, the Savior's Comin', Hallelu!," a cheerful, bright song that was fun for the singers.

For the first time, the choir was faced with the challenge of memorizing much of the repertoire. Although it was difficult, they succeeded to do so beautifully, singing the Britten, Brahms, Walker, Thompson, and Page pieces by memory. As Sandra said, singing memorized, internalized music brings the choir to a whole new level of excellence. As was seen by the audience's enthusiastic approval, WGC reached this level in a spectacular winter concert.

Girls Just Wanna Have Fun!!

by Katie Hardwick

The social chairs for this year's 1999-2000 glee club are Kara Guminski and Jennifer Johnson. Both are very excited about their new position and are taking the initiative to implement several glee club activities. The first glee club event was an ice skating trip to Yost Ice Arena after a Thursday rehearsal. Everyone who attended had an excellent time and met a lot of new and old members. It was a great opportunity for members to meet in a more relaxed and friendly atmosphere instead of the business and class-like setting of club rehearsals. It truly added to the camaraderie of the group, which can be heard through the blending voice parts within the music.

New this year was the "Secret Pumpkin" activity. Those interested in participating filled out a sheet with their likes and interests. After being paired up, the following rehearsals were met with a lot of anticipation as all involved ran to the back of the room to claim their gift. Many were festive with Halloween bags and others included creative ideas such as cupcakes, stickers, and many others. The event ended on Saturday at the joint concert with MSU when the Secret Pumpkins were revealed. Later, near the end of the semester, there are hopes of having another such activity with a holiday theme. This will most likely be a Secret Santa. It will be another excellent chance for new friendships and acquaintances to be made.

The Men's Glee Club (MGC) and Women's Glee Club (WGC) rockin' bowls that were started last year will be continued soon this year. The social chairs of each club have met and both groups are extremely excited about the pleasant liaison being maintained throughout both groups. Many more joint events will be planned such as the yearly semi-formal, as well as other WGC events.

The Women's Glee Club would like to extend its most heartfelt best wishes to Mrs. Gretchen Jackson, who will be retiring as the WGC advisor. Thank you, Gretchen, for everything you have done for us. We shall miss you!

The Women's Glee Club would also like to welcome Mathwon Howard, the new faculty advisor. We look forward to working with you!

Accompany the

University of Michigan Women's Glee Club and Michigan State University Men's Glee Club

On a "Companion" Tour

May 8-18, 2000

$2,499 per person from Detroit

For more information, please contact U of M's WGC, or Witte Travel (800)469-4883