Arioso

Women's Glee Club

Spring 2004

2003-04 Executive Board
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wgc.exec@umich.edu

Message from the President

Greetings again from Ann Arbor! I hope this letter finds each of you happy, healthy, and ready for spring! This year is developing into another great success for the Women's Glee Club, as we performed a stellar fall concert and are well underway in our preparations for this semester's spring concert.

With the addition of 15 new members, this semester got off to a strong start. We were immediately consumed with final preparations for Women's Vocal Arts Day, which was held at Rackham Auditorium. Over 700 high school girls attended and everyone had a great time dancing to the beats of Ghanaian drums. We have since become engrossed in rehearsals for our spring concert.

I am also pleased to report that the social aspect of club has been rejuvenated this year. With the reintroduction of regular dinner outings after rehearsal as well as other social events such as movie days and karaoke, the girls have been getting to know each other better and are forming new friendships.

It has been my true pleasure and privilege to serve as the President of the Women's Glee Club this past year and, more importantly, a member for the past four years. I am pleased by the present state of the club and am confident that the new leadership will continue our traditions. I would like to thank the entire executive board, Sandra Snow, and all of the members of WGC, past and present, for making my four years at U of M truly memorable.

I wish you all a very happy spring season and I look forward to seeing you at our winter concert!!

Sincerely,
Sandra Del Colle
sident

Your generous support is greatly appreciated. You may send financial contrbutions to:

U of M Women's Glee Club
Streams Building
2005 Baits Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2075

Each year, the Women's Glee Club is fortunate to be assisted by a talented Graduate Student Instructor from the School of Music. This year's assistant conductor, Sara Guttenberg, hails from Jefferson, Wisconsin. After completing a Bachelor degree at the University of Wisconsin in Choral Music Education in 2000, she came to Michigan to pursue a Master in Vocal Performance and Choral Conducting.

Sara also assists with the Orpheus Singers and Chamber Choir in the School of Music and is a professional chorister with the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus. After graduating this spring, Sara plans to "keep singing and teaching and conducting at any institution that's willing". The entire Women's Glee Club would like to thank Sara for her energy and musical expertise that she has shared with us this year!

Notes from the Concert Manager

Under the direction of Professor Snow, the Women's Glee Club invites you to our spring concert. Selections include excerpts from Stephen Paulus' "The Songs of Meditation." The text comes from various female mystics, deeply moving and unique among literature. Thus, the title of our concert, "The Many Sides of Women."

Other pieces include Gwyneth Walker's "I Thank You God" and Randall Thompson's "Alleluia." Both of which take distinct variations of traditional religious interpretations. Naturally, we are also including a few cultural songs, like the saucy "Las Amarillas" by Stephen Hatfield and the fluid "Riawanna" (circles) by Stephen Leek.

The concerts are Saturday, April 3rd at 6:00pm and 9:00pm. The venue is the Museum of Art. Tickets are $8.00 and can be obtained that evening or by e-mailing wgc.exec@umich.edu. We are ecstatic about this semester's concert and hope to see you there.

Best,
Theresa Young
Concert Manager

Message from the Conductor

The exploration of repertoire is a window of sorts: to ourselves, our world, and to each other. The most important decision a conductor can make for an ensemble is the choice of music under study. The body of repertoire for women's choirs has increased dramatically in the past fifty years and along with it, expansion in the kinds of poems set to music that more accurately reflect the complexity of women's lives.

Collegiate and community organizations such as the Women's Glee Club are in large measure responsible for the proliferation of new music as composers depend on commissions to subsidize their work. It is my hope that the WGC can embark upon a regular commissioning cycle as a means of contributing to the larger body of music available to women's choirs and as a powerful collaboration between living composer and ensemble. Some of the most meaningful musical experiences choir members can have involve the interaction between composer and singer through residencies or correspondence.

We will be premiering the chamber orchestration of Minnesota composer Stephen Paulus's Songs of Meditation in the coming 04-05 season and have commissioned him to scale the orchestration of the piece to a chamber-size score suited to the size of most collegiate programs. Songs of Meditation are a marvelous example of important women's choir music. Each movement features poetry of a female mystic; as familiar as Hildegard von Bingen and as diverse as Lal Ded. We are currently preparing excerpts for our upcoming April concert in preparation for this large event next season. Stephen Paulus is among our finest composers in the United States and writes regularly for women's voices.

In addition to Song excerpts, the Women's Glee Club will perform a set of world musics from Samoa, aboriginal Australia, and Mexico. Gems such as the Randall Thompson Alleluia will also be featured. If you are local, please make plans to attend in the lovely Museum of Art on the University of Michigan campus.

If you are considering a donation to the Women's Glee Club, help support our efforts to commission America's finest!

Sincerely,
Dr. Sandra Snow
Conductor, Women's Glee Club

Ghanaian music, dancing, and fun at WGC's Tenth Annual Women's Vocal Arts Day

January 17th, 2004 brought another Women's Vocal Arts Day, hosted by WGC. Rackham Auditorium home for the day to a vigorous fest of singing, dancing and personal expression. Over 700 women from 44 high schools around Michigan came to Ann Arbor to participate in this fun, musical event.

This year's WVAD was unique and successful for the Women's Glee Club, featuring the talents and teaching of two distinctive guests. We were happy to offer participants the chance to work with Ghana's only female master drummer, who is currently in musical residency at U of M, and her young daughter who performed a traditional Ghanaian dance. The participants of WVAD enjoyed performances by the two were taught three traditional Ghanaian songs by rote. In addition to singing, some of our participants were also able to take part in drumming on authentic instruments and dancing on stage for each song.

Following a long day of rehearsals, we were joined in Rackham Auditorium by U of M's Men's Glee Club and the high school participants of Men's Vocal Arts Day. WGC kicked off a wonderful concert, singing a few pieces from our winter concert in December. The WGC was followed by the MVAD participants, the MGC, The Friars, and the WVAD participants. All the high school students truly seemed to enjoy viewing and participating in the concert, as did the members of the Women's Glee Club.

On January 22, the Women's Glee Club had our second semester retreat. In order to allow the girls to get to know each other the girls had a spaghetti dinner and delicious dessert afterwards. The activity for the night was making a scrapbook. The girls looked though old pictures and video that were found in the office. Everyone really enjoyed seeing old members of the clb participating in the same traditions carried on today. The scrapbook will document the past few years and will hopefully cover the next generation of WGC.

If any alumni would like to share any photos or stories for the scrapbook, please mail them to:

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