

University of Michigan Women's Glee Club
Arioso
U of M Women's Glee Club
125 Stearns Building
2005 Baits Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2075

Arioso

University of Michigan Women's Glee Club

Autumn 2006

www.umich.edu/~wgc



The Women's Glee Club poses with former conductor Gabriela Hristova and former assistant conductor Jonathan Emmons on the California tour this past May.



Vice President Jennie leads the club as they sing Michigan "Blues" on Main Street for passersby and friends alike.

Fall Events

- Saturday Sept 30 - Oct 1 – Fall Retreat at Tau Beta Camp in Columbiaville, MI
- Singing Blues music to tailgaters at home football games (Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, and Oct. 28)
- October 7th – singing on 104.3 FM during Blues fundraiser before Michigan State game
- Friday, October 20th – Singing on Main St. for Parent's Weekend.
- Friday, October 27th, 7-9 pm.– School of Music Reunion Dinner
- Saturday, December 2nd , 6 & 9pm – Winter Concerts at First Congregational Church on State and William.

The Executive Board



Jaye Stapleton, our wonderful president is a senior majoring in Brain Behavior and Cognitive Science. She is a second soprano from Hemlock, Michigan.



Jennie Hegwood, our amazing vice president, is a junior majoring in Psychology. She is a first soprano from Naperville, Illinois.



Diana Schorry, our fantastic secretary, is a senior majoring in Biology. She is a second alto from Cincinnati, Ohio.



Rachel Harrison, our marvelous treasurer, is a junior majoring in Mathematical Biology and pre-med. She is a first alto from Saugatuck, Michigan.



Emily Downs, our brilliant concert manager, is a senior majoring in Oboe Performance and BME. She is also a second alto from Jupiter, Florida.



Christine Oviatt, our extraordinary business and tour manager, is a senior majoring in Psychology and Spanish. She is a first alto from Beal City, Michigan.



Christina Zielger, our incredible publicity manager, is a sophomore majoring in Nursing. She is also a first alto from Crystal Falls, Michigan.

Letter from the President

Greetings Alums! As this year's president, I would like to tell you about some of the new and exciting events in which the Women's Glee Club has been involved. This Fall resulted in one of our largest WGC auditions yet, and we welcomed a diverse group of new members to our choir. We were invited to sing our Blues repertoire on Dick Purtan's Saturday morning radio show (104.3FM) before the Michigan vs. Michigan State football game. We were also invited to sing on Main St. by the Main Street Association for Parent's Weekend and may be returning to sing holiday carols later this semester.

New members and new venues are great, but our biggest change has been working with our new director, Dr. Julie Skadsem. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Skadsem back to the north from teaching for 11 years at the University of Alabama. Originally from Minnestoa, Dr. Skadsem got her degrees in choral music education from St. Olaf College, Florida State University and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. In addition to conducting the Women's Glee Club, she is Associate Professor of Choral Music Education/Conducting in the UM School of Music, Theatre and Dance. She teaches courses in conducting, choral techniques and vocal methods and is an active guest conductor, clinician and researcher. We offer Dr. Skadsem our warmest welcome and look forward to working with her!

Please refer to our website for up-to-date information on future performances and events, and do not hesitate to contact the executive board with questions or comments at umwgc-exec@umich.edu.

All the best,

-Jaye Stapleton

Letter from the Conductor



It is my pleasure to write my first letter to you, our alumni and friends. Being new to the University this year, and new to Glee Clubs, this fall continues to be a tremendous learning experience for me. I am so proud to be leading a group that is so steeped in history and tradition. For the Women's Glee Club is more than a choir, it is a community. It is a community that reaches far beyond the boundaries of our rehearsal experiences into the life of the University and the memories of our alumni. The melding of the musical and social aspects of the Glee Club creates a unique identity for us--one that binds us together in a special and powerful way. I was touched by Lia's reflections from the California tour in our feature article in this edition of the Arioso: "I have discovered the inspirational power and grace of a choir of passionate, beautiful women." It will indeed be a magical journey for me as I continue to bond with the singers and learn more of their history. Although there has been much turn over in leadership in recent years, I hope that all of you will continue to feel like members of our Glee Club community. We would love to hear from you! Keep us posted on what is happening with you and stop by for a visit if you are in town.

-Dr. Julie Skadesm

Letter from the Assistant Conductor



This is my first semester working with the Women's Glee Club, and I couldn't be more excited! I am amazed by the talent and dedication of the women in this group and by their desire to uphold the club's long tradition of excellence. Being part of such a vibrant community is one of the highlights of my study at the University, and I look forward to building wonderful memories of retreats, performances, rehearsals, and tours!

-Carole Ott

University of Michigan Women's Glee Club

Gifts from July 1, 2005 - June 30, 2006

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♫ University of Michigan Women's Glee Club ♫

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Alumni Corner

We of Women's Glee are excited! We're so excited we just can't fit it all into two pages. As you can see, Arioso has grown to match our enthusiasm for the new year!

In fact, with many new members, our new conductors, and some new ideas, we're hoping to learn something new about you, too! This page is all about you—our wonderful alumni!

We want to know what you're up to now as well as what Glee Club was like before we joined. What are Glee Club traditions? Favorite songs? Alternate verses to *I Want to Go Back to Michigan*? These are just a few things we'd like to know a little more about. We hope our excitement is contagious and that you will help us out in our quest for knowledge.

If you have any comments on our alumni page or ideas for alumni events, please contact me, Gail McCormick (this year's alumni relations coordinator) at gamccorm@umich.edu. I look forward to hearing from you and hope to see you at all of our events this year!

-Gail McCormick, Alumni Relations Coordinator

Where Are They Now?

The current members of Women's Glee are curious to know where our alumni have gone to. We would enjoy hearing from you! What is your occupation? Are you married with kids? Where are you living? Get that promotion? Is anything exciting happening in your life? We'd love to hear from you!

If you would like to share, please send your news to umwgc-exec@umich.edu and we will include it in the next issue of Arioso!

Be sure to include the year you graduated.



The winners of our retreat contest show off their prizes. The club voted their original verse of *I Want to Go Back to Michigan* the best!



Having a great time on the September retreat.

Glee Memories

Just what was Women's Glee Club like in the 70's? Or in the 40's? Or the 20's?! We would love for you to share your stories from when *you* were in WGC with our current members and other alumni here in Arioso!

If you have a great story from your Glee Club days—a marvelous time on tour, a fun retreat, a crazy bus ride, a wonderful concert, a strange event, or some Glee Club traditions—just write a paragraph or two and e-mail us at umwgc-exec@umich.edu with your memories!

We will also share your stories on our newly renovated website www.umich.edu/~wgc!

We look forward to hearing from you!

Help us archive!

The Women's Glee Club is currently trying to re-document its history. We would love to obtain information about when you were in WGC: info about your directors, the tours, concerts, social events, volunteer opportunities, and traditions. Pictures from past Glee Club events would be most welcome, as well!

Thank you for your continued support!

Newsletter designed and edited by Gail McCormick with assistance from Christina Zielger and the rest of the Glee Club.



The Vocal Jazz Ensemble before the School of Music Alumni Reunion Dinner in October.



Lisa Roth, the magnificent Vocal Jazz Ensemble Director, is a senior majoring in voice performance and choral music education. She is from Chicago, Illinois.



Warming up to *The Victors* before singing Blues to tailgaters at the Michigan State football game.

A Year in Review

The Women's Glee Club had a busy winter semester this past year. Members helped plan and run Women's Vocal Arts Day at the beginning of January, where high school students come from around the state for a day of singing and fun. At the end of January, some of our members assisted Circle K (another campus group) by visiting a retirement home to sing Blues music and bring joy to the residents. Early in February, the WGC sang the national anthem to open a women's basketball game at Crisler Arena. On April 2nd, the ladies traveled to our conductor's church in Saline, MI and performed a Britten piece during the service and gave a concert following the service. The spring concerts were held on April 8th at First Congregational Church on State and William. The next week, some of our members performed our a cappella pieces and Blues music at The Improv Inferno, a comedy club in downtown Ann Arbor. And last but not least, most of our members went on tour in May to California! For more details about tour, please see pages 4 and 5 in this newsletter.

-Catherine M. Herzog

What's in a Name?
The Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Of Course!

This year the Women's Glee Club presents its newly established Vocal Jazz Ensemble. The enthusiasm of Dr. Skadsem helped realize the vision of a contemporary WGC small ensemble. It features eight selected ladies from the Club: sopranos Jennie Hegwood, Deirdre Sprague-Rice, Caitlin Plonka, and Kavita Nayar, and altos Kelsey Moher, Hana Russo, Joy Dettling and Celeste Taruc. Their conductor, Lisa Roth, a senior in Choral Education, is thrilled to be leading this group, which will add a jazz component and image to the choral body. As a unique addition to the jazz/a cappella scene at U-M, the girls look forward to performing at special events and concerts (perhaps at some point combining voices with The Friars of the Men's Glee Club). The ensemble will first perform at the WGC Winter concert on December 2nd.

The ensemble still needs a name! The club invites you to share your ideas with us! Use your creative juices to tie in the ensemble's name with school spirit: maize, blue, yellow, Ann Arbor, Michigan, or even the Glee Club! E-mail the exec board at umwgc-exec@umich.edu with your suggestions! We're excited to hear your ideas!

-Celeste Taruc

WGC Heads to NYC!

Our spring tour this year will take us from Ann Arbor to New York City! We are planning stops in Detroit, Oberlin, Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and New York City between April 29 and May 2, 2007. If we are traveling near your area, we hope to see you at one of our concerts along the way. If you would like to book a performance, or could help us with home stays or meals, please contact us at umwgc-exec@umich.edu.



The 'Yellow Jug Group' prepares to sing for tailgaters after singing on the radio before the MSU football game.

California Tour ~ May 2006

How Can I Keep From Singing?

by Lia Wolock,
LSA Senior, South Asian Studies & English

There are many things I did not know until I joined Women's Glee Club.

"My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentations…"

A church perched on a green hill sweeping toward the ocean in wild verdant swathes. No building so gorgeous in Michigan would stand so open to the elements, doors gaping, as if inviting the heavens to hear the sweet harmonies. We were singing above earth's lamentations and as the music swooned to silence, a fountain outside the church entrance whispered a sweet reply. The notes of both songs were simple, but they filled my heart to brimming.

"I hear the real though far off hymn that hails a new creation..."



I had intended to join the University of Michigan Women's Glee Club my freshman and sophomore years, but I never got around to it. When I finally did join, it was exactly what I needed. Everyone in Ann Arbor works hard; we work hard and we play hard. I was working hard, and enjoying the work, but was not allowing any time for play. I was involved in theater, became a Resident Advisor in South Quad, joined several student organizations, and studied diligently. Sure, I am a bit of a nerd, but aren't we all (secretly) nerds in this town?

Having been prodded for two years, my Glee Club friends were considering giving up on me; if I had not joined yet, what was I waiting for? Then, suddenly, the time was right. The planets—or perhaps my class schedule—aligned, and I found a spot in the first soprano section.



"No storm can shake my inmost calm while to this rock I'm clinging..."

Some muscles cannot be stretched at the IM (Intramural) building, or the CCRB (Central Campus Recreation Building). Singing music beautifully and insightfully requires the flexibility of mental, emotional, and metaphysical muscles we do not use in daily life. Over the last year, having finally joined the choir, my musicianship and vocal quality improved. So did the quality of my life. Whether we sang glorious hymns with full organ accompaniment, or romping Michigan spirit songs that had older alumni singing along at tailgates, the spirit of our music was (and will always remain) infectious and buoyant. But the true providence is that I joined the Women's Glee Club as it was rebuilding itself. At the end of Winter Semester 2006, we took our first Tour as a choir in 5 years, to California no less.





I had never been to the West Coast before. I had never seen the Pacific Ocean. But more importantly I had not sounded the timbre of my heart on a green summit above earth's lamentations. Truly, it does sound corny. Yet working tirelessly with so many inspiring women, trying to create with them music much grander than anything we could each make alone, I felt above the cares of normal life. Why worry over finals, papers, applications, and work responsibilities? My heart swelled with the greatness of sisterhood and song. Worries will come and go, but my love for music and my fellow Glee Clubbers is everlasting.

"Since Love is Lord of Heaven and Earth…"

On a more earthly note, I conquered the San Diego trolleys, (well, maybe not *conquered*…) acquired new salsa dancing skills, and learned about Italy and gelato with one of my home-stay hosts. I became much dearer friends with so many women on the trip, met amazing University of Michigan alumni and enthusiasts (thank you Todd, Helen, and Blazer!), and was touched by the hospitality of the alumni groups in every city. My Californian cousin heard me sing for the first time and beamed with pride.



Making friends at the San Diego Zoo.



"How can I keep from singing?"

In Women's Glee Club, I find that I am learning new things every day, be it the lyrics to *Laudes Atque Carmina*, or life lessons. I have learned to sing in over eight languages. I know now that I must take care of myself, allowing music to heal the everyday scrapes of college life. I have discovered the inspirational power and grace of a choir of passionate, beautiful women. And I now take strength from my connection with all the former Glee Clubbers who read this newsletter, certain that you are inspiring, beautiful women who also understand how truly special Women's Glee Club is. But most importantly I have learned to always carry in my heart a song of hope. In a world this beautiful, how can I keep from singing?

