

Arioso
The University of Michigan Women's Glee Club Newsletter

University of Michigan Women's Glee Club
Arioso
U of M Women's Glee Club
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University of Michigan Women's Glee Club

Spring 2007

www.umich.edu/~wgc



The Women's Glee Club performs at their Winter concert with conductor Julie Skadsem in December.

Spring Events

- December 8th & 15th – Singing on Main Street to spread Holiday Cheer
- Saturday, January 6th – Women's Vocal Arts Day in Hill Auditorium
- Saturday, January 13th – Winter Retreat on North Campus
- Saturday, April 14th, 4pm – Spring Concert at First Congregational Church on State and William
- April 30th-May 5th – East Coast Tour



Second sopranos on a break on the Winter Retreat.

Letter from the President



Greetings Alums! The Women's Glee Club has been busy since our last edition of *Arioso*. Our concerts last December were a great success, setting record numbers for attendance. We kept busy after our concert singing holiday carols on Main St. at the request of the Main Street Association. Despite the subzero temperatures, we received a very friendly welcome from the holiday shoppers, with some even taking a break from shopping to sing their holiday favorites with us. We started this semester off on the right foot by welcoming many new faces to the WGC at our winter auditions. One of our new members concentrating in History has taken up the task of creating a WGC historical library comprised of pictures, newspaper articles, recordings, and member commentaries. If you have any WGC pictures, etc. or would like to share a particularly unique WGC experience please help us build our library (not to worry, all pictures will be returned after being copied)!

We continued making WGC history this year by holding our first Winter Retreat. As part of this retreat we were thrilled to participate in a clinic on choral tone with Dr. Sigrid Johnson, Conductor and Artist in Residence at St. Olaf College. Dr. Johnson is a U of M alumna, receiving her M.M. in voice performance from the University of Michigan. Currently, Dr. Johnson is associate conductor and director of special events for Philip Brunelle's Plymouth Music Series of Minnesota and is active as a clinician specializing in women's literature. Last month, the WGC had the opportunity to work on two gospel pieces in our repertoire with the director of the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, Professor Brainerd Blyden-Taylor. The Nathaniel Dett Chorale, the first Canadian choral group dedicated to Afro-centric music, is world-renown and is currently traveling to Washington, D.C. to perform as part of the 2007 Congressional Concert Series after their stay in Ann Arbor. Working with Professor Blyden-Taylor and Dr. Johnson will certainly remain highlights of this semester.

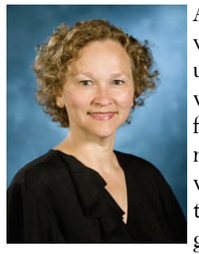
As we continue to prepare for our upcoming concert, we are also planning our Spring Tour. We will be singing in Detroit, Cleveland, Happy Valley with the Penn State Men's Glee Club, and Philadelphia. Our tour will end in New York City where we will sight-see and attend a Broadway play. Throughout our tour we will be staying with members of UM alumni associations, and our tour would not be possible without their generous support. If you are going to be in one of these cities the first week of May and would like more information on our tour performances, let us know!

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

All the best,

Jaye Stapleton, WGC President; Hemlock, Michigan; LSA Senior, Brain Behavior and Cognitive Science

Letter from the Conductor



As the school year comes to a close, the spring sunshine is adding a new lift to spirits and voices—even though finals are just around the corner! The girls are abuzz as we prepare for our upcoming East Coast Tour, elect new officers and dream about what could be in our future. The winter term brought an unexpected swell in our enrollment, adding a rich diversity of majors from both undergraduate and graduate programs across campus. We look forward to welcoming new members in the fall to continue the path toward excellence we have begun. The choir has worked hard to adjust to a new conductor, entertain new ideas, come together on a concept of tone and learn and perform a variety of music. It has been a wonderful year of experimenting, growing and learning. Our newly formed vocal jazz ensemble, about to be named at our April concert, is making amazing progress toward learning jazz performing style and developing an impressive repertoire of jazz charts. The girls and I talked at the beginning of the year about first impressions and how memorable they can be. I can honestly say that they have made a lasting impression on me. I am truly amazed at how tirelessly our singers and dedicated officers work for our organization. These young women have set a high standard for those who will follow them. As I reflect back on my first year at the University of Michigan and as conductor of the Women's Glee Club, I remember how warmly I was greeted and made to feel a part of this rich tradition. So, to the girls and their wonderful leaders, I say "thank you!" I couldn't have asked for a better "first" Women's Glee Club to introduce me to Michigan traditions and musical excellence. Go blue!

-Dr. Julie Skadsem, WGC Conductor

University of Michigan Women's Glee Club

Gifts from July 1, 2006 - April 1, 2007

The University of Michigan Women's Glee Club would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

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Thank you also to those who donated during our annual Phone-A-Thon; we will recognize you in our next issue of Arioso.

It's not to late to donate to our Tour Fund!

You can support us by donating online at www.umich.edu/~wgc/support.html

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♫ University of Michigan Women's Glee Club ♫

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Please visit our website at www.umich.edu/~wgc

Alumni Corner

We're happy to say we're up and running in the alumni corner of the Women's Glee Club! Not only get a few responses to our call for history, but we also have a newly created staff position of Historian. Annie Kelly is working hard to gather photos and information about our past! We'd both love to obtain information about when you were in WGC: info about your directors, the tours, concerts, social events, volunteer opportunities, and traditions. We want to know more about what being a Glee Club member means—what *is* our history?

We are hoping to feature YOU in our next issue of Arioso and on our website in our "**Where Are They Now**" section (What have you been up to? What is your occupation? Are you married with kids? Where are you living? Get that promotion? Is anything exciting happening in your life?) and our "Glee Memories" section (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?). We would love to hear from you! Just write a paragraph or two and e-mail us at **umwgc-exec@umich.edu** with your memories or news! Be sure to include the year you graduated.

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 our upcoming concerts and on tour!

-Gail McCormick, Alumni Relations Coordinator
Rochester Hills, Michigan; LSA Freshman, Biology & Theatre Productions

Glee Memories

Thank you so much to Molly (Moore) Lamb for being the first to contribute to Arioso's "Alumni Corner!" She was a member of the club from fall 1983 to fall 1985. The club was under the direction of Rosalie Edwards at the time. She recalls a few highlights of the time: "a concert 'tour' to Northern Michigan to sing at Kirtland Community College, singing the National Anthem at a Detroit Tigers game, and at least twice Mrs. Edwards hosted the Glee Club at her house for a meal--I believe she got a University bus to bring us there!

"Personally, I remember taking time at the Alumni Center selecting slides of University interest to be shown on a big screen behind the club while we sang Michigan songs. Because I chose the slides, I had to run the projector! I had to leave the stage, go downstairs, run underneath the Rackham Auditorium and finally run back upstairs to get to wherever the slide projector was. When the songs that required slides were complete I ran all the way back to join the choir for the finish of the concert. I think after that we asked a "tech" person to take care of that aspect--I hated not singing the Michigan songs with the group!"



Dinner at the Union Underground



The first altos take a break during the Winter Retreat.

Where Are They Now?

Molly (Moore) Lamb graduated in 1987 with a degree in Industiral & Operations Engineering. She worked as Servant Publications for 2 years and Unisys for 10 years. She married another UM Engineering alum, Rob Lamb in 1994 and has four children, Bernadette, Martin, Owen, and Michael. They still live in Ann Arbor, where Molly homeschools her kids, directs a local homeschool High School girls' choir, and sings regularly at church.

Thank you so much for sharing Molly! It's great to catch up with our wonderful alumni!

If *you* would like to share their memories, e-mail **umwgc-exc@umich.edu** with your news!

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

Join us for our Spring Concert

April 14th, 4pm

The Women's Glee Club is looking forward to presenting our Spring Concert this April! We will be performing a wide variety of pieces, so there's sure to be something for everyone. We'll present a lovely Bach work called "Wir eilen mit schwachen," a spiritual by William Dawson called "There is a Balm in Gilead," a hula-inducing piece called "Minoi, Minoi" by Christopher Marshall and many others. We'll also be performing the John Starr Alexander Requiem which will be accompanied by organ, harp, cello, and several wind instruments. In addition to our regular choir program, we look forward to having the newly-formed Vocal Jazz Ensemble perform with us for the second time. The concert will take place at 4:00 PM on Saturday, April 14th, at the First Congregational Church of Ann Arbor on State St. Tickets are $10 for the general public, and $5 for university students, and can be preordered by writing to wgctickets@umich.edu. We hope you can join us!

-Emily Downs, Concert Manager
Jupiter, Florida; SOM/Eng Senior, Oboe Performance & Biomedical Engineering



Some of the girls serve breakfast during the Dance Marathon.



Choral director Sigrid Johnson of St. Olaf College join's the Women's Glee Club assistant director Carole Ott and the rest of the Glee Club on the winter retreat.



The Vocal Jazz Ensemble performs at the Winter Concert.

On the Lookout for WGC!

The Women's Glee Club is venturing out into the world for the East Coast Tour in May. The choir will perform a varied program of classical, contemporary, and folk music, including several selections by the newly formed vocal jazz ensemble and traditional Michigan songs. The hosting choirs will also be sharing the stage with the Glee Club, performing their own selections as well as a combined piece with all singers. The concerts are free and open to the public. We hope to see you there!

Monday, April 30, 2007, 10:00 am
Cass Tech High School, Detroit

Monday, April 30, 2007, 7:00 pm
Berea United Methodist Church, Cleveland
Special Guests: Mentor High School Women's Choir

Tuesday, May 1, 2007, 7:00 pm
Esper Recital Hall, Pennsylvania State University
Special Guests: Pennsylvania State Men's Glee Club

Wednesday, May 2, 2007, 7:00 pm
Villanova University Chapel, Philadelphia



Conquering the cold on a WGC skiing trip!



Spreading holiday cheer on Main Street in December.



A social dinner at the Union.

♬ Winter Concert ♬

The lovely lady singers of WGC under the direction of Dr. Julie Skadsem and Carol Ott gave two concerts on December 2, 2006 at First Congregational Church on State Street. This was an amazing day for the club - from the traditional dark blue dresses that coincidently matched the church's seasonal décor, to the amazing violinists that added their touch to Edward Elgar's *The Snow*. The club and three WGC soloists (Jennie Hegwood, Sara Foley, and Karey Quarton), also had the pleasure of performing Michael Haydn's *Magnificat* with a mini-orchestra. The women dappled in pieces in German, Latin, French, Czech, and English from composers such as Schumann, Verdi, Macha, Loomer, and Clausen. Our senior members were featured in a special 'seniors only' chorus in *Gaudete*! (arr. Neaum). For the first semester in a few years, the club excitedly performed a spiritual, *Go Where I Send Thee* (arr. Caldwell & Ivory) and a learned a new Michigan spirit song, *Women of Michigan*, written by former WGC conductor Rosalie Edwards. Our new eight member Vocal Jazz Ensemble also debuted with three fantastic seasonal pieces: *Let It Snow, I'll Be Home for Christmas*, and *Jingle Bell Rock*. The hard work of all the clubbers paid off and the ladies were rewarded with a full house audience at 6:00 pm to join them at the end for a rousing *Hail to the Victors* and many compliments for weeks to come.

-Catherine M. Herzog, Grand Rapids, Michigan;
LSA Junior, Nueroscience

Winter Retreat

At their first ever winter retreat, members of the Women's Glee Club were privileged to participate in a workshop with esteemed choral director Sigrid Johnson of St. Olaf College.

Women's Glee director Dr. Julie Skadsem was once a student of Ms. Johnson at St. Olaf's. She arranged for Ms. Johnson to come and share her knowledge with the Women's Glee Club. Ms. Johnson helped the girls with vocal technique for their new repertoire and voiced the choir by placing girls in a seating arrangement that helped to facilitate a beautiful sound.

Because the retreat lasted almost ten hours, new members of the choir had plenty of time to become familiar with returning members. Social chairs Sara Foley and Betsy Lynch made sure that there was room for fun along with the hard work. The girls engaged in ice-breakers and games that introduced new members to the Women's Glee sense of humor. After all, what good is song without a smile?

-Karey Quarton, San Francisco, California;
LSA Freshman, Political Science & Communications



Second altos relaxing during the Winter Retreat.



Enjoying a post-club dinner at Noodles & Co.

School of Music Alumni Dinner

On October 27, 2006, the Women's Glee Club was honored to be invited to perform at the School of Music Alumni Dinner at Weber's Inn in Ann Arbor. This was our first concert with our new director, Dr. Julie Skadsem. We were excited to have the opportunity to perform with her, and it was a treat to wear our formal dresses so early in the semester! We performed five pieces for the alumni present, including "Away from the Roll of the Sea," a Nova Scotia boating tune, "Dome Épais," a beautiful French song, and even "Go Where I Send Thee," a southern gospel-style piece. Dr. Skadsem told the alumni present that she had brought that piece with her from her former position in Alabama to give us a taste of southern style. The performance concluded with some lively Michigan spirit songs, several of which the alumni were happy to join in singing. Overall, the concert seemed to be a success, and an enjoyable evening was had by all!

-Sara Foley, Saline, Michigan; LSA Junior, Neuroscience



Dr. Skadsem and Carole enjoying the Winter Retreat.



Over 600 high school women rehearse with the Glee Club for Women in Vocal Arts day.

Women in Vocal Arts Day

This year's Women in Vocal Arts Day was another big success for the glee club, largely thanks to this year's business manager, Christine Ovaitt who was in charge of putting together the entire day. Over six-hundred high school women and their music directors made the trip to Ann Arbor for the day to work with the glee club on music, techniques, and performance. Dr. Julie Skadsem and the rest of the Women's Glee Club worked with the girls throughout the day, teaching them four different pieces that they would perform later in the afternoon.

The day began with the girls and their music directors arriving at Rackham Auditorium. They each received a WVAD tee-shirt and were seated in the auditorium near girls from other schools. The Women's Glee Club members were interspersed throughout the room to work with the girls, get to know them, and help them with any parts of the music that they found difficult. Our Glee Club social chairs kept the girls entertained during breaks with ice breakers and fun activities to get to know each other and to establish connections with girls from different high schools.

After working on a few of the pieces, the girls had free time for lunch and exploring Ann Arbor. When they came back, they worked with Dr. Skadsem and the Glee Club to polish the pieces that they had learned before moving to the university's world-renowned Hill Auditorium for a performance. The Women's Glee Club performed first with some of our repertoire from our December concert, and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble made an appearance. After the Glee Club, the high school women performed with Dr. Skadsem for their parents, directors, and friends. The Men's Glee Club and the high school boys who had come to Ann Arbor for Men in Vocal Arts Day also performed at the concert.

Thanks to the hard work of Dr. Skadsem, Christine, and the rest of the glee club, Women in Vocal Arts Day was a great success, and we're all looking forward to next year!

-Deirdre Sprague-Rice, Owosso, Michigan; LSA Sophomore, English