University of Michigan Women's Glee Club

Arioso

Fall 2009



Singing Mozart's Requiem, at the Konzerthaus. Vienna, Austria.

Upcoming Concert

Fall Concert with Grosse Pointe Brownell Middle School Choirs

Saturday, November 14th

Stamps Auditorium, 8 P.M.

Email umwgc-exec@umich.edu for tickets!



Letter From the President

Greetings Alumnae and Friends!

As President this year I would like to say thank you for your generous support and we hope you enjoy this latest edition of the *Arioso*. The Women's Glee Club has been very busy this year, and we'd like to update you on all of our latest news. This past March, we had the great opportunity of performing in Stamps Auditorium with the Cornell Women's Choir. We also had our annual spring concert in the beautiful Hill Auditorium with the Lenawee Community Choir. In May, the Women's Glee Club had another very successful "weekend" tour to Traverse City, where we explored the wonderful city and sang for alumni. As a continuation of our traditions and growth we also attended the International Haydn Festival this past July in Vienna, Austria. Thanks to the support of alumni and friends we were able to sing in magnificent and historical venues as well as explore the culture of Vienna.

This semester, we have been busy singing at football tailgates and community events such as the Big Heart Big House race, Artscapade, and the ELSO 20th Anniversary at the Arts museum. We have also been preparing for our winter concert in Stamps Auditorium with the Grosse Pointe Brownell Middle School Choirs on November 14th at 8pm. Tickets are selling fast so please contact the executive board to reserve yours before they are gone!

We hope that you will share your contact information with the WGC, too! Please go to our website, http://www.umich.edu/~wgc and look on our "Alumnae" page for a form to fill out with your information. Also, feel free to view the new pictures and updates on our website! If you ever have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact our executive board at umwgc-exec@umich.edu.

Glee love and Go Blue!

Melisa Gilbey

President, and Senior



Photo: Glee Clubbers hamming it up for the camera, while singing Blues.

Events This Fall

Fall has arrived and that means it's time for retreat! This year, the retreat was held at the Michigan League, on October 9th. Retreat always calls for a fun night of singing, games, and getting to know one another. After working hard and having a great rehearsal with Dr. Skadsem, we were treated to an informative and relaxing hour of voice health teaching. We each had the pleasure of learning from an expert of voice health: Freda A. Herseth, M.M., D.M., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Associate Professor of Voice Training and Singing Specialist, and Faculty of the University of Michigan School of Music, where she serves as chair of the Voice Department. Ms. Herseth was kind enough to share with all of us how to take care of our voices properly and prevent the occurrence of an injured voice. She demonstrated ways to warm-up and warm-down, and how to prevent overuse of our voices. We are now set with the dos and don'ts of singing!

After all of the singing and learning we took a break to begin the games. All of the voice sections (SI, SII, AI, AII) faced off to come up with the best section cheer. Section pride was evident as the different sections performed for us. The night ended engergetically with the favorite game of WGC: blind partner dodge ball (one person leading and the other person with a blindfold)!

Retreat is always a great time to get to know each other and continue to work on our literature for our fall concert as well as Michigan Blues music. This year was no exception!

-Christina Ziegler, Senior







Pictures: All of our new members (above); Playing blind dodge ball (above right); Alto 1's cheer (right).

On October 4, 2009, the Women's Glee Club had the honor of singing at the Big House Big Heart race at Michigan Stadium. The race was composed of three events—a 10K, a 5K, and a 1-Mile—finishing at the 50-yard line of the stadium. This annual event raises money to help support ALS research at The University of Michigan Program for Neurology Research & Discovery, the UM Cardiovascular Center and to C. S. Mott Children's Hospital and Women's Hospital. A small group of members from the Glee Club pumped up the runners and walkers before the start of each race with our Michigan spirit songs, including "I Want to Go Back to Michigan," "University," and of course, "Hail to the Victors." It was a great opportunity for the Women's Glee Club to give back to the community in a small way, and have a great time while doing so.

- Heather Jones, Junior



Other upcoming events:

Vocal Arts Day
1/9/2010, 8AM-5PM
Rackham Auditorium

Spring Concert
4/17/2010, 8PM
Hill Auditorium



As everyone within earshot of Ann Arbor knows, Saturdays in the fall are a big deal. Actually, they are more than a big deal, they are the day that every wolverine faithful from undergraduates to alumni to kids (whose parents dress them up in little football uniforms) comes together to cheer on the maize and blue. Saturday is the day of football, and this year, Women's Glee Club got to be a part of the madness. One of the local radio stations asked the glee clubs (Men's and Women's) to sing some traditional Michigan songs every football weekend, to pump up the radio audience and the fans present at the game. The first time we sang at the radio station, we performed the "Varsity/Victors" medley with the Men's Glee Club. At first people stopped by the station out of general curiosity, but once they recognized the song, their faces lit up as they started clapping along to the beat. By the end of the song, an entire group of fans were singing and clapping, showing how proud they were to be Michigan Wolverines. At that moment, every glee club member had forgotten how tired, and cold they were. Suddenly, it didn't matter that they had woken up early on a Saturday, were up till 2am the night before trying to learn their parts to the "Blues" music, or that it had been raining for the past hour. At that moment, the experience was wonderful, as they were a part of the history and tradition that is Michigan.

- Julie Felberg, Sophomore

Trips Last Summer

In July, the Glee Club had the experience of a lifetime, when we travelled to Vienna, Austria! In the city, we were able to go sightseeing, learn the history of classical composers, and of course sing! Throughout the trip, we had free time to explore Vienna. Struggling through the jetlag, we visited beautiful monuments, such as St. Stephan's Cathedral, Hofburg Palace, and the National Library. While the street names were confusing for those of us who did not speak German, some of us were also able to navigate our way to the Rathaus for a free opera screening. Amidst the outdoor lights, and bustling restaurants we experienced the musical culture of Vienna with other opera lovers (tourists and locals alike). We also went on excursions throughout Austria with our wonderful tour guide, and visited museums, Belvedere Palace, and Schonbrunn Palace.

The rest of our trip was filled with singing and music! We were privileged be part of the International Haydn Festival, and see many concerts in the famous concert halls of the city. When we were not at concerts, we were rehearsing for our solo performance and for our combined performance with other festival participants. Our solo performance took place in the beautiful Palais Ferstel, where we sang our concert repertoire, including Brahms. The culmination of our trip however, came from our final performance with the other participants, as we sang Mozart's Requiem in the famous Konzerthaus! Our performance was also complete with soloists and a full orchestra.

Overall, the trip to Vienna was an eye-opening and unforgettable experience. It brought the club closer together, and gave as great opportunities. Thank you for making this trip possible!

- Caitlin Huston, Sophomore







Pictures: The Club in front of Schonbrunn Palace (top); Two members overlooking the Palace (middle); Hofburg Palace (bottom).

During the second weekend of May, our group was invited for a weekend tour in Traverse City, MI to perform in front of Michigan alumni. We were all very thrilled about the concert and grateful for the invitation. The two-day trip turned out to be loaded with excitement and adventures. Upon our arrival, we were surprised by the colder-than-anticipated weather, which most of us were not prepared for. We then roamed around the city, concentrating in areas around warm fudge and cherry shops, teahouses and bookstores. This sightseeing strategy allowed us to keep our voices for the night's performance. As we soon learned, keeping your voice healthy was not the only thing a choir singer must remember during a performance. Another equally important aspect is to not lock the knees (especially during those very slow songs) or a disaster might occur. One often hears about singers fainting on stage, but experiencing such a situation was quite frightening. Luckily everything ended well - no one was seriously hurt and the concert, although abridged, finished with an overall success.

The end of the tour was quite pleasant. The alumni provided us with a wonderful dinner and welcomed us to their homes for the night. Unfortunately, everything pleasant must end - the next day we had to head back to Ann Arbor, leaving the beautiful Traverse City behind.

- Emilia Francz, Graduate Student

Support the Glee Club!

Have you thought about donating money to Women's Glee, but found the process of printing out the donation form, writing a check, and finding a stamp to be too tedious? Well, we have just made the process much easier with secure online donations via the University of Michigan Online Giving. Find the link online at http://www.umich.edu/~wgc/

Or, if you prefer donating through the mail, please print and fill out the Donor Form (also found online) and mail it to us!

Another great way to support our organization and show your WGC spirit is through our line of merchandise. Please contact umwgc-exec@umich.edu to ask questions or to order.





Pictures: A beautiful Traverse City house (above); On stage at the concert (right)