Arioso

Spring 2010



Fall Concert, Stamps Auditorium.

Upcoming Event

Women's Glee Club
Spring Concert

April 17, 2010
8 PM
Hill Auditorium

Check out our new logo! This newsletter marks the debut of the logo, which was co-designed by WGC Vice President Molly Netter and Webmaster Lucy Han.

A Letter from the President

Greetings Alumnae and Friends!

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 December we had our Annual Fall Concert in Stamps Auditorium and shared the stage with the Brownell Middle School Choir. Both choirs sounded wonderful and we got the audience dancing with our combined piece. WGC also hosted a very successful Women's Vocal Arts Day in January and we were lucky to have a weekend free of snowstorms. We have also had the opportunity to sing at many events around campus including: the K-Grams Variety Show, Winterfest, and the Rackham Graduation Ceremony.

We are excited to announce that the Women's Glee Club will be wearing our new dresses at the our Spring Concert in April! It has been a lot of work finding the right dress but it has finally happened. The Club will also be donating our old dresses to the Detroit Public Schools Fine Arts department.

This summer we are taking our tour to the south! Keeping up with tradition we will be touring and performing many concerts for Michigan Alumni and the public in Louisville, Nashville, Birmingham, and Atlanta. If you live close to any of these cities talk to your local Alumni group and come see one of our free concerts.

The Glee Club is greatly looking forward to this year's tour and as well as other activities and we cannot thank you and for all of the support we receive. Without your generous donations, many of our concerts, events, and other endeavors would not be possible.

With this being my fourth and last year in the Women's Glee Club, upon graduation I plan on keeping in contact with the group. Glee Club has meant a lot to me while here at the University and 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. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or comments, please contact our executive board at umwgc-exec@umich.edu.

Glee Love!

Melisa Gilbey, Senior and President of the Women's Glee Club

President, U of M Women's Glee Club

WGC had their first gig of the semester! This was the K-grams Second Annual Variety Show suitably named Swingin' and Singin'. The variety show is a chance for the College Pen Pals and the BookMARK volunteers to mingle with each other and celebrate another successful year of their student groups. K-Grams BookMARK program give college students the opportunity to visit elementary schools and help K-5 students with reading and writing.

Seven other student organizations performed at the Variety Show this year and we were very excited to be the opening act! We decided to sing songs from our Blues pieces to pump up the audience. We thought these inspiring and fun songs would also give the audience a good impression of the women's glee club. The Variety Show was extraordinary and had a good blend of music and dance. We loved working with other groups and it was a great opportunity to showcase our talent.

-Nicole Garcia, Freshman

Support the Glee Club!!

Have you ever thought about donating money to the Women's Glee Club? You can make secure online donations via the University of Michigan Online Giving! Find the link online at http://www.umich.edu/~wgc/

You can also donate through the mail! Please print and fill out the Donor Form (found online) and mail it to us.

Finally, be sure to check out the glee club merchandise on our website. You can email umwgc-exec@umich.edu to ask questions or to order!



On Saturday, January 9, the Women's Glee Club had the opportunity to once again team up with hundreds of high school singers from around Michigan for our 20th annual Women's Vocal Arts Day (WoVAD). WoVAD is a unique chance for high school girls to work with the glee club conductor (our beloved Dr. Skadsem), meet other young vocal enthusiasts from around the state, and interact with college women who also love singing. Throughout the day, we rehearsed several pieces, including *Zion's Walls* by Aaron Copland, and the *South African Suite*, edited by Henry Leck. The high school and WGC participants also had plenty of time to mingle, play games, talk about college, and get to know some of the other young women participating. Vocal Arts Day concluded with a collaborative concert with the U of M Men's Glee Club, and the high school boys who they worked with throughout the day. The high school participants of both events got to see each of the glee clubs perform a short concert portion, as well as a combined portion at the end. WoVAD is always a great hit, and we look forward to meeting more singers (and possibly seeing some familiar faces return) next year!

- Heather Jones, Junior

Winter Retreat

Although Glee Club practices are a great place to make new friendships, the strict rehearsal schedule does not allow much time for socializing. For this reason, all of us look forward to the Glee Club retreat, which occurs early each semester. This semester's overnight retreat was particularly special, because it took place at the farmhouse of a recent Glee Club graduate, just north of Ann Arbor. After a couple hours of singing and learning names (especially for the new members), we arrived at our destination, ready for some serious Glee-bonding. We were welcomed by some amazing snacks, warm apple cider and a huge, empty house - just for us.

We first filled our stomachs, and then began a night of fun, games, and dancing. Ice-breakers and group activities with fifty girls can be very interesting! One of the night's favorites was the game of paper telephone, which ended with loads of group laughter about the silly results (see a sample on the right side – it is one of my favorites that I saved).

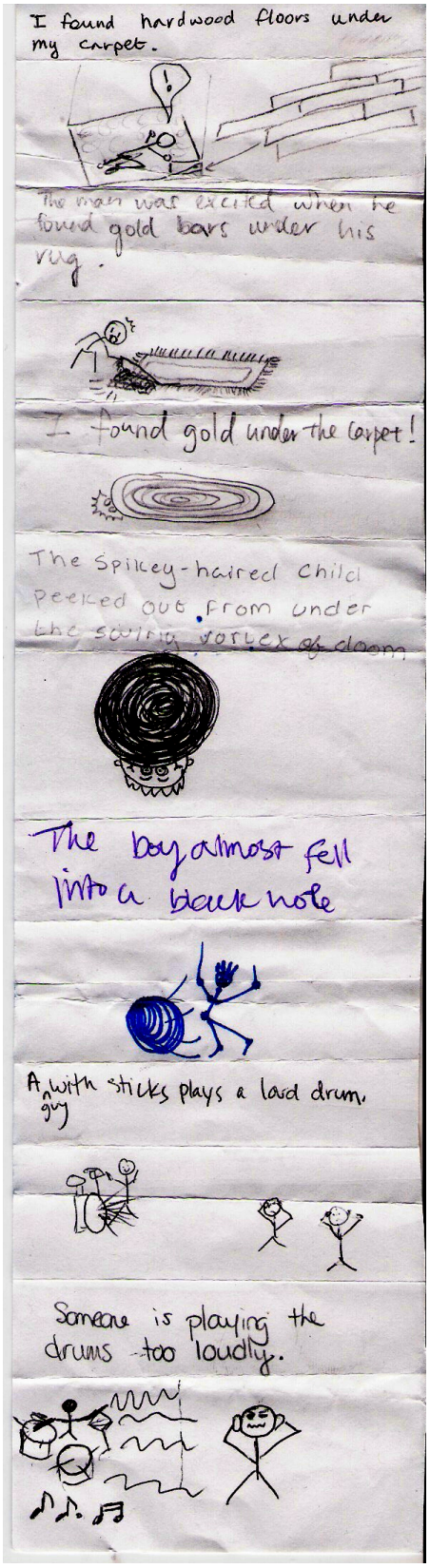
Once we played, danced, and sung all of our energy away, we spread our sleeping bags all over the floor, and finished the night by watching two movies.

The evening with fellow Glee-girls was not only a great social experience but also an escape from the "vortex of doom," also known as homework…

- Emilia Fracz, Graduate Student



Having fun at the retreat!



More about our club!

Midnight Blue was formed in 2006 under the umbrella of the Women's Glee Club, as a jazz-y a capella group. Last year, the group lost seven of its members, but with this set-back came seven new girls ready to jump on the band-wagon. We also decided to take the group in a new, creative direction. Now, Midnight Blue's "About Us" tag-line reads: a long, long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away, eight girls banded together forming a league of sing-song sirens. Taking the world by storm, the group crooned their merry little jigs capturing and delighting all who came within earshot. Calling themselves Midnight Blue, for their ethereal tone and magical prowess, these eight young lad-esses dance and sing, bringing joy and happiness to those in need.

Midnight Blue is now singing more contemporary up-beat songs arranged by its own members, as well as a few 'artsy' pieces to showcase the girls' ability to harmonize and blend. This past fall, Midnight Blue sang classics like "Stand By Me" by Ben E. King, re-created new lyrics to Billy Joel's "For the Longest Time" (which we called "That Boy Won't Be Mine), and a performed a song by the Stephen Hatfield called "For Elizabeth". At this year's spring concert, Midnight Blue is going to sing "Somebody to Love" by Queen, "Hide and Seek" by Imogen Heap, "Long Time Traveler" by the Wallin' Jennys, and "River of Dreams" by Billy Joel (though I should tell you these lyrics were also re-written to reference the stressful experience of writing papers late at night). In my opinion, Midnight Blue's new image has revamped the group's appeal and recognition on campus, while also rising to the amazing standards held by University and the Women's Glee Club.

- Molly Netter, Senior and Midnight Blue member

The WGC Experience

As someone who has continued on to graduate school directly after my undergraduate studies at U of M, I have had the unique experience of being involved with the Women's Glee Club (WGC) for six years. During my involvement I have seen the WGC undergo many changes, including the arrival of a new director in fall of 2006 and the creation of the vocal jazz ensemble, Midnight Blue. The WGC has also toured various locations including the East and West Coasts, the Midwest, and a trip to Austria last summer. Additionally, WGC has increased its community involvement through performances at assisted living centers, appearances at high schools, and partnerships with other community performance groups.

Despite all these changes, I think the "WGC experience" has largely remained the same. Twice each week I walk through the doors of the Modern Languages Building and am greeted by the smiles of the other girls who are waiting for rehearsal to start. Each semester new girls struggle to learn all the Blues music, in addition to our demanding concert repertoire, and as the semester continues, we try to keep from chatting *too* much during rehearsal. Of course, we can also always count on retreats to include many shenanigans. The ability of the WGC to be such a dynamic student group, while still maintaining valuables traditions is what has brought me back every semester for six years.

- Jaye Stapleton, Graduate Student



Spring Tour

The Executive Board is excited to announce the Spring 2010 Glee Club Tour Destination. The club will be heading south, with planned stops in Birmingham, AL, and Atlanta, GA, as well as possible stops in Kentucky or Tennessee en route. We will be working with local alumni groups to plan dinners, home-stays, and concerts at each location. The ladies are very excited for the performances and the possibility of working with local churches or schools along the way. There will also be time planned for fun and exploration, of course, mostly in Birmingham and Atlanta. The trip is scheduled for May 3-9, 2010. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in donating toward the tour fund or attending any events, please feel free to contact the Business Manager, Shelley Fauver, at mcfauver@umich.edu.

- Shelley Fauver, Junior



Photo: Glee girls waiting for the fall concert to begin.