

THE OLD MAN ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR THE OLD MEN OF THE
WHEATON COLLEGE GLEE CLUB
A STUDENT-LED PUBLICATION



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Upcoming Performances

Come hear us sing in the Christmas Festival! This year's Christmas Festival, Beautiful Savior will be on December 2 at 7:30 p.m. and December 3 at 4:00 and 7:30 p.m., LIVE in Edman Chapel. Whether you would like to attend in person or tune in virtually via Livestream, visit wheaton.edu/christmastickets for tickets or wheaton.edu/streaming to watch online.

Stay tuned for the following performances:

Spring Concert April 15

Commencement Concert May 5

Dear Men's Glee Club alumni,

Many of you have heard the news that this will be my final year at Wheaton and as the Men's Glee Club director. After 43 years, I have real peace that this is the right time to step back. The last 20 years of working with the MGC have been fabulous, and I will miss all the fun of the Club. Peter and I will not be moving away, so I look forward to being "around" Wheaton for many years, helping in any way I can.

Last summer, a Wheaton alumna who serves as a missionary in France let me know that she and her husband were anxious for me to bring another group to Lyon to assist in their ministry. At the same time Chorale alumna, Michelle Mack Fiore and her husband Sam Fiore, MGC Old Man, had expressed a desire for one of our ensembles to come to Geneva, Switzerland, to aid in their ministry.

So, this seemed like a confluence of many things – my last tour, including both the Women's Chorale and Men's Glee Club and the opportunity to serve in ministry partnership with those serving the Lord in Europe.

We have contracted with Witte Travel, an organization I have used for both MGC and WC tours in the past. Witte works out of Grand Rapids, MI, and understands our desire to serve in ministry on these trips. They also have a good track record of setting up concerts in strategic places, doing publicity, and printing our programs. This newsletter will outline ways you can support this tour.

I hope to also see many of you at our home concert this spring – plan to come on April 2 for the chance to sing A Mighty Fortress and E'en So with me in the new Armerding Concert Hall!

Dr. Mary Hopper





Giving is easy!

Visit www.wheaton.edu/giving and follow these instructions:

1. Select the "Make a Gift Today" button
2. Select the "Give to the area(s) of your choice" radial button
3. Type "Europe" in the search bar
4. Check the box next to "Men's Glee Club and Women's Chorale Europe Tour"
5. Click "Continue"

Gentlemen!

The time has come for us to act, serve our fellow Glee Clubbers, and contribute to the work that the Lord is doing around the world. Any of you who have been on tour, particularly an international tour, understand that these trips have life-altering, kingdom-furthering potential. The experience of singing God's praises with your brothers (and sisters) in Christ in both sacred and secular settings is a joy like no other, and it is a joy that is being offered to this year's Men's Glee Club and Women's Chorale. Unfortunately, it is a joy that has a pretty high barrier to entry: the prohibitive cost of the trip.

Right now, the two-week trip will run each student about \$4700, a heavy financial burden on young men and women already concerned with paying for their tuition, books, room, and board, etc. However, we can do something about this. The Old Man Association Board is asking all of you, yes, all of you, to prayerfully consider financially supporting this tour, and you don't need to make a big donation to make a big difference.

This year is the Glee Club's 115th year making music for Christ and his Kingdom. If we all contribute just \$115 to this tour, we can make a substantial impact on the lives of these young people. Think of it in these terms, if every member of the Old Man Facebook page gave \$115, we would raise just over \$55,000. This would lower each students' cost by more than \$1000. That is just the men from our Facebook group; just think of the impact we could have if all the Old Men and the alumnae of the Women's Chorale gave \$115!

Gentlemen, let's commit to giving \$115 for the 115th year of the Men's Glee Club. Let's make this trip possible for some young people who otherwise wouldn't be able to go. Let's give Dr. Hopper the best possible send-off tour. Let's support the work of the Lord through the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club.

Scott Reed & Max Terman
Co-Chairs OMA Board

Letter from the MTK President

James Graham '22

*My soul doth magnify the Lord
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior*

November is my favorite month of the year to be in Glee Club. It launches the frantic push towards the Christmas Festival, and it marks the official season for playing Christmas music (though my seven housemates fiercely disagree). I can practically hear Edman buzzing with energy as the crowd shuffles in for the first evening performance. I can almost see the candles raised for Silent Night. More importantly, my heart brims to overflow knowing that in a few short weeks, we, the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club, will share the Gospel with thousands of people. The Gospel will go to people at all stages of belief, curiosity, and even skepticism--from the stage in Edman chapel to people across the country through American Public Television.

For, behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge my doubts about the prospect of singing in another Christmas Festival barely six months ago when I departed campus for my summer job. My junior year, 2020–21, was a struggle for the Club. We began the year singing outside, spaced 10 ft apart, and underneath masks (imagine trying to hear the other parts). By January, we had thankfully moved inside our majestic new Concert Hall, and yes, still donning masks, but now only 6 ft distanced instead of ten. In a sense, we navigated the year through Dr. Hopper's sheer determination that the Glee Club should continue to sing praises and work for the glory of God. I am incredibly proud of the manner in which the Club remained joyful and continued to sing music at a level worthy of the traditions we have inherited. The men still gathered for Buxtefooda on Thursdays, pulled off the Christmas party with extraordinary creativity, and still found a way to tell stories (shameonyouJoelJamison!!!) during our entire 4-hour "covid-safe" tour. I wouldn't trade last year's memories for anything.

*He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek*



I believe that in this, my last, our High Conductress Dr. Hopper's final, and the Glee Club's 115th year at Wheaton, that now more than ever, our mission is more than just music-making—as noble and beautiful as that is. Our mission is kingdom building. Our duty while in the Glee Club is to share the Gospel and further the kingdom of God through our rehearsals, relationships within the Club, and performances. This year, I eagerly await singing in nursing homes for the holidays, opening doors for strangers when the Club ushers concerts, and the remarkable opportunity we have to spread the Good News throughout our Tür this next summer in France & Switzerland. Could last year's toils—I have wondered—have been meant to prepare us for the rewards of this one? Maybe God, in his infinite and perfect wisdom, was preparing us for something good when we least expected it? He has, after all, promised to do abundantly more than we could ask or imagine. This season reminds us that He did this preeminently in the gift of his Son. Why couldn't we, in light of that, believe that He might be about to give us our best year yet?!

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Holy Ghost
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be:
World without end.
Amen*

Fall 2021 for the Club: An Overview

Samuel Reich '22

Coming off an admittedly tough year where Covid significantly hampered our singing ability, this year has been characterized by lowered restrictions and thus more opportunities to engage in our regular functioning—something the men of the Club have embraced with enthusiasm. To make up for the relative paucity of new members who joined the Club last year, we successfully roped in sixteen new members, including freshmen and upperclassmen. These New Men have provided fresh energy to the Club, and it has been a joy to introduce both them and those who joined last year to traditions that Covid had prevented us from doing in the previous eighteen months.

One of the Club's most prominent highlights this year has been using the brand-new choral rehearsal room in Armerding, adjacent to the quad. With its convenient access and impeccable acoustics, this is a significant step up from the College Church choral rehearsal room that we have used in the past. The Club's first live performance this year—in fact, the first performance with a live audience the Club has held indoors since Spring Break of 2020—was for the dedication of the new choral rehearsal room, which was named in honor of Clayton Halvorsen. Fittingly, we opened the dedication with *A Mighty Fortress* and closed with *E'en So*.

This year has also brought along with it our first opportunity of singing concerts for live audiences from the stage of the new concert hall. For the grand gala opening of this hall, we sang pieces in two performances amidst a hodge-podge of other ensembles and instrumentalists. Highlights of this concert were a Vaughan Williams piece that we sang with Women's Chorale and Concert Choir (*O Clap Your Hands*), accompanied by the concert hall's brand-new organ, and the gospel piece *The Storm is Passing Over*.

Covid, while less of a threat this year than last, has still posed some challenges to the Glee Club's functioning. We alternated between singing with and without masks throughout the semester, based on how high Wheaton's Covid numbers were. Early in the semester, our president James Graham and our pianist Joel Jamison both got Covid, and with other sporadic quarantines of other Clubbers throughout the semester, attendance was unstable. Despite these challenges, we have been far less encumbered by Covid this year than last and are thrilled to be able to rehearse in one room without inordinate distancing, with live, in-person concerts on the horizon. At this point in the semester, Wheaton's Covid numbers are thankfully low enough that we can sing without masks, which

makes a big difference to our sound. Dr. Hopper's leadership and prudent navigation through issues caused by Covid have been a tremendous blessing for the Club.

This year's Homecoming concert gave us the opportunity to perform a fuller repertoire than we had at the gala performance. Highlights included a moving arrangement of *There Is A Redeemer*, which our Honors conductor Wesley Mosby directed us in; Morten Lauridsen's radiant *Sure On This Shining Night*. Some other favorites include the reflective contemporary piece *I Saw Eternity*, featuring Wes on soprano sax and some fantastic vocal soloists; and the lively *Let The River Run*, with piano, double-bass, and percussion. The day after the concert, we had the yearly *Old Man Coffee* (thanks to those who attended!) and sang the national anthem together at the homecoming football game.

The prospect of a European Tür this summer with Dr. Hopper and the Chorale is absolutely thrilling, especially since we could not go on Tür last year, and the spring 2020 Tür was cut short. Thankfully, reduced Covid restrictions allowed us to resume workdays around Wheaton to fund the trip, and with the anticipated support from the Old Men, Tür is in sight! Thank you all for considering making a gift to support the upcoming Tür!

On the nearer horizon, we're looking forward to Christmas Fest, and in the spring, we will be singing Leonard Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms*. We'd love for you to attend some or all of these upcoming performances!

This overview would be woefully lacking if I failed to mention the incredible role that Dr. Hopper has played in Club this semester and throughout the whole pandemic. Last year was a tough one for choral singing. Yet, Dr. Hopper's infectious determination to make the best of what we had with good attitudes and musical integrity pushed us to heights of music-making that we could not have expected. This year, she has continued her indomitable leadership role as vigorously as ever, successfully turning yet another roomful of rowdy college men into a giant, precise instrument. The next Glee Club director will have big shoes to fill! Please pray for Club as we look towards the transition of leadership that Club will face next year. Also, pray that this last year will be a fulfilling one for Dr. Hopper.

Dr. Hopper is not just good at making choirs sound good; she has also personally impacted the lives of many individual Clubbers. Given this fact, I have collected four testimonials from current Clubbers about how Dr. Hopper influenced them.

Karsten Mohn, '22

Dr. Hopper has made a significant impact on me over the last four years. Her care for students is unparalleled when compared to any of my previous music instructors. There were many occasions throughout my time at Wheaton when I needed someone to talk to who would listen to me and encourage me, and Dr. Hopper was often that person. My favorite memory of Dr. Hopper occurred at our Homecoming concert in 2019 during our singing of “Confirma hoc, Deus” by Jacob Handl. There was a point near the end of the song, as we were entering into the final chorus, where Dr. Hopper stopped conducting, stepped back, and simply smiled at us with tears in her eyes. This moment was really special for me, as Dr. Hopper’s love for music and love for us was so very evident. Thank you, Dr. Hopper, for all you have poured into Wheaton College, the Men’s Glee Club, and the thousands of students you have served. You will be dearly missed!

The moment I described happens at about the 2:20 mark in the following video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nV1PmtNvWmE>.

Nathan Leschke '24

During my first strange year of college during the pandemic, Dr. Hopper was a bright light that shone twice a week into my life. Her witty sense of humor and her delight in our choir was infectious, and it is thanks to her that I became a committed member of the Men’s Glee Club. She has given me a new love of singing and has shown me that my passion for performance is intimately connected to my love of God. I can’t thank her enough for everything she has taught me in the short year and a half that I’ve known her. All hail our Most High Conductress!

David Yu, '23

Having never lived in the US before, I joined Glee Club when I was dealing with a lot of culture shock. Glee Club helped me build great relationships with guys who also love music. Dr. Hopper’s leadership is at the core of Glee Club’s great community. From fun warm-ups, prayer groups, to different events and celebrations, nothing would be possible without Dr. Hopper’s active supervision. She is also such a caring person. While I was stuck on campus during COVID Christmas, she even made me Christmas cookies which really warmed my heart. I will most certainly miss Dr. Hopper’s leadership in the Men’s Glee Club.

Jacob Williams, '25

While I have only known Dr. Hopper as a choir director for one year, I have known her as a mentor and a friend for many more years. Having gone to the same church for several years, Dr. Hopper has always taken time to listen to pieces that I have played and continues to be a source of wisdom if I have questions regarding music, Scripture, or life in general. As the Minister of Music at our church, Dr. Hopper bears a great responsibility for coordinating and inviting musicians such as myself to play preludes, postludes, accompany the choir, etc. She always executes to the best of her abilities and embodies a true worshipper of the Lord who gives her best to God in everything she does, especially in the beauty of music. I am so blessed to have had Dr. Hopper in my life, and I wish her the best in everything she does after her career at Wheaton College concludes.

Some Remarks from an Old Man

Sam Ostransky, '11

This weekend marks the 10 Year Reunion for the Class of 2011, making it the first time so many members of one class have been together in one space since our graduation on Mother's Day in Edman Chapel. My family cannot join, but it is special to remember the community to which I will always belong, whether I am present or away. I am also grateful to enjoy continued membership with the Men's Glee Club as an Old Man and wish I could join the MGC for "A Mighty Fortress" at the Homecoming Concert. Though unable to participate, it brings a smile to my face that the MGC continues on because it is bigger than any one member. I would like to offer the names of my fellow 4-year Old Men from the class of 2011, three other members with whom I had the privilege to sing: Daniel Saunders, Ozzie Johnson, and Josh Stackhouse. (If I have forgotten any others of you, please forgive and trust that I am holding the rail, perhaps to no avail!) Ten years ago, I was fearful of what life would look like beyond Wheaton; fearful of where I would live after four years on campus; fearful of singing my last note with the Glee Club, and fearful I would be unable to find meaning in new ventures. God has walked patiently beside me in those fears, has given me joys unlooked for, and has given grace for several of my shortcomings. Since then, I have been blessed with a wonderful family: my wife Leslie from my class at Wheaton (a gem from the Concert Choir!), my almost-2-year-old daughter Greta, and my son entering the world in January. My daughter has even begun to sing along with me to several MGC songs, ever quick to pop into my mind -- the only problem is, I probably know even less of the words now than I did back then! We have lived in Virginia, Tennessee, and now Maryland. Outside my family, I have found incredibly fulfilling work as a middle and high school teacher at a Christian school. And I am nearing the completion of my seminary degree from Reformed Theological Seminary. All of these have been gifts, especially for one so fearful of what life beyond Wheaton would look like. To the Old Men who have gone before my class and me: thank you for cultivating the Glee Club to be what it was for us. And to the New and Old Men who have come after my class: thank you for advancing our traditions and making them your own. I am proud to be in your ranks.

In Fraternitas,
Sam Ostransky

UPDATES FROM SOME 5-YEAR ALUMS

Jeffrey Ferreira, Class of 2016

Major: Chemistry

Living in: DeKalb, IL

Work: Chemistry PhD student at NIU, teaching assistant, etc.

Other Updates: I successfully became the president of China (it's all true)

Fond memory of Club: I really enjoyed Tür in Texas over spring break senior year. Singing the national anthem at the Mavericks game was surreal. Getting to hang out with club members outside of just rehearsal was really nice too.

Connor DeYoung, Class of 2016

Major: Mathematics and Secondary education Living in: Aurora IL Work: Teaching 8th grade math

Other Updates: Getting my masters at Baylor University.

Fond memory of Club: Singing the national anthem at the Dallas Mavericks game

Peter Desrosier, Class of 2016

Major: Media Communications

Living in: Austin, Texas

Work: Technical Visualization for Lidar Company

Other Updates: Getting married October 2, 2021!

Also I have adopted 2 dogs since graduating.

Fond memory of Club: Singing the national anthem at the Dallas Mavericks game in Texas. I'll always vividly remember it as one of the coolest, most exciting performances we ever did!

Ian Zanski, Class of 2016

Major: Music Composition

Living in: Milwaukee, WI

Work: Assistant Church Music Director and Piano Teacher

Other Updates: Working on recording an album.

Fond memory of Club: Every single time we sang E'en So together.

Did we mention, the Mavericks game?!

Yet Another Victory for the Basses

James Graham, '22

On a brisk October morning the basses and tenors trotted onto hallowed Lawson field to commence the 115th Bass/Tenor Football game—the basses (in their usual lofty air) announcing the certainty of the tenor's defeat, and the latter chiming back that this would be in fact be the year the tenors finally reclaimed the trophy. Dr. Hopper graced the match with her illustrious presence (supporting the basses, one can only presume). The Women's Chorale, always prized, never taken for granted, cheered on both basses and tenors with an energy that could only be described as thunderous. Meanwhile, our magnificent social chair, Luke Rutt, was hard at work preparing a culinary feast to last us another 115 years and perhaps put everyone in a food coma.

The game began with a devastating tackle by new man Noah Davies on our illustrious president James Graham as he carried the ball upfield (the sound reverberates still, still, still, still...). For the entire first half, the ground rumbled, and yells pierced the air as MGC brother fought brother before Dr. Hopper's watchful eyes (the thought no doubt occurring to her there might not be any voices able to sing come next rehearsal). Tenors and basses alternatively shouted "tackle him" or "that was a touchdown, it's all true!" or "For St. Buxtehude!"—all in an effort to rally their teams.

Incredibly, the score stood level at 21-21 after the tenors ran a kick return back for a touchdown to end the first half. Would this be the year? Could this be the year? The tenors were starting to believe...

The basses opened the second half with their own belief, tallying 21 unanswered points led by new man quarterback Jake Knot, who scored a touchdown, and president running back James Graham, notching two TDs of his own. Entering the 4th quarter, the score read 42-21. Never willing to cede defeat to their bitter rivals, the tenors charged back with captain and QB Ian Rose scoring two touchdowns in response, further firing up the already frothy crowd. With the score reading a tight 42-35 and with 5 short minutes on the clock and the tenors in possession of the ball, The Ass Bus himself, Sam Burk, decided to take matters into his own hands—literally—by intercepting {a pass from} QB Rose. Jake Knot added insult to the tenor's injury by finishing the game with back-to-back TD drives of his own, highlighted by a picture-perfect dime pass dropped to 6' 8" (some would say, 8' 8") Karsten Mohn's hands, right at the buzzer. The basses, ever magnanimous, offered the tenors first serving of the luscious hamburgers and delectable franks Luke handcrafted during the hard-fought match. After thanking the sopranos for their support, the tenors trudged off the field following their 115th consecutive setback: "There's always next year...."

CONNECT YOUR FRIENDS

Know any former Glee Clubbers who don't receive these newsletters? Help them out! Send their email address to alumni@wheaton.edu (or encourage them to do so)!

CONNECT YOURSELF!!!

Join the "Wheaton College Men's Glee Club Old Man Association" Facebook group to keep in touch with what is going on with your fellow Old Men!



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CONSERVATORY of MUSIC
For Christ & His Kingdom