

THE OLD MAN ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES
FOR THE OLD MEN OF THE WHEATON COLLEGE MEN'S GLEE CLUB



INTRODUCTION

By John Daigle, '15

After 111 years, God is still at work in the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club. He inhabits the praise of His people and is present in the words of truth and worship proclaimed. He is at work in the music itself, as the Holy Spirit stirs a desire for discipline and worshipful musicianship. He is active in the kinship of the Club and in cultivating meaningful relationships to encourage, challenge, and conform each one into the image of His Son.

continued on the following page

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- 1 - 2 Introduction
- 3 - 4 Introducing the New Men
- 5 China Tour 2017: A Guide
- 6 - 8 China Appeal Letter
- 9 - 11 Getting to Know Old and New Men
- 12 Upcoming Events

INTRODUCTION

continued from page 1

God got ahold of my life during my time in Glee Club and I am so thankful He did. We, the board of the recently formed Old Man Association, have a strong desire for this community to extend to alumni that we might all continue to grow together for Christ and His Kingdom.

To that end, we have established this organization to reunite Old Men with the Club. Our hope is not only to help old friends reconnect but also to provide opportunities for past and current members to forge new friendships. We have some events coming up this year where we would love to connect with you! Please continue reading this newsletter to learn more about the exciting things God is doing in and through the Men's Glee Club.

We invite each of you to join us in engaging with the past and present men of the Glee Club as we continue to grow in Christ together.

In Him,

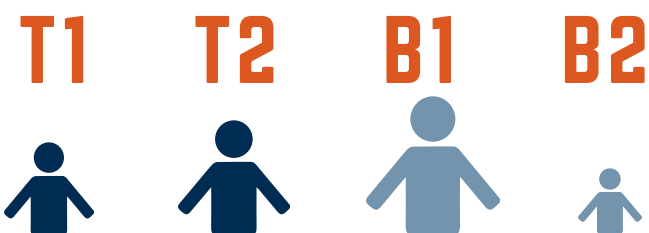
John Daigle

Alumni Relations Committee Chair

INTRODUCING THE NEW MEN



20 (TWENTY) NEW MEN

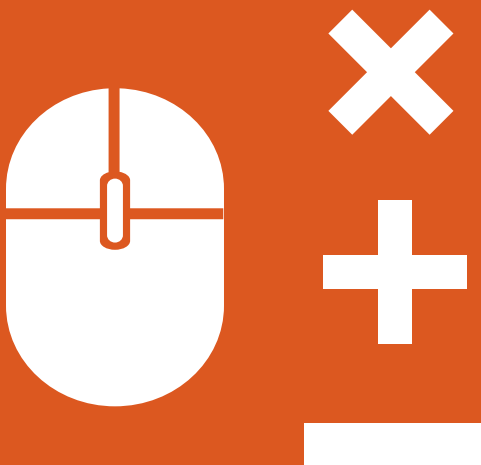
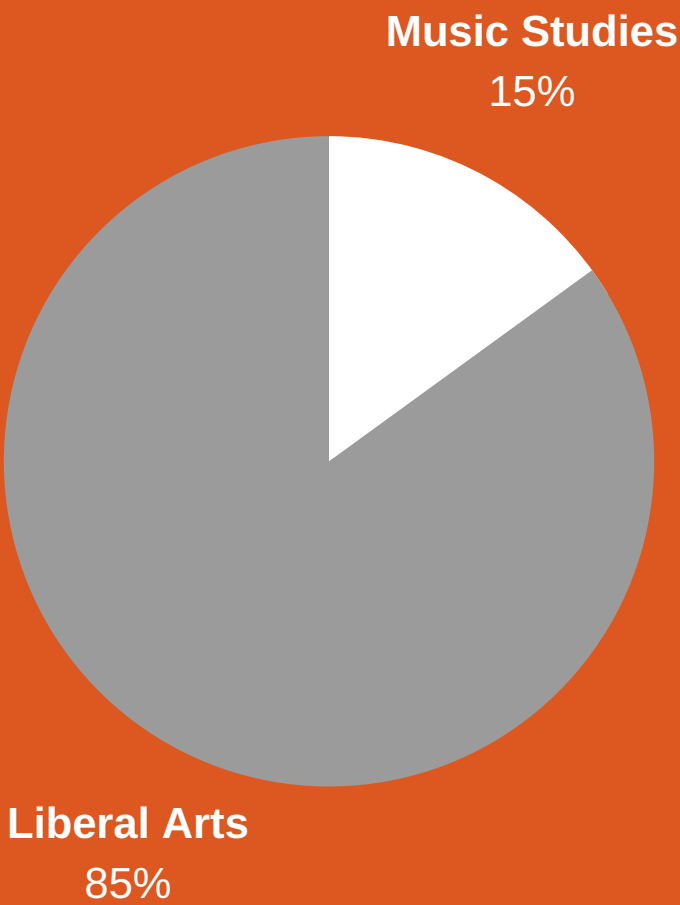


A group of twenty New Men, comprised of Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors, joined the Glee Club this year.

Ten tenors and ten basses were welcomed into the rich *fraternitas* of the Glee Club.

We were hoping for an influx of basses to help overcome their 111-year losing streak in the Bass-Tenor football game. Better luck next year, basses.

WHAT ARE THEY STUDYING

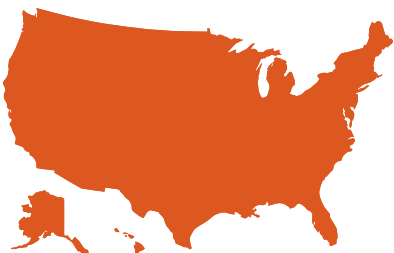


Computer Science and Math are the two most popular majors among New Men.

WHERE ARE THEY FROM

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The New Men come from four different countries: The USA, China, Poland, and Kenya.



Which state is the most common home for New Men from the USA?

Illinois! Surprise, right?



Where was the longest trip to Wheaton made from?

China! Looks like this New Man is heading home in just a couple months for a tour!



CHINA TOUR 2017: A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

DAY 1-2

HEADING TO CHINA

On November 16th, the Glee Club will fly out of Chicago for Beijing. With the time change, we will arrive on the evening of the 17th.



DAY 3



FIRST DAY, FIRST CONCERT

The first day in China for the Glee Club means the first concert! After spending the morning with their host families sightseeing around the Beijing Olympic Park, the Glee Club will sing at the Zion Church.

DAY 4

CHURCH SINGIN'

The Glee Club will begin the day by singing at the Beijing International Christian Fellowship for the Sunday morning service and in the evening, the Club will then perform a full concert for the congregation as well.



DAY 5-9

THE HAINAN CHORAL FESTIVAL

Day 5 marks the beginning of the heart of the China tour – the Hainan Choral Festival! After flying to the Chinese island of Hainan on the 20th, the Club will spend the next five days singing at the many concerts and choral events that make up the festival.

Hainan also happens to be a tropical island with a rich culture, stunning natural beauty, and delicious food, so hopefully the Club will carve out some free time from singing to enjoy their time there.



DAY 10

HEADING HOME

After the Hainan Choral Festival is complete, the Club will fly back to Chicago via Beijing. They will arrive back in Wheaton on November 25th – just six days before the first performance of the Christmas Festival.



FUNDRAISING FOR CHINA: AN APPEAL FROM THE OLD MAN ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Old Men,

The primary goal of the Old Man Association (OMA) is to connect brothers of all ages who have been blessed to be a part of the heritage of the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club. The friendships that we forged during our years in the Club and the shared and common memories that we experienced bond us all together. It's a joy to hear and share the stories of current students and Old Men down through the decades... stories that continue to build our core value of fraternitas or brotherhood. Fraterintas is not only built as we share our stories and have fun together, though we love to do that! It is also built as we care for and support one another.

Many of my most fond memories of the Men's Glee Club came from the tours we took. We had many great adventures, made glorious music, grew to love one another along the way and represented the Lord and Wheaton College as ambassadors of Christ and His Kingdom.

The exciting news is that the Men's Glee Club will be touring in China this November! Through Dr. Hopper's leadership in the American Choral Directors Association, the Glee Club has been invited to the [2017 Hainan Silk Road Choir Festival](#). In addition, the Club will spend two days in Beijing with concerts at churches and an opportunity to fellowship with Chinese Christians.

While the Festival covers most of the cost of the tour, there is still considerable expense to get our men to China and back. Each student will be responsible to cover his own expenses, which will be a significant challenge as first semester bills will have just been paid and second semester bills will be fast approaching!

The Old Man Association would like to join together in fraternitas to bless our brothers and lighten their burden for this amazing trip. Think of the Gospel fruit that will be produced in and through the men of the Club. Think of the memories and stories that will be added to our collective history as a result.

A secondary goal of the OMA is to raise funds for important projects and scholarships for the Club in keeping with one of Wheaton's strategic priorities: keeping the Wheaton experience affordable. We're excited to partner with the Glee Club to support this tour to China. **100% of the Old Man Association Board has already committed to financially contribute to the China Tour Fund, and we'd like to invite you to join us.**

Together, we'd like to raise \$30,000, which is 50% of the total anticipated tour expenses. Your generous gifts of any amount will enable us to send the men of the Club to China with our blessings and allow us all, upon their return, to be blessed by the stories they'll share of the work God did in and through them. Will you join us in this effort?

You can [click here to give online](#) quickly and easily via credit card or checks can be sent to:

Wheaton College Men's Glee Club (checks should be made payable to Wheaton College)
Conservatory of Music
501 College Ave.
Wheaton, IL 60187

All gifts are tax deductible and will be receipted.

Thank you for your partnership and fraternitas!

Chris Jahns for the Old Man Association Board

Update:

Thanks to the generous gifts of Old Men, the Old Man Association has already raised over 25% of our total fundraising goal of \$30,000. If you have not yet given to the China trip, we encourage you to join us in supporting our brothers. The Old Man Association is committed to supporting the men of the Club - this is why each member of the board of the Old Man Association has chosen to financially contribute to the China trip, and why we hope you will do the same.

GETTING TO KNOW OLD AND NEW MEN

By George Eichelberger, '18

I have had the immense privilege of serving as the Alumni Relations Chair for the Glee Club for the past year, and without a doubt, the best part of my job is getting to hear the stories of Old and New Men. I wanted to share this privilege with you by featuring some of the Old and New Men that I have gotten to meet, and sharing their experiences here.

FEATURED OLD MAN: PHILIP JOHNSTON

One of the incredible Old Men that I have had the great pleasure of meeting was former President of the Club, Phil Johnston. Phil was a member of the class of 1966 and was a member of the Glee Club during the heyday of Dr. Halvorson. Something particularly remarkable about Phil was that he went on a total of 10 tours – eight domestic and two international, the two international tours being the first two European tours in the history of the Men's Glee Club.

Phil shared a story with me from one of his tours in Europe, when he got the chance to sing in the Heiliggeist (Holy Spirit) Church in Heidelberg, Germany. During that tour, Phil sang in an antiphonal quartet. During a certain point in their concert, the antiphonal quartet would move to the back of whatever church or building in which they happened to be singing.

Navigating through the Heiliggeist church, however, was no easy feat. Although Phil and the rest of the antiphonal quartet managed to get to a balcony in the back of the church from which they could sing, after the quartet section of the concert was over, they could not find their way back to the stage!

It took them missing two songs until they finally managed to find their way back to the front of the church. Shambles!

Although discussions and stories about the shenanigans of those first European concerts were highlights of my conversation with Phil, another important takeaway that I had was his advice for me during the upcoming China trip. Phil advised that I keep track of the different experiences and memories I make during tours. “Memories fade”, he said, “but writings can last.”

I have never been particularly good at journaling, but I am hoping to take Phil’s advice to heart. This will be my last tour with the Glee Club, and I hope to make the very most of it. I think Phil’s advice to keep track of the different experiences I have will be an incredible blessing to me down the line when I look back on this trip – and who knows, maybe some new Club traditions could come out of it too.

FEATURED NEW MAN: SAM THOMPSON

This year, the Glee Club has received some absolutely incredible New Men. One of these distinguished gentlemen who I had the privilege of meeting with was Sam Thompson, a member of the class of 2019.

Sam is not your typical New Man. While most New Men are freshmen, Sam is actually a junior! He somehow managed to avoid the Glee Club during his freshman and sophomore years, but thanks to some very compelling Old Men whom he happened to live with, we finally managed to reel him into Club.

I got a chance to sit down with Sam and during our discussion he provided some incredible insights into the privilege we have to sing songs that testify to our faith. One song in particular that Sam mentioned was Offertory by John Ness Beck, a short, simple piece that carries profound theological meaning. The song deals with the idea of offering as an atonement for sin. Sam noted one line of the song in particular as striking to him: “Shall I give Him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

Sam noted the incredible blessing we have to sing songs that glorify God and remind us of his goodness and mercy. With the China tour coming up, remembering that blessing is more important now than ever. Sam reminded me that the songs that we sing are not just empty vehicles for musical beauty – they are testaments to the character of God for everyone who hears their words.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thanks to all of the Old Men who came out to sing the National Anthem alongside current Glee Club Men at the homecoming football game. It was a great time of fellowship and fraternitas for both the Glee Club and its alumni.

Our next planned event will be scheduled for Home Concert in the spring. Stay tuned for further information, and we will look forward to seeing you all there.



2017-2018 CALENDAR

November 16-25, 2017
MGC China Tour

December 1-2, 2017
Christmas Festival

April 13, 2018
MGC Home Concert

YOUR FACEBOOK FEED NEEDS MORE MEN'S GLEE CLUB

Want a simple way to connect to the broader community of Old Men? Join the Old Man Association group on Facebook.

Either click the button below, or enter "Wheaton College Men's Glee Club Old Man Association" in the Facebook search box, click on the group, and then select the "join group" button.

Find us on 