

# OMA NEWSLETTER



## OMA BOARD NOMINATIONS

ED BEDARD

Gentlemen! The Old Man Association is looking for new members to join its Board of Directors. The time commitment is minimal and there is simply no better way to give back to the Club that has made such a

difference in the lives of so many young men. Applications can be found [here](#). If you have any questions or want more information, please feel free to email Ed Bedard at [edbedard12@gmail.com](mailto:edbedard12@gmail.com).

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# Dedication to Clayton Halvorsen

By: Lee Augsburger

I had the pleasure of singing under Clayton Halvorsen from 1977 to 1981 touring the US every spring break on “Long Tour” and Europe after my sophomore and senior years. And while I have my memories from those years, I know that there are hundreds of Old Men before and after my time who have their own. Clayton Halvorsen left an indelible mark on all of us.

It began for me with the first rehearsal as the Freshmen were made to stand and sight sing some horribly challenging piece that the librarian had “just picked at random” with melismas, crazy syncopation and odd intervals. After we made a hundred musical mistakes in a single line of music (and wondering what had we gotten ourselves into) the Old Men stood and sang it flawlessly hardly looking at the sheet music, never letting on that they had sung the piece through Long Tour and in Home Concert the year before. To be fair, the second rehearsal was considerably easier.

Most all of us have “Coach-isms” in our memories that will never be erased. We were instructed that a gentleman never puts his hands into his pockets, unless it is to reach for tip. Coach warned us of hotel rooms on tour that would be so small “you have to go out into the hallway to change your mind” (and then we stayed in those places!). When challenged by long staggered breathing passages we learned to breathe through the “lacunae of the face.” (Which when we finally looked up the word made perfect sense).

We came to understand that “there is nothing older than a musical mistake.” And I’m guessing that for all of us who had the pleasure of an overseas tour, we still have a trench coat in our closets because of its great sartorial flexibility. Those of you reading this who sang under Coach Halvorsen can add your own memories, there are thousands, no doubt. Post them to the facebook page, I’m guessing we would all enjoy remembering them.

But here is the lasting substance - he taught us to sing for Jesus. Excellence, worship and honor of our King are all part of my memory of hundreds of concerts that we sang over the course of my 4 years in Club. The words of Psalm 115:1 are etched forever in my heart as I think about Men’s Glee Club - “Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!” Clayton Halvorsen’s legacy is hundreds of men whose lives carry the goal of singing for our Lord and singing for the glory of Christ and His Kingdom.

# THE MGC CHRISTMAS PARTY

BY MICHAEL HERR

On a chilly evening in mid-December, a bland classroom in the Armerding building began to be transformed. A TV screen at the back of the room came to life with the constant crackle of a Yule log; Christmas lights were strung from the ceiling and the walls; a Christmas tree went up in the front of the room, decked out with lights and with stockings bearing names like “El Presidente” and “Most High Conductress.” The scent of a freshly cooked ham wafted from the next room, and Cole Comfort busied himself with shuttling plate after plate of

cookies onto the snack tables. The cabinet had been hard at work, and now the festivities of the 112th annual Men’s Glee Club Christmas Party could begin. One by one and two by two, the men arrived at the party, gifts in hand and mouths watering at the display of food. Their appetites received no satiation as yet, however; instead, the Club first embarked on its yearly tradition of caroling to the neighborhood, allowing the good people of Wheaton to behold the time-honored spectacle of unfortunate Basses

struggling to keep up when an over-eager Tenor selects the key. Upon their return, the men of the Club finally tore into their Christmas ham, feasted on Dr. Hopper’s famous dip, and made general merriment. The gift exchange began shortly thereafter, featuring both the Club Relics and a smattering of original gifts. Among the former, such prizes as the Buxtaslugger and the Saddle of Dominion were rapidly stolen and re-stolen, while the mere existence of certain other Relics gave the Old Men much anxiety whenever a new envelope was opened by a hapless New Man. Continued on next page...

*"a...  
creative...  
sweater"*



Among the latter, some proved better than others (see: A Pack of Mints Wrapped in Seventeen Plastic Bags v. A Brand-New Fleece Blanket), but perhaps none could take the crown from Mr. Welander's gift, a ... creative (for lack of a more descriptive term) sweater, which your illustrious Chaplain had the great fortune to wear for the remainder of the party.

Around ten o'clock, after the last gift had been given, the men began to filter out, thoughts now turning to impending final exams and papers yet to be written. But for that evening, within the confines of that oddly redecorated classroom in Armerding, the men of the Glee Club had

*"...A Pack of  
Mints Wrapped  
in Seventeen  
Plastic Bags"*

been able to escape from the rest of their responsibilities and enjoy life with their brothers, marking the passage of the 112th annual Christmas Party with joy and fraternitas.

- Michael Herr,  
VP/Chaplain '19



# Love Divine: Wheaton Christmas Festival

Tyler Long

WHEATON, IL – Rating 5/5 (Make sure to check your local channels next December) – It was almost Christmas and the Glee Club was ready to celebrate. Well-dressed gentlemen poured into Edman, ready to sing their hearts out for a weekend of fake-Christmas-candle-lighting. We started by singing an acapella introduction. Dr. Trotter split the choir into a mini-balcony choir and full choir on stage. After such a sound introduction, the Glee Club then performed a rousing rendition of waiting for 30 minutes until our next song was on.



Concert Choir sang a beautiful French piece that raptured the audience. Women's Chorale sang "Sing we now of Christmas" with mind-bending clapping skills. When our turn came, we were ready to bring it home. Despite our quiet start, Glee Club ended with a soul-filled classic in "Rise Up Shepherds and Follow." Per Dr. Hopper's request, we sang louder and danced with larger motions than we had ever sung/danced before. Our singing was heralded by the sound of heavenly guitars, and an angel trio singing a tenor harmony echoed above the drums. Somehow, we nailed the song, Dr. Hopper was happy, and the audience was reminded of our response to the birth of Jesus Christ. Continued on next page...





During the concert, the Wheaton College ensembles got the chance to clearly testify about the powerful love of God, shown in the incarnation of Christ. Jesus embodies divine love for us in His birth, death, and resurrection. The Christmas Festival helped men, women, and children look forward to the Great Circling-Up (where we will one day Buxte-walk in perfection). In the words of St. John, “Even so Lord Jesus, quickly come.” Muchly briskly!





# A Smashing Time

By: Michael Smith

On February 2nd 2019, Glee Clubbers of various size, dress, and vocal register readied their thumbs and sharpened their minds for the 112th annual Wheaton College Men's Glee Club Super Smash Brothers tournament! The men with their FLAMING FILLANGES partook in a competition that could only be described as Ultimate!

The night began with an appreciable amount of Papa John's Pizza along with an oppressive amount of soft drinks. After paying careful attention to the number of guests, Matt Reiskytl drew up a tournament bracket that was sure to please. Glee clubbers then proceeded to take part in several sacred Smash game variants that have been around since the 92nd Annual tournament which was played on a humble N64.

Some readers may ask "game variants? How do you play this darn tootin game in the first place?". Well fret not frivolous onlooker for I will go over the basics! In Super Smash Brothers the first thing you want to do is throw your controller out the window and get yourself a Wii remote! The Wii remote has been called "the best remote for smashing" (sakurai 2012). Next you will probably want to pick a really good character to play as. I recommend either the Nintendo classic Dr. Mario the ferocious pink puffball Kirby! Lastly, in the words the esteemed El Presidente, "Go left".  
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Now that you have the basics, let's get into the action. Clubbers were swift to enjoy a game type that involved so much water that three controllers broke. The unyielding Winsor Boggs personally flicked three gallons of water onto the face of an unenthused recipient. Clubbers were also shocked as Noah Kim danced the night away. His excitingly sporadic movements entranced the audience and won him several free moments to smash his opponents into oblivion! Karsten Mohn was able to advance in bracket by performing a secret task in just the right way in the game variant secretsecretsecret.

Half way through the night glee clubbers Michael Smith, Winsor Boggs, Adam Reiskyt, and Sammy Thompson enjoyed some potentially non-covenant approved fun by wagering their positions in the tournament on a random level 9 CPU. By the end of evening, clubbers had bonded like never before, tracked down Harambe, and they had been helped out on numerous occasions. In the end, the boys needed to be separated from the men. In a leap of faith, four champions took to the ring and settled things once and for all in an all-out, no holds, blind bout. The finalists fought hard facing away from the screen! Relying solely on the vivid description of a selected team mate, these titans exchanged forward smashes and countless projectiles. At the end there was but an alligator and wolf remaining. Fists flying, razors being loosed, only one could come out on top! When dust settled, the victor was none other than NOAH KIM! This new man earned himself a place on an imaginary yet honorable wall of heroes reaching back to the early 1900s. All said and done, it was a night that will be hard to forget!





# MGC Home Concert

By: Dr. Mary Hopper

## Concert Title: MGC and Friends

The Home Concert this year will center around three themes and feature guest musicians. The opening section is music of faith. Old men will recognize several of the pieces including The Last Words of David, Cantique de Jean Racine, and At the Cross. The Fauré piece will feature tenor Jeffrey Hitchcock on violin.

The middle part of the program contains themes of peace and reconciliation. Two new pieces will be tied together by spoken word artist, Stevener. The Trumpet Sounds Within-a My Soul will feature senior music major, Joel Campau on Trumpet. Glory (from SELMA) will feature Stevener and many soloists from the Glee Club.

Love songs are always a big hit with the Glee Club. Our final part of the program includes one of my favorite arrangements of a beautiful song, When I Fall in Love with French Horn major Cameron Harro

And, of course, we will close with our traditional songs and invite YOU to join us as we sing E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come and A Mighty Fortress. I look forward to seeing you on stage April 12.



**Men's  
Glee  
Club**

Mary Hopper, Director

## *Home Concert 2019*

Friday April 12th  
7:30 - 9:30 pm  
College Church

### **Guests:**

- **Stevener**, Spoken Word
- **Joel Campau**, Trumpet
- **Cameron Harro**, French Horn
- **Stuart Hoskin**, Snare Drum
- **Jeffrey Hitchcock**, Violin

## Not Connected?

Know a former Glee Clubber that doesn't receive these newsletters? Help them out! Send their email or put them in contact with [alumni@wheaton.edu](mailto:alumni@wheaton.edu) to assist them in reconnecting with their roots.

## Spring 2019 Calendar **April 12th, 2019**

### **MGC Home Concert**

We invite you to join us for the 2019 MGC Home Concert! Please come for a time of fellowship, singing, and a reception like no other following the the 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.

