

THE OLD MAN ASSOCIATION

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



What's Inside

p2: Letter from Dr. Blackstone

p3: Address from the President

p4-6: Home Concert Reunions:
Reflection

p6: Music Digitization Project

p7: OMA Recurring Giving Campaign

p8: Announcements

Fall Performances

The Men's Glee Club joined in a combined performance with the Women's Chorale and Symphonic Band on October 27.

Family Weekend Chorale Showcase on November 4th.

The Wheaton College Christmas Festival, *Let the Stable Still Astonish*, December 1 & 2. Tickets are available at tickets.wheaton.edu.

LETTER FROM DR. JERRY BLACKSTONE

The second year is better—and busier!—than the first, and I’m thrilled as an MGC Old Man to continue leading the Wheaton College Men’s Glee Club. Thank you, Max Terman and members of the Old Man Association, for your continued support of the Club. I am grateful for your wisdom and collective experiences from which to draw inspiration. It truly “takes a village” to allow wonderful choral ensembles to flourish and dream.

This Fall’s MGC numbers 42 singers, 18 of whom are brand new to the group and most to Wheaton College. For several of the men, singing in a TTBB ensemble is an entirely new experience. The potential is fantastic, and we are working hard to develop a beautiful and communicative sound. The exceptional Wheaton College MGC spirit of energy, commitment, diligence, and camaraderie is evident in every rehearsal, and I’m thrilled to be in the “thick of things!”

We are very excited about the March 1-8 tour with the MGC! We’ll depart Wheaton on Friday, 3/1, head to Minneapolis for the weekend, then wind our way through Iowa, arriving back in Wheaton on Friday, 3/8. Please send us possible concert locations, high schools we should visit, and touristy locations we can’t possibly miss! We’d love to welcome you to these performances!

This year’s cabinet is full of mature leaders who serve with courage, warmth, and wisdom. It is a great joy to see the love of Christ reflected in their faces and beautiful singing. When you see and hear us, you will see yourselves again singing the Lord’s praises with your beloved Wheaton Men’s Glee Club brothers! What a privilege!



*Jerry Blackstone, Old Man (1970-72)
Visiting Professor of Music
Conservatory of Music
Wheaton College*

SUPPORT THE TOUR

2023-2024 Men’s Glee Club Events

- 10/27 at 7:30 p.m. Concert w/ Women’s Chorale & Band
- 11/4 at 7:30 p.m. Family Weekend Chorale Showcase
- 11/11 Morning Tenor/Bass Football game
- 12/1 at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Festival Perf I
- 12/2 at 4:00 p.m. Christmas Festival Perf II
- 12/2 at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Festival Perf III
- 1/13 at 12:30 p.m. Voice Day: TTBB
- 3/1 8 Spring Break Tour to Minnesota with Women’s Chorale
- 4/6 at 7:30 p.m. Spring Concert, Canto Vivo
- 5/3 at 7:30 p.m. Commencement Concert

ADDRESS FROM THE PRESIDENT: SAMUEL BURK

Dearest Old Men,

I joined the Men's Glee Club during one of the most difficult times in our history. The 2020-21 school year was hampered by mask mandates, social distancing, and travel restrictions. The 2022 Europe Tür, meant to be Dr. Hopper's final sendoff, was canceled. That fall, we were incredibly fortunate that Dr. Blackstone stepped in as our new director. Still, this meant an uphill battle for the cabinet as we both had to help New Men and our director learn our traditions. Through it all, the Glee Club sang on. We sang masked when required, put together a Tür to South Carolina and Georgia, and put on a banquet 95 floors above the Chicago skyline.

This year is shaping up to be (dare I say it!?) the first "normal" year for the Men's Glee Club in a while. No global pandemics on the horizon, no conductor changes. Fingers crossed that I'm not jinxing anything! The early signs, though, are a testament to the ways God has blessed us and sustained us through trials. This year, we have the largest crop of New Men during my time at Wheaton — nearly 20 guys successfully auditioned to join, making up almost half of the current Club. The 43 members of this year's Club hail from 6 countries and represent a whopping 27 different majors. Just last week, this year's New Man Party saw some of the best skits in the Glee Club, the most intense Rook playing, and the most enthusiastic New Men to be officially added to the ranks of Glee Clubbers. These newly inducted men have quite a lot to look forward to as well, not the least of which being the Tür currently in the works to take us along with the Women's Chorale to Minnesota and Iowa over spring break.

These things are all extremely exciting and have me on the edge of my seat as we look forward to what's still to come. E'en So (pun wholly intended), the part I am most looking forward to is continuing our mission of bringing praise to Christ in everything we do. I can't wait for Christmas caroling, serving the community on our workdays, and singing about the Gospel of Jesus to audiences that may have never heard the Good News before. I can't wait to spend time with my brothers, building one another up in Truth, Integrity, and Brotherhood. And I can't wait to see what God has in store for the Men's Glee Club in its 117th year!

I invite you to share in my excitement for what's to come.
We are so thankful for your prayers and support.
Here's to the year ahead!

Blessings,
Samuel Burk



Home Concert Reunions: Reflections

During the weekend of April 15, 2023, several dozen MGC Old Men gathered on Wheaton's campus to remember and reflect on their experiences on their overseas tours. Over the next couple Newsletters, we're going to publish several reflections submitted by various Old Men on their experiences – on tour and in general – as part of the Wheaton College Men's Glee Club. I hope they serve as an encouragement to you, as they bring you back to your own experiences in Club. Enjoy.

M. Lane McIntyre MGC 1982-1986

Scott Kline

What a unique and grand day that was enjoyed by all who were able to participate in the Men's Glee Club tour reunion and evening concert. The "63" group all realized that God blessed our lives and matured us as young Christian men through that tour and other club activities. We all shared our life stories and renewed friendships, even if we may not see each other again until God calls us home.

Interacting with other present and past club members was delightful, and the student hosts were helpful. The concert practice time was a highlight as we enjoyed Dr. Blackstone's skills as a director and teacher, helping and encouraging the "Old Men" to fit in with the group for closing numbers at the concert.

The spring concert demonstrated well that college men of diverse fields of study could join together and become skilled singers praising the Lord while having great fun.

Scott Kline Class of '65

Don King

Thank you for stepping up with this opportunity for some of us "old men" to share nuggets of our past with the marvelous young men that are currently in the Club. I very much enjoyed participating in the recent 1973 reunion, and it far surpassed my expectations. The conversations and pictures we shared made my heart overflow with gratitude for the amazing opportunity I had at such a young age to travel the world and share the gospel through music. In fact, it means more to me now than it did 50 years ago. In recent years, I have traveled to many of the same countries and cities where we sang, and the blessing of it all seems too much to contain.

A few lifelong lessons-

- 1) The roots of Christian brotherhood were planted and have continued to bear fruit.*
- 2) I developed a lifelong appreciation for good vocal music.*
- 3) Thankfulness for the sacrifices of the "old men" who preceded us and established a solid reputation.*
- 4) Whatever you do, do excellently to the glory of God!*

*Thanks again,
Don King, MGC Pres '75*

Home Concert Reunions: Reflections (Cont.)

Blair Carlson: One Small Step

My older brother sang with MGC when he was a student at Wheaton and he insisted that I audition when I started in August of 1970. Somehow waiting in Pierce Chapel to go in for the audition I met Michael Linton, also a freshman, and as a composition major in the Conservatory he knew his way around. Our lifelong friendship began that day as he must have noticed I was nervous and gave me the best advice ever, "Just belt it!" Needless to say, somehow, I got in and became a second tenor.

Almost straight away, as an art major, I got involved in silk-screening T-shirts for the MGC intramural teams, and helping with set design, etc. for our home concerts. It must have been through these connections that at the end of my sophomore year I was nominated and elected to join the Cabinet and serve with President Curt Almquist as Business Manager for my junior year 1972/1973. The position would entail working on the long and the short US concert tours, organizing local Sunday night concerts, and planning the scheduled European tour in the summer of 1973. For this, I was connected to Dr. Cording. We became a team to prepare the summer concert schedule for a number of countries. And I would be the legs man and point person on the tour itself.

This is all a back story to say this. I was seriously dyslexic growing up. Schooling was big trouble for me as I did not learn to read until I was 12. I attended a British primary school in the former British Colony of Hong Kong. Neither my teachers nor my parents really understood what was going on and why learning to read was so hard. Even though they knew I could not read they still kept advancing me year by year and my teachers would still call me up to the front of the class to read sections of the books just like the other children – which I couldn't do. So I was kind of shamed in front of my classmates, although I could not have explained this feeling then. But as a result, I hated standing in front of anyone, anytime, for any reason.

Fast forward to serving as the MGC Business Manager for the year. My first job was to stand and tell the men what time the bus would leave Pierce Chapel on a Sunday afternoon. It was only to announce the day and the time and the place of the church concert. But I was scared to death. To me, it was like giving a major speech live on TV with a vast crowd watching. I was energized by the work of organizing. I enjoyed the details of the tours/concerts. That was not the issue. It was the announcements that were terrifying. I never told anyone, and no one commented that I seemed nervous, that I can remember. The point is to say that God used that position and that small step to push me forward. I think He must have organized this first step to help me get over my fear of standing up front and opening my mouth.

Today I am the minister of a small Anglican Church plant here in Minneapolis. Prior to this, for over 26 years, I worked with Billy Graham arranging his missions in various cities around the world. The work of both entails standing up in front. So, for this article, I want to thank God for using MGC in such an unusual way. As I look back, I give thanks to my brother who encouraged me to join. I am thankful to Michael Linton for the timeliness of his advice. I am thankful for whoever it was who put my name forward for business manager. I loved the singing. I treasure the friendships formed. I was challenged by the work. But I am most impressed by a faithful God who so graciously found a way to provide healing, beginning with that one small step of standing up and telling everyone the time the bus would be leaving.

Blair Carlson '74

Home Concert Reunions: Reflections (Cont.)

Phil Johnston

Coming to Wheaton in 1963 as a new freshman, I'd already been immersed in the Men's Glee Club following older brother Dave, a senior and an "old man" whom I'd seen on tours and at home concerts. Joining Men's Glee that first year rapidly affirmed that group as my "community" for the next four years.

Each of the ten tours I participated in during the following four years had distinctive impacts on my personal and spiritual growth. Still, that inaugural 1963 European tour was uniquely formative in several ways. The flight from New York to Shannon, Ireland, was my first time on an airplane and my first time out of the country. But far more than that, it was my first time experiencing the cultures of my origins and an even then (!) post-Christian spiritual world predictive of what lay ahead for our own.

Seven whirl-wind weeks of plane flights, bus trips, nightly concerts, and delightful over-nights with diverse families in ten countries proved transformative in my understanding of how and where God was at work in the world beyond the one I'd known for 18 years. The intense interpersonal relationships that developed among the 44 men who shared that tour imprinted the importance of a mutual spiritual journey as a life pattern for the ensuing 60 years. Clayton Halvorsen's high musical standards and example of personal integrity were equally formative in my future choices and involvements. As a chemistry major, I felt privileged to experience an epic musical venture that nurtured a life-long thirst to maintain choral singing as a vital avocation. The overseas travel itself gave birth to decades of a desire to grow my worldview with similar trips exploring aspects of music, medicine and education beyond that of the country I grew up in.

Clearly, the trajectory of my life was altered in many positive ways by that 1963 tour. Its impact is still resonating in my daily life. And reflecting on that with the May 2023 gathering 60 years later confirms its value!

Phil Johnston, Wheaton 1966

MUSIC DIGITIZATION PROJECT: ROUND 3

Accessing the MGC recordings has been challenging, but the MGC Archive has been steadily creating a collection of streamable music for all Old Men to listen to! So far, almost 100 Old Men have streamed their favorite pieces from the decades of recordings available in the Archive.

We are entering the 3rd round of beta testing and are ready to add more Old Men as users. If you are interested in signing up to be a tester of the MGC Archive, register at mgcarchive.org or by emailing us directly at mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu

If you have recordings from your days in the Men's Glee Club, we would love to add them! Please reach out to us at mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu

THE OMA RECURRING GIVING CAMPAIGN

When the Old Man Association was established in 2016, its mission was to “support the Wheaton College Men’s Glee Club and to glorify Christ and His Kingdom.” Seven years later, I am very proud of the work our Old Men have done in pursuit of this vision. In a few short years, the OMA has commissioned exclusive music, published its digital archive, fundraised for tours, hosted annual receptions at Homecoming and the Home Concert, and created this very newsletter. We’ve accomplished all of this through the dedication of Old Men, financial contributions from the Board, and ad-hoc giving campaigns.

But from the beginning, the OMA has desired to support the Club and its members in its day-to-day rhythms, not just on special occasions. And so this year, the Old Man Association hopes to take another step toward our mission by establishing a general fund through annual giving.

Through the annual, recurring support of Old Men like you, the general fund will be used to support specific objectives that will help the Club support its primary mission of furthering the Gospel of Jesus Christ and pursuing a whole-hearted community of Old Men, mentoring and serving one another in brotherhood, including:

- 1. Creating a scholarship to accompany the Four-Year-Man Award: The FYM award is presented to the rising senior who best lives out truth, integrity, and brotherhood as voted by the MGC. This scholarship aims to honor the recipient’s outstanding commitment to the Club and was a founding goal of the OMA.*
- 2. Defraying the Glee Club course fee. Each member of the Club pays \$425 per year in course fees and receives a music credit. This cost can be a heavy deterrent for many Men, especially new recruits and those with limited means. We aim to ease the financial anxieties that could pull any man away from membership in the Club.*
- 3. Assisting with tuxedos, blazers, and other mandatory New Man costs. In their first few weeks of school, New Men are inundated with costs and obligations from within the MGC and without. Hundreds of dollars out of pocket can be unfeasible for these freshmen, forcing them to make a commitment decision after only a few rehearsals.*

Your contributions to the general fund will also support other OMA projects, including MGC retreats, commissioned choral pieces, and Old Man receptions in pursuit of our vision to “help spread the Gospel across the world and build a long-lasting community of Old Men.” We also want you to know exactly how your contributions support the Club’s mission. To that end, there will be an annual report on the collection and disbursement of these funds in the OMA Newsletter.

Please join me and our fellow Old Men in supporting the MGC and OMA through contributions of any amount. While we encourage an annual recurring gift, one-time gifts are certainly welcome. You will be receiving a postcard with contribution details in the coming weeks, but you can also donate at any time using this [link](#). As always, you can contact me and the OMA board of directors at mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu. Thank you for your prayers, stories, and fellowship. I look forward to seeing how God uses our contributions for His Glory.

Max Terman '17
Chairman
Old Man Association



Announcements

- **Spring Tour to Minnesota and Iowa:** The Club will tour with the Women's Chorale through Minnesota and Iowa during the 2024 spring break. If you would like to support this tour, [donate with this link.](#)
- **Participating in the Men's Glee Club** has been a life-changing and life-defining experience for many of us. As we seek to stay connected as Old Men and part of each other's lives, we'd like to begin sharing news and updates of significant life moments such as weddings, births, and the deaths of Old Men. But we need your help! If you've recently married, expanded your family, or know of a recent passing of an Old Man from your era, we'd like to hear from you. Please send your news (along with what years you were in MGC) to mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu and help us share these events.
- **Submit Your Stories!** The Old Man Association is always excited to collect memories and reflections from Clubbers past and present. Whether you recently found some old MGC memorabilia or have a score to settle from the Bass-Tenor football game, you can send stories and photos to mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu.
- **The Spring Concert is Scheduled:** Join us for the 117th annual Home Concert. Saturday, April 6th at 7:30 pm in the new concert hall, with a reception to follow. Come sing A Mighty Fortress and E'en So with your fellow Old Men and support the new generation of the Men's Glee Club.



**WHEATON
COLLEGE**

CONSERVATORY of MUSIC

For Christ & His Kingdom

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!

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)!