

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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JOIN US FOR THE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL!

We will be performing several pieces in this year's virtual Christmas Festival. Available through the end of the year! To watch it for FREE, register at wheaton.edu/cfest.

You can also watch Messiah, Prince of Peace, a past festival on American Public television, check our website for local listings at: wheaton.edu/christmasbroadcast

Hello Old Men,

This is Scott Reed '16 and Max Terman '17, and we are so thrilled to serve as the co-chairs of the Old Man Association Board. Our primary goal is to continue the work that the board has done over the last few years to connect Glee Club members and alumni in meaningful, God-honoring ways.

Our hope is, by increasing awareness of this network, to offer significant professional, personal, and spiritual development opportunities to our alumni network, with particular value to current students and recent graduates. If you are interested in being a part of this, have resources to offer, or are connected to past or present Clubbers in your area, please reach out to mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu.

Throughout this school year, we will be partnering with you in prayer for Dr. Hopper and the Glee Club as they adapt to their unprecedented circumstances. We are praying that the restraints of the pandemic will bring out methods and opportunities for the Club to share the Gospel that would have been impossible otherwise. We can't wait to see Christ's guidance for the MGC in these coming months.

We think you will enjoy reading the letter from the current Men's Glee Club President Matt Reiskytl '21. Through his reflections on this past semester, you will see exactly how your support and prayers impact the lives of many young men.

Thank you for your prayers, love, and support.

God bless and Merry Christmas!

Scott & Max





"Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus it is He. Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same, and He must win the battle."

LETTER FROM THE MGC PRESIDENT

Matt Reisky '21

Coming into this fall, as a club, we had a lot of questions. Would Wheaton's campus be open? If so, would we be able to sing? Could we have social events?

Although we still have many questions left unanswered, God has provided in ways we could not have foreseen. We are very thankful that Wheaton was able to open up but that the measures put in place have allowed us to remain open and be physically together. We continue to pray that we will be able to stay open through the spring semester.

For the past 3+ months now, the Men's Glee Club has continued to thrive, despite the difficult times. In late August and into early September, we recruited and welcomed 9 New Men into the club.

This, of course, is a lower number than we have seen in recent years, but with all things in perspective, this number is a success. The Men's Glee Club made it through World War II and will continue to make it through tough years like 2020, by the grace and power of God. We held the New Man Party entirely outdoors, but it still involved the fun, wonder, and creativity that it always has. The rain subsided just as the Veritas candle was lit, and of course, we then indulged in the beautiful game of Rook.

Although we could not pit our wills and throw our bodies against each other in the classic game of Bass Tenor Football, we were able to do nearly the same things with a ball that is actually in the shape of a sphere: kickball! At the beginning of the intense match, the basses roared to an early lead.

However, the tenors came back, taking the lead with just one inning to go!

Luckily, the basses finished strong, as we figured out how to add interdimensional velocity to the kickball, propelling it so far that no man could get there to catch it. Congrats to the basses on 114 years of victory!

We have been able to host socially distant social events, such as the one above. Recently, the Women's Chorale and Concert Choir joined us for our Harvest Festival event, which was a blessing! Although it was early, we had our first-ever Christmas Party before Thanksgiving! A fun time of connection before the unusually long winter break. (see the pictures on our Facebook page)

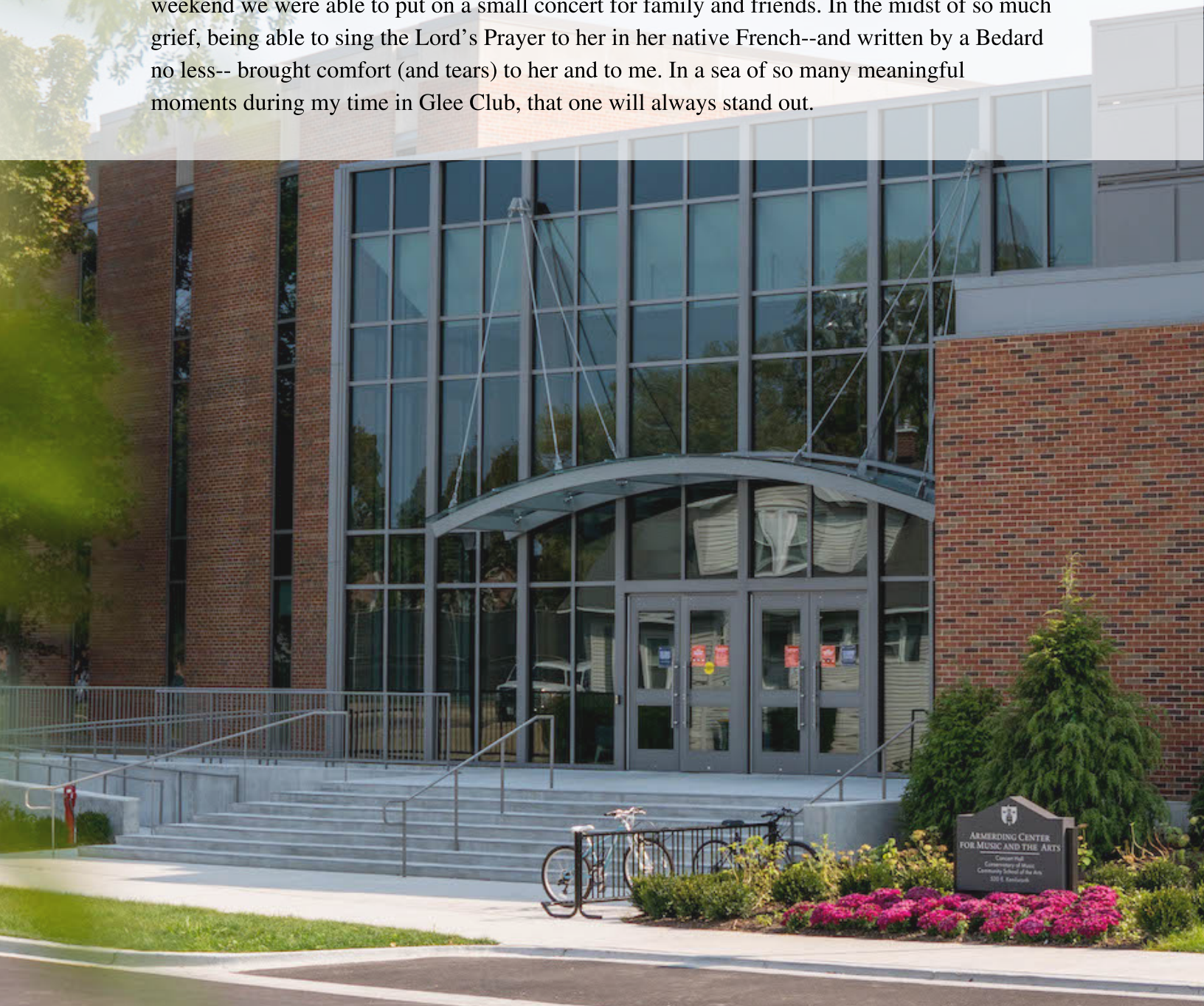
Most importantly, we have continued to sing together, lifting our voices to the Lord above, even if it means standing 10 feet apart with masks. Twice a week, we continue to rehearse, sometimes outside and sometimes inside in smaller groups.

Devotional speakers have continued to bless us every Thursday. However, we long to stand shoulder to shoulder and sing without masks. We look forward to the day when we can embrace one another and see each other smile. But we continue to stay safe, knowing that our actions do have effects the world around us. We pray for the sick, that they may be healed. We pray for the lonely, that they may be blessed with company (even if it's socially distant). And we pray for each other, hoping to perform together once more.

NOTRE PÈRE BY DENIS BÉDARD

Ed Bedard '12

Picking a favorite piece from Glee Club would be nearly impossible. There was Brahms' Requiem, "E'en so" of course, and who could forget that classic "I Bought Me a Cat?" But when I think about the most meaningful moment in my Glee Club career, singing Notre Père during graduation weekend is at the top of the list. Two weeks before graduation I received word that my grandfather Ronald Bedard, had passed. The next two weeks were a blur, as I drove out to Massachusetts for his funeral, and scrambled back in time for banquet. With my grandfather's death I assumed my grandmother would not be coming to graduation. But indomitable person that she is, she made her way to Wheaton anyway. During graduation weekend we were able to put on a small concert for family and friends. In the midst of so much grief, being able to sing the Lord's Prayer to her in her native French--and written by a Bedard no less-- brought comfort (and tears) to her and to me. In a sea of so many meaningful moments during my time in Glee Club, that one will always stand out.



POWER IN THE MUSIC

Randy Benware '90

In the Fall of 1986, I began my first year as a “new man” in Men’s Glee Club. I was excited to be a part of this legendary and historic singing group and looked forward to the many concerts and events that were to occur throughout our year.

One of the first concert opportunities we had during our year was to sing a concert in Michigan during the Fall of 1986 to raise money for famine relief Africa. This concert involved a few other Men’s Choirs from the region and was a very inspirational and powerful event through song. One of the songs we sang that weekend was “At the Cross” arranged by Buryl Red. We had spent a few weeks working on this piece in rehearsal and I remember that this was one of the first times I was emotionally and spiritually affected by a choral piece while singing during a choral performance. The words, dynamics and use of varying textures throughout the piece are used very effectively throughout the piece by the arranger and we were successful in performing the piece authentically and with a sense of purpose, and maybe even with an evangelical mission. Even though our performance, and that song in particular, was highly received by the audience during that concert, it was many of us who were affected by the song’s message and our effort towards sharing our love of singing and the love of Jesus through song.

I have now had the joy of being a choral director at Minooka Community High School for close to 30 years and had a very unique experience happen to me a few years back. I had brought one of my Men’s Glee Club Home Concert cassette tapes to school a few weeks before to play a performance of one of the songs for my students to hear. I decided one day that I wanted to listen to the entire tape during my plan period, so I turned it on and started doing my schoolwork enjoying many memorable songs. Within a few minutes, a familiar song began to play...it was “At the Cross.” As I started to listen, I stopped what I was doing and started taking in those familiar words and melodies again. Before I knew it, I was weeping... What was happening?

I realized I had not heard this song in years and yet, the powerful lyrics, combined with the music and inspired performance from the evening we recorded this song, still affected me and my heart. How could it not...? Isaac Watts' words came through strongly back into my mind and heart as I tried to sing through my tears: “But drops of grief can ne'er repay the debt of love I owe. Here Lord, here Lord I give myself away. 'Tis' all, 'tis all that I can do.” Even after all this time, the power of those words and music touched my heart and gripped my every emotion!

So, it was with great joy that I had the opportunity to come to be a guest director at one of the Club’s rehearsals a couple years ago, and Dr. Hopper sent me the music to look at and work on with the men. From the few songs that I was preparing came a familiar title... “At the Cross.” The piece that had such an impact on my life having been able to sing it as a member of the Club, was now before me as this guest conductor and gave me the opportunity to be on the receiving end of this “gift”. As Mr. Halvorsen once stood in front of us, helping us to understand and perfect this song, came an awesome and privileged opportunity to share my story of this song and to help the men of the Club experience the true joy and conviction of these words, “At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and my burden of my heart, rolled away. It was there by faith, I received my sight, and now I am happy all the day.”



ABIDE IN ME

Karl Gunther '01

When asked to write about a memorable song from my time in Glee Club (1997-2001), many came to mind. I remember trying to memorize "Hospodi Pomilui" during my first semester in Club and creating a cheat sheet (which I shoved under the collar of the baritone in front of me) that was just a sequence of numbers to remember how many times to repeat those words before the chords changed. Many of you have sung it and you'll know what I mean! But most of all I remember the hymns we sang. Each year Dr. Sundberg selected one hymn writer and we would sing a set of three of their hymns. The hymn writer I remember most vividly is John Newton, the subject of a particularly memorable and oft-repeated concert speech by that year's Vice-President and Chaplain Nathan Hinch ('00). But the hymn that I remember most was Dr. Sundberg's own arrangement of Francis F. Lyte's "Abide with Me," which we sang on our spring tour to the Pacific Northwest in 1998 and then on our joint tour with the Women's Chorale to the UK in Summer 1998. The hymn proclaims our need for God and his presence, particularly as we face the end of our lives. Our audiences in the UK sometimes expressed surprise about this selection, which surprised us, not knowing that it is one of the best-known hymns in Britain due to its singing before the final match of the FA Cup every year since 1927. But especially as I grow older, as life's "eventide" grows closer and as friends and family feel "death's sting," the hymn and the memory of singing it with so many friends grows only more important to me.

STAY IN THE KNOW!

CONNECT YOUR FRIENDS

Know a former Glee Clubber who doesn't receive these newsletters? Help them out!

Send their email or put them in contact with alumni@wheaton.edu to assist them in reconnecting with their roots.

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 Facebook 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.



**WHEATON
COLLEGE**

CONSERVATORY of MUSIC

For Christ & His Kingdom