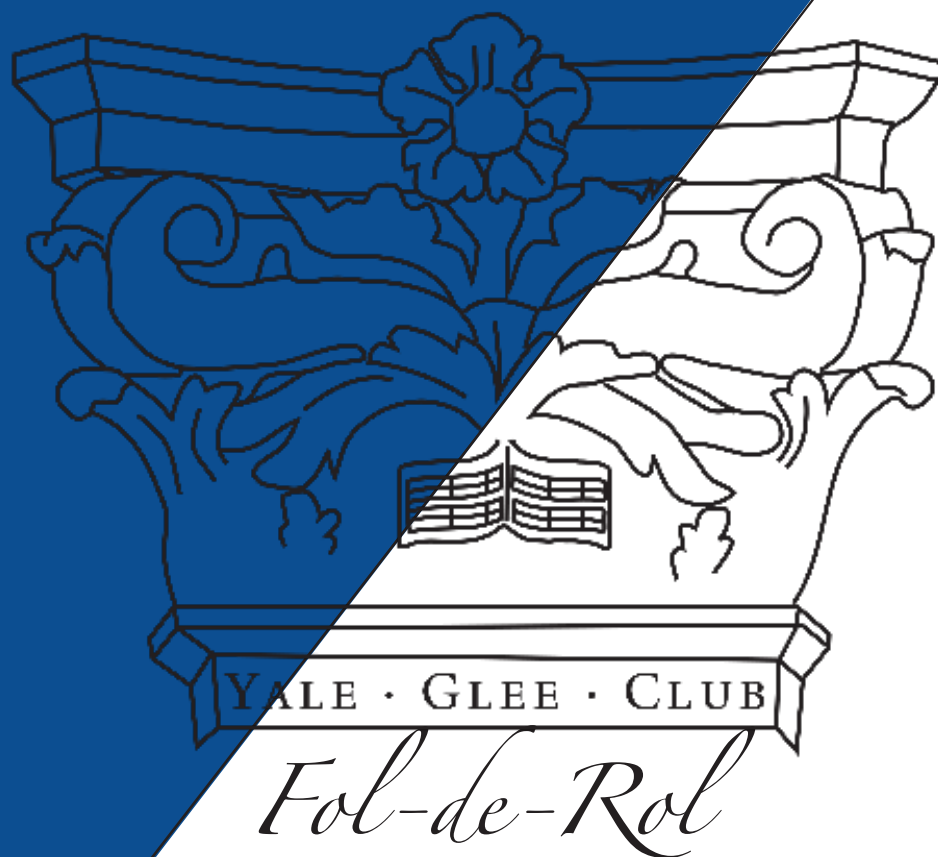


Issue I  
December 2022



The newsletter of the  
Yale Glee Club  
Associates

# Letter from the Director

Dear friends,

I am happy to report that the 162nd Yale Glee Club is off to an auspicious start! After a successful round of auditions, we welcomed twenty-seven wonderful new singers into the ensemble and embarked on our first retreat to Silver Lake since the fall of 2019 (square dancing is back!). Our first concert of the year was also our first unmasked concert since before the pandemic – a joint performance of Nico Muhly’s brilliant *Beauty of the Day* with internationally renowned vocal ensemble Chanticleer and Yale School of Music alum (and former YGC assistant conductor) Michael Smith at the console of the magnificent Newberry Organ.

Our concert with Chanticleer was also the opening event of much anticipated 160th Anniversary Reunion weekend. Over 300 alums and guests converged on campus for a weekend of singing and a concert in Woolsey Hall featuring YGC favorites by Fenno, Barty, David and Gustav Stoeckel himself to works by new Yale musical luminaries such as Joel Thompson and Arianne Abela. After the concert, we all retreated to the newly renovated Commons for a glorious singing dinner. I want to express my enormous gratitude to everyone who worked so hard to make the reunion such a memorable event, particularly our student alumni coordinators Maya Khurana and Eliza Kravitz, the indefatigable Sean Maher, and our incredibly dedicated YGCA Executive Committee and Board.

We also continue to see the return of many of our beloved fall semester traditions: in-person joint performances with our dear friends in the Princeton and Harvard Glee Clubs, our annual Yale Club of NYC concert, and our first *Messiah* singalong with the Yale Symphony Orchestra since 2019.

I also want to take this opportunity to share with you the inspiring work being done this year by the three recipients of the Yale Glee Club Service Through Music Fellowships. Laura Clapp '22 is spending the year working for Voices of Hope, a Minnesota-based prison choir organization founded by Yale School of Music alum Amanda Weber. Jack Softcheck '22 is working with Hear Your Song, a non-profit founded by YGC alum Dan Rubins that seeks to empower youth coping with serious health issues through collaborative songwriting. And Lauren Bond '22 is using the fellowship to spend the year working with Yale’s Music in Schools Program.

In the spring semester, we look forward to a winter tour to DC and Richmond, VA, a spring tour to Kenya, a concert led by YSM alum and founder of the brilliant professional choir *Conspirare*, Craig Hella Johnson, and a performance of Beethoven *Symphony #9* and Hilary Purrington’s new *Words for Departure* with the Yale Symphony. The future is bright.

Yours in song,

*Jeff*

# *A Note from Your YGCA President*

Dearest YGC Associates,

Winds of night are sighing in my Los Angeles eucalyptus trees, murmuring low, as I pen this note to you all. October's 160th Reunion was unforgettable, from Friday Chanticleer to singing with old and new friends in Woolsey to the Singing Dinner in the new Schwartzman Center Commons. Not so long ago, an in-person reunion was almost unfathomable.

For those who could not join us, there were three points that sparkled brightest of all during the weekend.

First - the Glee Club's sound - made even more impressive that Jeff and the YGC created that sound in under 4 weeks of rehearsals. I hope you'll be able to hear it in person at Yale, a football concert, on tour, or live-streamed this year.

Second - marking Jeff and Sean's 20th year of YGC leadership and stewardship at the Reunion. Please make sure to raise a glass to them, send a note, and wish them well during this 2022-2023 anniversary year.

Last, but not least, Dean Robert Blocker's surprise announcement at Reunion Singing Dinner that Jeff will be appointed the Marshall Bartholomew Professor in the Practice of Choral Music! It is no small task to evolve and amplify, while preserving the heart and soul of the Yale Glee Club. Yet, this is what Jeff has done and we rejoiced at the announcement.

Thank you again for the privilege of being your Board President this year. We, as your Board, are grateful for the continued support of the YGC through you hearts and voices. In the upcoming year, we look forward to more in-person events, while expanding upon the best of the virtual benefits. As we enter the holiday seasons, I hope that you are blessed with peace, love and harmony.

Yours in song,

*Cathy Kim*

# *YGC's Right-Hand Man*

A Conversation with Ryan Rogers, YGC Assistant Conductor



*Ryan Rogers studied Piano Performance and Choral Music Education at the University of Houston, graduating summa cum laude in May 2018. After completing his undergraduate, he served as an Assistant Choir Director at North Shore High School in Galena Park ISD until Spring 2021. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he began editing audio for virtual performances, assembling in excess of two hundred songs for various organizations throughout the country. Currently, Ryan is pursuing a Masters of Music in Choral Conducting at the Yale Institute of Sacred Music.*

## **Fol-de-Rol: Tell us about your musical background! What brought you to Yale?**

RR: Growing up in San Antonio, Texas, I was a pianist from a very young age, and I thought that was what I wanted to do with my life. In my freshman year of high school, I took a music theory class with the school's choir teacher, and she informed me I would be joining choir the next year. I just completely loved it, and I realized that was what I wanted to do.

I went to college at the University of Houston and majored in piano performance and choral performance. After graduating in 2018, I taught high school choir at North Shore Senior High School. I enjoyed teaching 9th graders because they're at a transitional stage – if you can get them to experience musical development and find their individual identity, then they really just take off! The pandemic turned me into an audio editor for a year, instead of a choir teacher. I was in charge of the district's adaptation plan for going remote, so I spent all of summer 2020 thinking about how to make virtual choir enjoyable. I always knew that I wanted to go to graduate school eventually, but the pandemic really accelerated my plans.

## **FdR: How are you involved in music at Yale besides YGC?**

RR: I sing in lots of other choral ensembles: Rep Chorus, Recital Chorus, Camerata, Battell Chapel Choir, Marquand Chapel Choir, Episcopal Church Choir, and my colleagues' performances ... it's been a busy semester. I am also an assistant conductor for the Greater New Haven Community Chorus, and I'm taking a performance practice class and a score-reading class.

## **FdR: What have you learned from working with YGC this year?**

RR: YGC is a well-oiled machine; it's the dream way an ensemble should be run. I didn't realize the extent to which that was actually the case until I experienced it firsthand. Jeff has done such an incredible job enabling students within the ensemble to take initiative and get things done. He has also built a wonderful relationship with the alumni, which has created this beautiful community that spans many generations of Glee Clubbers.

## **FdR: As the conductor of the YGC Chamber Singers, what are your goals for the ensemble and how did you assemble the repertoire for the year?**

RR: I aimed to pick music that would resonate with the group and that would have a central opportunity to communicate something meaningful to the audience, while also giving us the opportunity to participate in high-level music-making. This year's program is centered on how we respond to human suffering. The pieces speak to questions such as: how can we move forward when terrible things happen in the world? How can we move forward and craft a better future? A lot of the music takes a turn in a more hopeful direction and offers possible ways that we can go about mending issues in the world.

## **FdR: What are you most looking forward to this year with the YGC Chamber Singers?**

RR: I am really looking forward to working on the Bach cantata BWV 39: Brich dem Hungrigen dein Brot. In English, the title translates to "break your bread with the hungry," and I think the message and music are really powerful.

# New Member Profiles



## Alejandra Mendez

**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Alto 1

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "I really enjoy warming up together, and when we sing a beautiful chord and just bask in it for a couple seconds."

## Anjal Jain

**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Soprano 1

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "Though one voice can be incredibly powerful, there is a different satisfaction of 80 talented voices singing together in beautiful harmonies to deliver impactful messages of the world."



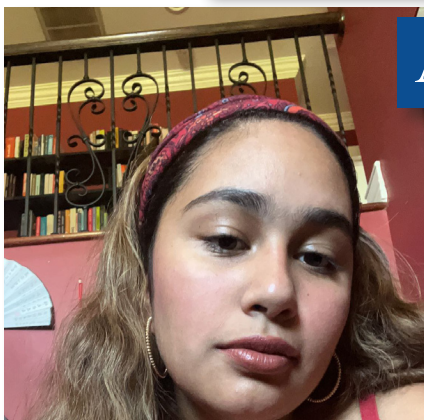
## Aryana Ramos-Vasquez

**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Alto 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "Singing with the Glee Club, my second family on campus, feels incredibly intimate despite how large it is as an ensemble, and that connection, particularly when performing, is so electrifying; I look forward to it every performance."



## Aviv Fetaya

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Bass 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "I really appreciate the sense of familial warmth that being a part of the Glee Club evokes, both in and out of rehearsals."



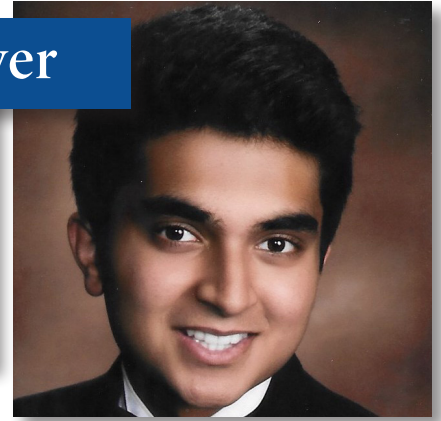
## Ayush Iyer

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Tenor 1

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "Singing is such a vulnerable and human activity; what's most special is getting to do it with such talented performers that motivate me to be continually reflective and put my best foot forward."



## Bill Qian

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Tenor 1

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "I love how close the entire club feels and how passionate we all are about singing."



## Charles Calkins

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Tenor 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "There is so much to love about the Glee Club!"



## Christina Logvynyuk

**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2025

**Voice part:** Soprano 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "I love being able to depend on a group of talented singers to put their best abilities into creating a cohesive performance."



## Creed Gardiner

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Bass 1

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "I love meeting the lovely other people of Glee Club!"



## David Liebowitz

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Tenor 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** “I love making music with other people, whether it be working on a Beethoven piano trio, singing with my a cappella group, or working on Brahms motets with the glee club.”



## Emily Patrick

**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Soprano 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** “I love being exposed to new classical music!”



## Everett Tolbert-Schwartz

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Bass 1

**Favorite thing about Glee:** “The feeling of hitting a big chord all together and just feeling it resonate.”



## Guilhereme Pereira

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Bass 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** “When we are in section formation, I have the pleasure of being right at the edge of my section, so I get to hear both the basses and the tenors really well; I love witnessing how different parts contribute to making beautiful music.”



## Hai Yen Tran

**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Alto 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** “The amount of resonance and harmony that we can create together is insane—I live for the magic of the first and last notes (and the rest of the pieces too, of course).”





## Jonathan Akinni

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Tenor 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** “The ability to produce excellent choral music is something that I have valued over the years, and I am able to continue that with the Glee Club in an inspiring way.”



## Katie Gurney

**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Soprano 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** “The community!”



## Kinnia Cheuk

**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Soprano 1

**Favorite thing about Glee:** “wonderful gleeple + wonderful music = happiness!”



## Kyle Thomas Ramos

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Bass 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** “I am so grateful to the Glee Club for exposing me to the musical traditions of different cultures, allowing me to be both a better musician and a better global citizen!”



## Lukas Bacho

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2025

**Voice part:** Bass 1

**Favorite thing about Glee:** “The traditions! (gladitions?)”



**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Alto 1

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "I love how kind everyone in this group is, and being able to bond with them over music is something I cherish very deeply. Plus, I also adore my glamily (hey James and Ava) and the fellow altos I sit near (hello Eliza, Maya, and Lucy)!"

## Peighton Lotwis



## Sarah Sparling



**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2025

**Voice part:** Alto 1

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "I love making beautiful music with beautiful people!"

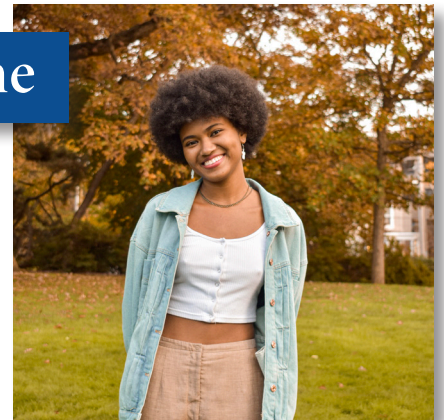
**Pronouns:** she/her

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Soprano 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "I love getting to sing and premiere all the new compositions that are created just for us!"

## Senlee Dieme



## Seung Min Baik



**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2026

**Voice part:** Bass 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "I love hearing Jeff say, 'That was fantastic!'"

## Sohum Kapadia

**Pronouns:** he/him

**Year:** 2025

**Voice part:** Bass 2

**Favorite thing about Glee:** "Making music with all my friends!"



## Sophia Groff

**Pronouns:** she/her  
**Year:** 2025  
**Voice part:** Soprano 2  
**Favorite thing about Glee:** “I really like the people and spending time with my Glamily!”



## Tavian Jones

**Pronouns:** he/him  
**Year:** 2026  
**Voice part:** Tenor 2  
**Favorite thing about Glee:** “I enjoy the music selection and diving deep into each song.”



## Willa Hawthorne

**Pronouns:** she/her  
**Year:** 2026  
**Voice part:** Alto 2  
**Favorite thing about Glee:** “It’s been such a wonderful experience to sing an amazing selection of music with such a warm and welcoming community.”



## Yixiao Zhang

**Pronouns:** he/him  
**Year:** 2026  
**Voice part:** Tenor 1  
**Favorite thing about Glee:** “Friends :)”



*We're so excited to have all these talented singers join our group!*

# 160th Anniversary Reunion Weekend



This fall, we (finally) celebrated the 160th anniversary of the Glee Club – an event that was over two years in the making. Returning members of the Glee Club spanned eight decades, ranging from graduating years between 1949 and 2022. There was a strong sense of Glee community across campus throughout the weekend as we raised our voices in Woolsey Hall together. In one of the most incredible moments of the reunion, current and former members of the Glee Club sang a spontaneous and poignant rendition of Randall Thompson's Alleluia in Commons during the Singing Dinner. It was truly wonderful to witness the deep shared appreciation we all have for the Glee Club, and it was particularly special for all the current Glee Clubbers to meet the amazing community that awaits them upon graduation. We cannot wait to see you all again at the 165th reunion!

# Interview with Cathy Kim

## **Fol-de-Rol: How has your experience as YGCA President been so far?**

Cathy: It's been so lovely. Probably the biggest bonus is that you get to work with Jeff more. It's just extra Jeff time! And parts of Jeff that you don't get to see, which make you just absolutely admire and love him even more. It's [also] been lovely for getting to know the Executive Committee even more. We are unusual as a board because most of us came on during the pandemic. The reunion was the first time many of us were able to meet in person!

## **FdR: What are some highlights of your time with YGCA?**

Cathy: This is the beginning of my second 3 year term on the YGCA board. The highlight from the in-person term was my first meeting, where it was the first time since Yale where I felt like I had a frosh orientation experience, where everybody wanted to meet each other... It was the first experience like that since my freshman year at Yale. The thing that's unique is that we're really thoughtful about having all the decades represented. So it was my first time having that experience over that huge time zone. That actually carried over to my Zoom experience. The thing about Zoom that made it better was that you couldn't peel off into different groups, and during the downtime we were all chatting together.

## **FdR: How was your experience at alumni weekend?**

Cathy: Amazing! [It was] a complete standout even among all of the reunions. Both from a first-post-pandemic experience, but also because everything about it was excellently done. Everyone's complaint was the one you want to hear: we wanted more time.

## **FdR: What changes are you hoping to see with YGC or YGCA?**

Cathy: When I was in Glee Club, and when I was at Yale, I was just so focused on those four years. I thought about what I was going to do after I graduated, but I didn't think about the Glee Club alumni. But we will be there for the rest of your life, in the way that the Glee Club is only there for those four years. I want to make sure that we are there, and the Glee Club knows, and they can engage with us if they want. We're trying to figure out how we can best support Jeff and you all with lots of alumni engagement, because Zoom made that possible. Like the Zoom-bombing rehearsal...we all certainly loved it. It's just navigating the new normal, and what the new normal is going to be, because it keeps changing every few months. So probably flexibility, incorporating the virtual aspect to deepen and broaden the alumni engagement with the current Glee Club.

## **FdR: Just for fun: favorite YGC memory?**

Cathy: Every senior rehearsal, I took a minute to stop singing, and look around the room and feel all the feels. I was just bottling it, because I knew I'd never have it again. I remember sitting on those metal chairs, and every rehearsal I took time to do that.

# Note from the Alumni Coordinators

*Hi everyone!*

We're Maya and Eliza, this year's YGC Alumni Coordinators. We had lots of fun putting together this edition of the Fol de Rol and recapping the highlights of the year so far with the Glee Club. We hope you have enjoyed reading!

We loved spending Reunion Weekend with many of you and being reminded of just how strong the YGC community is and will continue to be. It's been an incredible start to the year, and we are so excited to continue fostering a sense of Glee community between current Glee clubbers and alumni.

To that end, keep an eye out for our annual YGC Alumni Mentorship Program this year! You will be able to sign up to guide students based on their personal and career interests and mentor them for a year (or more!).

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns about alumni engagement with the current YGC, any comments or suggestions about the newsletter, or any photos, memories, and other content for us to include, please feel free to contact us at [maya.khurana@yale.edu](mailto:maya.khurana@yale.edu) and [eliza.kravitz@yale.edu](mailto:eliza.kravitz@yale.edu).



Yours in glove and song,

*Maya and Eliza*