

Issue VI  
Spring 2020



*Fol-de-rol*

*The newsletter of the  
Yale Glee Club  
Associates*

# *A Note from Sarah Heath*

Hello all!

I send warm greetings from a rainy April day in New Haven. It is so gratifying to see leaves and flowers once again, but in every other way, this is a most bewildering time. It is eerily quiet. Many singers among us feel like their lives are on hold. Not long ago, Hendrie Hall was bustling with sound, palpable energy, and the hurried steps of hundreds of musicians trying to get to rehearsals on time. I'm sure you all remember that feeling of breathlessly rushing up the stairs, and then the relief of making it just in time for vocal warm ups and Glee Club backrubs. The walls always vibrated with voices raised together in song, as everyone busily prepared for a season of exciting performances and tours, parties, plans, travel tickets. Now the whole building is silent. We can still sing, wherever we may be, but not together.

As choral singers and Yale Glee Club alums, we wonder what to make of this. It is surely a time for reflection. I don't think any of us will ever take live ensemble singing for granted again, as we did in the past. We will treasure ensemble singing with our friends, when we finally get a chance. We promise not to take our eyes off our director. We will listen to each other gratefully, in a whole new way, for making music together will be more meaningful than ever.

Meanwhile, we can try out some of the high-tech singing experiences that are going on around the world, including those involving Glee Club alumni. Many of you recorded yourselves on our YGCA commissioned song, "Because You Sang," which will be unveiled as a virtual choir performance very soon. If you did, you might have suddenly felt like a soloist, as you put on headphones and heard yourself so clearly. This kind of work requires focus, precision, and great intonation, useful training for any choral singer. Maybe we can think of this period as a time to work on improving our own vocal skills. That way, we will be ready to jump right in and have something to contribute, when we do finally sing together again.

I wish you all the best in the coming months, and in any musical endeavors and experiments you may pursue. I'd love to hear what you are doing. This is a time of great uncertainty but also of great creativity. Remain optimistic. Stay in touch with your YGCA and let's be sure to meet again, friends, either at our next Singing Dinner or our wonderful 160th reunion, if not before.

Yours in Song,

Sarah Heath '73  
YGCA President



# A Note from Jeff



Informal Class Day photo of the first YGC co-presidents, Robert Bonds and Ellen Marshall in 1971

Dear friends,

I send you all my warmest greetings from the Glee Club's new official headquarters at 37 Belmont Street (AKA my house in Hamden, a few miles north of campus) where my wife Erika is adjusting to teaching her choir students online and my son and daughter are adjusting to life as online students. I hope you and those close to you are doing well in these unprecedented times.

Much is still uncertain as I write, and we are distanced from one another physically for the time being, but I have been buoyed in ways I could never have imagined in recent weeks by the warm embrace of our singing family. I am so grateful that we have this community to help us through this time, and the certain knowledge that we will gather in song again fills me with hope.

Although we were not able to gather in person on Apr. 4 for our annual Singing Dinner and celebration of 50 years of coeducation at Yale, we were still able to move forward with some of the events we'd planned for that day. We held a virtual premiere of the new documentary film "A Home in Hendrie Hall" on Apr. 3, followed the next day by a Facebook LiveChat featuring filmmaker Miriam Lewin '80 and her co-producer Naomi Lewin '74. And we are currently in the process of putting together a virtual choir premiere of "Because You Sang," a new Yale song commissioned for the anniversary with music by Arianne Abela SOM '10 and poetry by Ruthie Prillaman '16. You can read Ruthie's poem, which resonates even more deeply than we could have imagined just a month ago, in this edition of Fol De Rol.

I am also delighted to officially announce this year's recipients of the highest honor we bestow on our most dedicated alums, the Yale Glee Club Medal: Bob Bonds '71 and Ellen Marshall '71! The Yale Glee Club Associates Executive Committee thought it fitting to honor Bob and Ellen jointly this year. They served as the first co-presidents of the Yale Glee Club in 1970 and played a pivotal role alongside Fenno Heath in shaping the historic transition of the Glee Club from an all-male chorus to a mixed chorus. Their tireless support of Yale singing has continued well beyond that watershed moment right up to the present day. To offer just one example, Bob and Ellen have both served in recent years as volunteer producers of Yale Alumni Chorus tours, leading the ensemble on memorable trips to Singapore, Mexico, and Guatemala. And we all still sing the SATB arrangement of Bright College Years that Bob penned while he was still a student. I am so grateful for their friendship over the years and have learned so much from their example. I can't think of two more deserving YGC Medal recipients. Congratulations, Bob and Ellen, and thank you for everything!

The weeks and months to come are sure to require patience, flexibility, and creativity from all of us. It is safe to say there will be more disappointments and adjustments, but I also know there will be moments of great beauty, community, and gratitude, and I feel more fortunate than ever to be a part of this singing tradition and this supportive community.

Please don't hesitate to be in touch with me any time – by phone, by email, or through social media. I'd love to hear how you are doing, and I would especially love to hear your suggestions – large and small – for how we can all stay connected during this period of distance.

Yours in song,  
Jeff



# *We Will Meet Again!*



Our next big 5-year reunion gathering will celebrate the Glee Club's 160th anniversary and will take place in October of 2021. Even before the current wave of cancellations and postponements, the YGCA board had chosen this date for the 160th. You may recall that our 155th anniversary reunion took place in October of 2016 and was a huge success. There was widespread agreement that the fall date was preferable for a variety of reasons - primarily because of weather-related travel concerns and the way a fall event lines up with Yale's calendar.

**We already have some special things in store. This is a reunion you will surely not want to miss, so please mark your calendars now for Oct. 15-17, 2021!**



# Member Biographies



**Lauryn Phinney**

Class: 2021

College: Pierson

Voice Part: Alto II

Hometown: Newton, MA

Major: Urban Studies

Interests: Y2Y New Haven Youth homeless shelter, dancing, collecting postcards, buffalo sauce



**Emmett Chen-Ran**

Class : 2020

College: Davenport

Voice Part: Bass II

Hometown: New Hyde Park, NY

Major: Computer Science

Interests: standup comedy, theater, the intersections of computer science and law

# Member Biographies



## **Isa Zou**

Class : 2022

College: Timothy Dwight

Voice Part: Soprano II

Hometown: Austin, TX

Major: Undeclared, likely something in the Social Sciences!

Interests: modern dance, writing, bubble tea, backpacking



## **James Applegate**

Class : 2023

College: Branford

Voice Part: Tenor I

Hometown: Oakland, CA

Major: Chemistry and Environmental Science

Interests: Battell Chapel Choir, composing, hiking, practicing guitar





Glee Clubbers seen together during Winter Tour in January, ice skating in Montreal (where we shared a concert with Les Petits Chanteurs de Laval)...

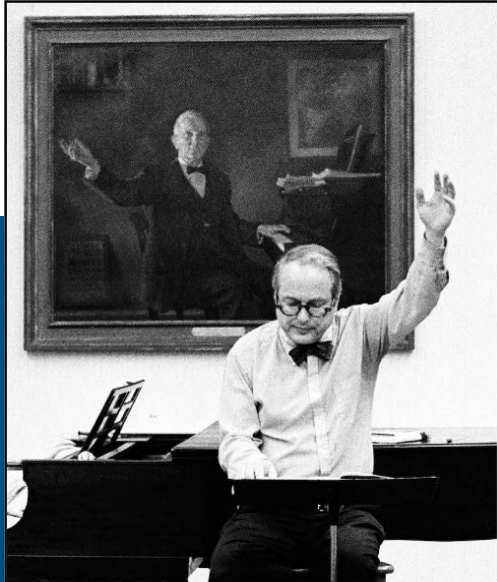


...and frolicking in Burlington, VT (after a joint concert with the Middlebury College Choir)



## *A Word from the Podium...*

**YGC Alumni share their favorite words of wisdom from YGC conductors through the years**



**Fenno Heath:**

“God meant it to be a mixed chorus!”

“Make that legato luscious.”

**David Connell:**

“For all that has been, thanks. For all that shall be, yes.” (Däg Hammarskjöld)



**Jeff Douma:**

“Let’s all agree to agree.”

“Sopranos, you don’t have to reach up for that high note. It’s on the shelf right in front of you.”

**Marshall Bartholomew:**

“One of the troubles of our modern world is that there is too much talking and not enough singing.”





# Because You Sang

*Commissioned in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of coeducation at Yale College*

Who will bear this burden?  
What harbinger of spring  
Will weather storm and clamor  
And living future, bring?  
Fortified, and boundless,  
With voice unwavering  
Because you sang I sing, I sing  
Because you sang, I sing



Armored with each other  
Though newly had you met  
Sounding ever outwards,  
For souls not entered yet  
Louder yet the uproar  
Against oppression's sting  
Because you sang I sing, I sing  
Because you sang, I sing



A choir of a thousand  
Distinguished woven parts  
Perfect in its union  
Of common beating hearts  
I'll add my voice, my vigor  
The song you raised will ring  
Because you sang I sing, I sing  
Because you sang, I sing

-Ruthie Prillaman '16

