140 Years of Song

GLEE CLUB REACHES OUT

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PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER 2011–2012

Although the Glee Club is most well-known for its music and camaraderie, members also enjoy participating in a variety of local events together. Indeed, making a positive impact on the community has become an important part of what it means to be in Glee Club.

On September 11, 2011, members of the Glee Club were both honored and humbled to be invited to perform at the City of New Brunswick’s 9/11 Remembrance Service. This moving event honored Rutgers University alumni and Middlesex County residents lost on that tragic day ten years ago. Local dignitaries, such as New Brunswick Mayor Jim Cahill and Representative Frank Pallone, were in attendance, as well as other community musical groups and religious leaders.

During the same semester, the Glee Club was invited to sing at services commemorating Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor. Members performed a medley of armed services anthems, as well as some traditional songs of Rutgers. Veterans present at the event thanked the Glee Club warmly, an expression of gratitude that makes being a part of such events so special.

The Glee Club has also participated in a number of charitable events recently. Last December, twelve members of the Glee Club participated in the Big Chill. This is a 5-kilometer charity run/walk that winds through the streets and parks of New Brunswick. Instead of paying a registration fee, participants are asked to donate an unwrapped gift for a child who may be less fortunate during the holiday season. The Glee Club donated about $100

As we reflect on past trips and get ready for an exciting 140th spring concert that will be focused on many recent European tours, let’s take a look at some of the relics in our historian’s closet. Sometimes a picture is worth a thousand words.

“Pride In Musical Excellence Since 1872”

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It was a brisk and bright morning in the Bronx, New York. The dirt from the baseball season still on the field, the sun beaming down in the bullpen, the glare off the statues at Monument Park—it all meant something to us all that day. Eighty waking men in grey blazers and red-and-black striped ties got off the bus at 8:30 in the morning after an hour-long bus ride, to perform and cheer on their beloved Scarlet Knights for a road game at the cathedral of baseball: Yankee Stadium.

On November 12, 2011, the Rutgers University Glee Club was the guest of the West Point Cadet Glee Club under the direction of Ms. Constance Chase. Over the summer, Ms. Chase contacted Dr. Patrick Gardner to invite our Glee Club to join her choir and the West Point Marching Band in performing at the Rutgers vs. Army football game at Yankee Stadium. After consulting with the Executive Council, our Director decided that it would not only be a great opportunity for the club, but also a great way to represent the brave men and women of the Armed Forces, and to meet them as well.

Prior to the game, the combined Glee Clubs performed the National Anthem under the direction of Ms. Chase and listened to the traditional West Point March and Rutgers Fight Song, The Bells Must Ring, performed by the combined Marching Bands of both institutions. At halftime, a student violinist and the Marching Band performed a Veterans Day-themed show, concluding with the combined Glee Clubs singing a medley of songs for the five branches of the United States Military.

Besides singing at the game, the Glee Club was given a private tour of Monument Park in which Yankee legends such as Lou Gehrig, Babe Ruth, and Joe DiMaggio are memorialized for years to come. It was an honor and a privilege to be able to breathe in the air of American history while looking at the Yankee days of old. After Monument Park, the Glee Club went to the Yankee Museum above Gate 6 to examine baseball’s past in New York, a real Yankee player’s locker and a baseball signed by every player to put on a New York Yankees uniform. It was quite an awe-inspiring sight, even for the Red Sox
fans in the room. This experience at Yankee Stadium was as exciting for the Glee Club as it was for the Scarlet Knights football team.

Matt Gunther, a School of Arts and Sciences senior is extremely happy that he sang at Yankee Stadium with the Rutgers University Glee Club. "It was a great experience. To not only watch the Scarlet Knights play at Yankee Stadium, but to also sing there with all my friends, was a mind-blowing experience," said Gunther.

Noah Simon, a School of Arts and Sciences junior, agreed with Gunther. "Singing in this historic space while performing with my friends is a dream come true," said Simon. "Even though I am not a Yankee fan, it was great to see how well the staff worked with us and made this a terrific day to watch football, sing, and make Rutgers proud."

Additionally, at the New Era Pinstripe Bowl on December 30, 2011, an octet of Rutgers University Glee Club students, alumni, and teaching assistants performed a rendition of God Bless America between the third and fourth quarters during the Rutgers vs. Iowa State postseason football game. Alumnus Chris Georgetti (MGSA ’11) was extremely proud to sing at Yankee Stadium. "This was a great opportunity for me to not only represent the Rutgers University Glee Club and Rutgers University, but the United States of America."
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REACHES OUT
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worth of toys last winter. Scott Sincoff, the current Treasurer, helped organize the Glee Club team. He made countless announcements in a tireless drive for support. For Scott, running the 5-kilometer course was not just about physical fitness. “I first started doing it two years ago to get physically fit,” he said. “But then I kept on doing it for the great things that the race is doing to uplift the spirits of future leaders in New Brunswick.”

Besides the Big Chill, the Glee Club also supports Dance Marathon. This is perhaps the most visible charity event at Rutgers, and students spend months preparing for it. At the event, students dance for 32 hours to raise money for the Embrace Kids Foundation, a local organization that helps children with cancer and blood disorders. In 2010, Glee Club organized a team to participate in Dance Marathon; in 2011, several members participated through their fraternities or other organizations. In 2012, the Glee Club will be traveling to Mt. Holyoke during the weekend of Dance Marathon—but the philanthropic spirit of the Glee Club will continue to grow. “We see our participation in the Rutgers community as both essential and rewarding,” said member Frank Anderson. “But the chance to contribute to our surrounding communities – as artists and as Americans – seems wonderfully in line with the ideals of Club.”
FROM THE DECEMBER 1955 NEW BRUNSWICK TOWN CRIER

Town Crier

F. AUSTIN WALTER

. . . Had Tux and Traveled!

Probably the most glamorous bachelor in town is F. Austin Walter, musician, composer, conductor, Associate Professor of Music at Rutgers, Director of the Glee Club and University Choir, who is at the moment rehearsing for three concerts next Sunday, a TV appearance Monday, and meanwhile burning Valentines in his back yard in Benner Street, H. P., as he prepares to move his ancestral clocks and grand piano into his new Adelaidea Avenue apartment over the holidays.

He looks like “The Boy Next Door” in a Noel Coward comedy — gay, intelligent, perceptive, and has the straightforward directness, that goes well with country tweeds. He comes from Bucks County — Pennsylvania-Quaker stock — his father was for years the minister of the North Hackensack Reformed Church. His brother Bob teaches math at Douglass — nephew Bob goes to HPHS. He looks like a football-great but insists that he only skates and swims. He laughs a great deal — thinks faster than he talks, which makes for a rush of words, small torrents of talk interrupted by his looking around eagerly, to make sure you’re on beat.

He plunged into conducting from the top — his first public conducting, in fact his first public appearance, being at a Carnegie Hall concert. He was appointed to the Rutgers Music Department when he graduated in 1932, not having taken a single music course during his whole college career — probably the only college teacher on record who had never taken a single undergraduate course in the subject he was to teach!

He’d always played the piano, and organ, and sung. He was a senior when the Glee Club first entered an Intercollegiate Glee Club Contest in competition with Yale, Princeton, NYU, Columbia. He was student conductor when they sang at Carnegie Hall — and did so brilliantly that Professor McKinney invited him to stay on after graduation as his assistant.

Professor McKinney says he’s a born-conductor — intelligent, sensitive, understanding — and that above all that he’s a leader — the boys want to do what he demands — they follow his direction. At once he started on a brilliant series of graduate courses under great men — piano under Chester Searle — conducting under Fritz Mahler, Leon Barzin,oussevsky — the Westminster Choir College — organ with Professor McKinney and Dr. T. Tertius Noble — theory at Julliard with Dr. Medley Richardson — voice with Robert Elwyn at Columbia, musicology with Paul Henry Lang.

His being called Soup has for years led to constant mix-ups. Every few days mail comes to the Music House for Supit. Walter — or Mr. Campbell. In fact, President Clothier once called him on the phone, and steadily called him Mr. Campbell. Soup says it happens all the time so he answers cheerfully to a whole series of mismomers. The boys always call him Soup. When he was six, the child next door couldn’t manage “Austin” and came up with “Oyster” which his family soon changed to “Soup.” He’s used to it — and likes it, so no one hesitates.

The Rutgers Glee Club (65 voices) and University Choir (over 200, including Douglass College and Newark College students) have been heard under Mr. Walter, in Carnegie Hall concerts with the Rochester Philharmonic (Leinsdorf), the Boston Symphony (Koussevsky), at the Worlds Fair, Radio City Music Hall, many times on radio. Next Monday, Dec. 19, they are on TV, ch. 13, 8 p.m. and in March under Mr. Walter they will give a concert in Baltimore with the Baltimore Symphony (Mas-simo Freccia) in February with the Philadelphia Symphony (Eugene Ormandy). Internationally famous, they have been invited by the Mayor of Florence to sing in the Spring Music Festival. (Needed by Mr. Walter, $30,000 to charter a plane to Italy.)

Though he looks like a home-town boy, Soup travels far and often. He’s been in every state but S. D., Ky, Tenn, and Cal., three times to Europe including last summer’s Florentine holiday, and spent a country-club year on leave at Florida at Rollins and conducted the famed Bach Choir in its annual festival. As Associate Professor in Music he teaches music history, appreciation, conducting, organ and piano. This Sunday, Dec. 18, the Glee Club gives its traditional Christmas Carol Services in Rutgers Chapel. (See page 2). Two record albums Songs of Rutgers $1.50, and Christmas Music $2.75, (both for $4) sung by the Glee Club each contain music written or arranged by Mr. Walter, as well as photographs of the Chapel, Queens, Old Queens’ Bell — and Soup in white tie. Not many left, but we thought you should know. At Music House, College and Bishop, N. B.

P.S. Mr. Walter has adopted a one-room mountain school in Kentucky and today is mailing Christmas presents, pens, candy and decorations to 22 children he has never seen — but who write him delightful letters and send him pictures.
University Choral Clubs of Rutgers University and the N.J. College for Women – 1927 at Atlantic City

The oldest picture of the Rutgers Glee Club known today – 1889
As times change, we must adapt. We've adapted for 140 years, and this decade is no different as the Internet not only continues to boom, but has increasingly become entwined with our daily lives. Because of this, we have important announcements.

Since the beginning of our online registration page and Facebook outreach efforts two months ago, Executive Council has been able to update the information of over 150 alumni. Previously, when you changed addresses or any of your information, it was tough to update the system—but people have proven the usefulness of the new registration form on our website: www.gleeclub.rutgers.edu. While this may seem like a small step, this is a simple innovation that will lead to a more connected alumni network. In the coming years, we hope to reconnect many who have fallen out of the system and create stronger bonds with those still in touch. Please visit this site and update your information if you have not already.

Second, we are expanding our online archive of recent and past Glee Gabs. We will continue to produce a physical copy of the Glee Gab for those readers who love the feel of paper in their hands, but we will also begin to deliver digital versions online through e-mails for those readers who use their computers. Be sure to register with us online so we have your preferred e-mail address.

In this our 140th year, the Glee Club continues to be ever changing, yet the same. We hope you get on board and make this a great year. I know I, as well as everyone else in the Rutgers University Glee Club, hope to see you all at the Spring Concert!
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**Rutgers University Glee Club CD Order Form**

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