From 1872 to 2012: 140 years of musical excellence and counting. The current members of the Rutgers University Glee Club are responsible for maintaining a high level of musical accomplishment in the present, but we wouldn’t be where we are without the hard work of our alumni over the past 140 years. That is why for this year’s Spring Concert, we celebrated our alumni and the hard work they have put into this organization by inviting our brothers back on stage to join the current ensemble. Together with the alumni, we performed pieces from international tours over the past 20 years, and other hit songs from previous eras of the RUGC, culminating in a combined performance of Ave Maria by Franz Biebl.

Alumni from each tour joined us on stage to sing Dona Nobis Pacem by Joseph Gregorio, Robert Shaw's arrangement of What Shall We Do With A Drunken Sailor, Evviva Beviam! by Giuseppe Verdi, and Rain, "140 Years" continued on Page 2

Every year, there are one or more students who go beyond singing to help the Glee Club maintain excellence. The Aspinall Award is a scholarship awarded to these outstanding members of the Rutgers University Glee Club. The only requirements for the award, besides going above and beyond expectations, are that the recipient be a returning member of the ensemble and not an executive council member.

The award was made in honor of Donald B. Aspinall, an alumnus of the Glee Club who passed away very early in his life. Donald’s sister, Mrs. Joanne Sullebarger, remarks that she would hear her brother’s voice booming from the baritone section when she would attend his concerts, even though he wasn’t supposed to stand out. Mrs. Sullebarger knew how much the Glee Club meant to Donald and wanted to make sure others could share in the same joys and opportunities he did.

Mrs. Sullebarger states: “it was something that I thought would be nice to do in his memory. It is awarded to outstanding members of the Glee Club and was made aspinall award” continued on Page 4

A new choral rehearsal building on the Douglass Campus, named after the Glee Club’s very own Robert E. Mortensen, celebrated its groundbreaking last spring. The finished building (artistic rendering above) will feature new rehearsal spaces and practice rooms. However, the Glee Club will continue to use McKinney Hall for its regular rehearsals.

"Pride In Musical Excellence Since 1872"
Rain, Beautiful Rain by Joseph Shabalala. The Ave Maria was sung with all RUGC alumni joining us, which meant close to 150 singers on stage, with the semi-chorus made up solely of alumni. “I’ve been coming to Glee Club concerts for several years now. I always enjoy the Rutgers songs and this year, Dr. Gardner’s classical repertoire truly showcased the vocal capabilities of one of the oldest men’s choirs in the nation.” says Kellyanne Healey, a student in the Graduate School of Education and member of the Kirkpatrick Choir.

Having spent the last four years of my life with the Rutgers University Glee Club, and in that time given over 45 concerts everywhere from Kirkpatrick Chapel to St. Peter’s Basilica, not counting the numerous gigs and Rutgers University events in between, I can say that this was for me one of my most memorable experiences – a personally moving performance of a repertory I really loved. The first half, featuring a composition by Pulitzer Prize–winning composer Lewis Spratlan and a staging of a scene from The Damnation of Faust by Hector Berlioz, proved to be some of the most engaging repertoire in my years with the group. This was matched, maybe even surpassed, by the alumni joining us on stage. The energy and excitement they provided for the second half and the traditional Rutgers song portion of the program truly elevated the performance to spiritual heights.

This year, for the first time in my years in the RUGC, we succeeded in selling out Nicholas Music Center for the concert. We have tried to sell out the auditorium every year, and we finally succeeded! In the few hours before the concert, with tickets selling very fast, the Mason Gross Ticket Office made the decision not even to offer free student rush, which has been the primary source of students attending our concerts in the past. This year, every person who entered the auditorium to see the concert paid for a seat, and knowing that such a large crowd is willing to pay for a chance to hear us sing means a lot to me both as a singer and as a proud member of this organization.

With my past four years as an undergraduate student leading me up to a spectacular 140th Spring Concert, I only hope to spend my next two years as a graduate student working on the push towards 150 years of musical excellence.
Having been an active participant in student clubs and organizations through three universities, I find it easy to say that the Rutgers University Glee Club has to be one of the quirkiest groups you'll find anywhere. As a singer in this all-male ensemble for three years, I can also say it is also one of the most diverse groups one can find anywhere—something which many of us take for granted. I think it may be entertaining and enlightening to take a few retrospective moments and recognize just how fantastically dynamic the men of our club have proven to be.

First, as in any other student organization, our membership always stretches across the spectrum from freshman to senior. However, I suspect that no other group has been able to attract so many graduate students. First, there are our fantastic teaching assistants who’ve joined us from the Masters and Ph.D. programs in Mason Gross; but somehow we also capture the interest of future physicists, educators, battery cell material engineers, and even student administrators.

But as graduate students regrettably come and go, rookies (first years) and bags (everyone else) make up the core unit of this ensemble. Here is a broad look at the diverse academic backgrounds of the undergraduates returning to the Rutgers University Glee Club next year.

Nearly every school is represented, and if you look closely, majors are quite widespread. You will also find a variety of creeds, race, and orientation. Let’s take a look at some of the seniors who will be joining the alumni ranks after this year.

Matt Restine, a major in Computer Science, will be doing an independent study that concerns the needs of current and future investors throughout the financial markets. Jeremy Ballack, majoring in English Literature and Geological Science, will be an ARESTY Scholar this coming academic year. His role as a Research Assistant will involve writing for a noted tenured Rutgers Professor. This new project will culminate in an anthology about Dutch-African Post-Colonial Literary Theory published by Oxford University Press. Chris Pasi, Journalism and Media Studies major by day, accomplished filmmaker by night, has competed in and won national filmmaking competitions throughout the country. Although that’s just the beginning, one does not have to look much further to see plentiful participation in gender studies, philanthropy, sports, and every other aspect of the University imaginable.

Unfortunately there isn’t enough space to share the great things each of our members is doing, but I know a lot of it wouldn’t be possible without the environment of acceptance, support, and friendship that always permeates the Glee Club.

This article really is about the great cultural and academic diversity of our current ensemble, but we all know that it is because of our alumni and directors that we are able to continue this great tradition for years to come. This group, throughout the years, has stayed true to its musical roots and accepting atmosphere.
Aspinall Award
Continued from Page 1

to help these members financially. It was a fund that we built up over the years and a percentage is given every year, but managed closely so that it won’t dry up.7

This year the award was given to two students who helped out the organization beyond what was expected of them in very different ways. The recipients this past year were Paul Conrad, a sophomore in the Mason Gross School of the Arts studying Music Education and Piano Performance, and Christopher Glass, a senior in the School of Arts and Sciences studying Mathematics and returning in the fall in the Graduate School of Education studying Mathematics Education.

Paul Conrad received the Aspinall Award, in part, for his commitment throughout the year in rehearsals, stepping up to the piano either if our accompanist Kelly Crandell was away or if we had split up for sectionals. Paul made it possible for the Glee Club to move quickly through the music, while maintaining a level of performance one could only expect from a seasoned professional. While he was at the keyboard, his focus and attention to the music meant that we never lost a beat. Paul also learned and performed one part of the four-hand piano accompaniment to our piece by Lewis Spratlan, which we premiered this past spring at Mt. Holyoke College in Massachusetts.

Christopher Glass received the Aspinall Award for his help behind the scenes. While Chris did his job as Music Manager without a hiccup, he has also put in many hours recruiting new members at the summer’s new student orientation sessions over the past three years, and spent countless nights up late working to organize the alumni for the 140th Spring Concert this past April. His help this past year throughout the summer and fall was invaluable, working every day up to the Christmas Series, and then throughout the spring up to our remarkable concert. He made the grueling task of being President much more bearable for me, by aiding me and other officers countless times throughout the year.

The award given by the Sullebargers is greatly appreciated by the members of our organization, and we all benefit from having Donald’s memory live on in the Rutgers University Glee Club.
The Rutgers University Glee Club had a unique experience this year. We had the pleasure of performing a piece composed by Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Lewis Spratlan. Commissioned by the Glee Club and director Dr. Patrick Gardner, *Travels* premiered at Mt. Holyoke College on March 31, 2012. This was not the first time the Glee Club has presented a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer’s work to the world. At the American Choral Directors Association convention in 2000, we performed *The Miracle* by William Bolcom. However, what set the recent premiere apart was the fact that our own Daniel Spratlan, our assistant conductor and the composer’s son, conducted his father’s work.

*Travels* is a piece in three movements, based on poems by the acclaimed poets Brad Leithauser and Mary Jo Salter, both of whom have ties to Mt. Holyoke College and are close friends of Lewis Spratlan. Each poem describes a different locale. We begin on a tour bus bumbling through the Australian outback, observing the local kangaroos; then, suddenly, we’re transported to a halted train in a rainy New Jersey setting, where a child has scribbled on the window the name OTTO, a palindrome, which is viewed and written about through the music. The journey culminates in Paris, France in a downpour as we remark on the beauty of a rainbow over the Seine. In each case, the composer’s music transports the listener as effectively as the lyrics. Kelly Crandell, our accompanist, and sophomore piano music major, Paul Conrad, played the four-hand piano accompaniment beautifully, successfully setting the scene in each movement.

As Daniel Spratlan cut off the final whispers of rainfall from the piano, the Mt. Holyoke chapel erupted into applause. Lewis Spratlan, along with the poet Brad Leithauser, joined us on stage, praising the choir and the conductor, Daniel Spratlan. This premiere was truly a remarkable moment for the choir this year.

---

**Upcoming Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homecoming</td>
<td>Saturday, October 27, 2012</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>TBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masterworks of the Jewish Choral Tradition</td>
<td>Sunday, November 11, 2012</td>
<td>4:00 PM</td>
<td>Nicholas Music Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas in Carol &amp; Song</td>
<td>Saturday, December 8, 2012&lt;br&gt; Sunday, December 9, 2012</td>
<td>6:00 / 9:00 PM&lt;br&gt; 5:00 / 7:30 PM</td>
<td>Kirkpatrick Chapel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Concert</td>
<td>Saturday, May 4, 2013</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Nicholas Music Center</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Lewis Spratlan (left) and Dan Spratlan (right) worked together to make this premiere a smashing success.
As a Glee Club alumnus, Mark Sharp (MGSA ’96) knew the Glee Club would always be with him, but he never knew how involved fate would lead him to become. Mark is currently the Administrative Advisor to the Rutgers University Glee Club and several other Rutgers University student organizations. Here is what Mark had to say regarding his current involvement with the Rutgers University Glee Club.

Currently, what do you do for the Glee Club?
I serve as the administrative advisor. Each student organization enrolled through the Student Involvement Office of Student Life has two advisors. A faculty/staff advisor, whose role is to help the group flourish, help the group set goals and help with the programmatic side of their organization; and an administrative advisor who helps officers with program planning and helps officers navigate the policies and procedures of being a student organization.

What is your favorite part about advising the Glee Club?
Seeing that the passion for the club is still alive and well and that the officers strive to keep students engaged and interested not just in the music but also in the social aspect of Glee Club.

Why do you advise the Glee Club?
The Glee Club holds a special place not just in my heart but in my life. I made lifelong friends in Glee Club; my two closest friends Laszlo Varga and Ed Potosnak were the first people I met in the Glee Club in 1994. While I was never able to tour with the club because of my major and my work obligations, our trips to the Somerset Diner, all night Mao games, singing Wednesday nights at Patty’s (now Olive...
Branch) and our random camping trips provided me with plenty of non-musical bonding time. Advising the Glee Club is my way of giving back to an organization that gave so much to me.

**Did you choose to advise the Glee Club? If so, why?** I asked to advise the Glee Club because of my connection to the club and knowledge of the club’s history and traditional events. When I first started working for Student Life and it became known I was a former bag, I started receiving questions like: “What’s Mike’s Hunt, and should I be concerned?”

**Who else do you advise?** Queer Student Alliance (formerly BiClarRU), Swing Dance Club, Rutgers University Multi-Cultural Dance Organization, RU Swara, RU Sindhi, Delta Lambda Phi, BBoy Student Org—and I co-advice the Cabaret and Livingston Theater Companies. This is all in addition to my full time job as the Assistant Director of the Douglass Campus Center.

**How did your experience as a member help you become a better advisor for the Glee Club?** As a former member and officer of Glee Club I understand the pressures of trying to balance being a fulltime student, a dedicated bag, a hardworking/useful officer, a social butterfly, etc.—and somewhere in the middle getting some schoolwork done and learning my music. Having gone through this process, my hope is that I impart some knowledge or helpful tips that will make the officers work smarter, not harder.

**As a member, did you think you would work with the Glee Club in a professional capacity? Why?** No. While I always knew that I would support Glee Club after I graduated, and come back like so many alums to the Christmas Series and Spring Concert, I never would have imagined I would come back to work at RU fulltime or become one of the advisors to the club.

**What is the one thing you want to accomplish while working with the current membership?** I want to help the membership create and maintain the pride that goes hand in hand with being a member of the Rutgers University Glee Club. I would also like to help the current officers become more supportive of each other, which will in turn help to create that pride in Glee Club!
Rutgers University Glee Club CD Order Form

Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________
City: ____________________________ State: ___________ Zip: ____________

___ copies of The Bells Must Ring! @ $15.00 each = _______
and ___ copies of Let Thy Good Spirit @ $15.00 each = _______
and ___ copies of the 1999 Eastern European Tour CD @ $15.00 each = _______
and ___ copies of the 2003 European Tour CD @ $15.00 each = _______
and ___ copies of the 2007 Hear The Voice @ $15.00 each = _______

Plus $2.50 each for postage + _______

Amount Enclosed: _______

Please allow 2 to 3 weeks for delivery

The Rutgers University Glee Club
Marryott Music Building
81 George Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1568