

THE OLD MAN ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR THE OLD MEN OF THE
WHEATON COLLEGE GLEE CLUB. A STUDENT-LED PUBLICATION.



MEN'S GLEE CLUB GOES TO FLORIDA

Dr. Mary Hopper

We are looking forward to our spring tour this year, which will take us to sunny Florida in March. Our tour manager, Mallory Troyer, has put together a fantastic trip for the Glee Club with opportunities to sing in schools, churches, and a retirement center. We fly to Orlando on Saturday, March 7. On Sunday, we will sing for the First Presbyterian Lake Wales Church service, which is also where President Ryken will preach that morning. In the afternoon we will present a full concert at the church.

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Monday, March 9, will be a big school day as we will sing for chapel at Lakeland Christian School and perform a joint concert with the Geneva School. Tuesday, March 10, holds more school appearances starting at Calvary Christian High School, Clearwater, and then on to Classical Academy, Sarasota. That evening we will sing a full concert at First Presbyterian Church Lake Placid.

On Wednesday, March 11, we will finally have some free time in the Fort Myers area during the day but will have another full concert in the evening at the New Hope Church in Fort Myers. Thursday, March 12, will find us at Evangelical Christian School in Fort Myers and then at Shell Point Village, where many Wheaton alums live, for an evening concert.

Friday, March 11, we will move to Fort Lauderdale and sing at Westminster Academy and finish the day with a full concert at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Miami. Saturday will be a day to recover and spend some time at the beach. Our final day of the tour, Sunday, March 15, will close with singing at Carl Ridge Presbyterian Church in their morning services and an afternoon concert at 2:00.

We hope to see many Old Men on this trip and look forward to having you join us at the end of each concert singing E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come and A Mighty Fortress. Our tour program includes a wide variety of music, including Gregorian Chant, a Renaissance motet, a Baroque German psalm, a Spanish Christmas piece, a beautiful setting of Psalm 23, and a fabulous arrangement of And Can It Be. At our full concerts, we will perform a few secular songs, including a piece from Porgy and Bess and an up-tempo song "Zeroes and Ones" (I'll let you guess what that is about).

You can find additional information about the tour, including the itinerary on the web at wheaton.edu/mgctour. For those of you who won't be able to see us in Florida, please plan to either attend or watch on the Wheaton Livestream, our Home Concert, on Friday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m.

Each of the men in the club is responsible for paying for their airfare for this trip. Although we raised some funds for the club at our fall event, it would be fabulous if the Old Men could support this year's men. I have several singers who are MKs or have special financial need so if you would like to support them individually, feel free to contact me directly.

To support the entire club, click on the Crest below! Thank you for your support.



***BUT WAIT...
THERE'S MORE!***

Another way that you can support the Club is by purchasing an official MGC "Old Man" sweater for \$60. These sweaters have stood the test of time and bring Old Men together from across the years.

To purchase a sweater email:
cole.comfort@my.wheaton.edu



A STORY OF THE LEGACY OF THE MEN'S GLEE CLUB

Gene Frost, Jr. '75

My father, Dr. Gene Frost, Sr. '43, always told me that the best thing about his Wheaton College experience was his participation in the Men's Glee Club. The Glee Club's president, his junior year, was Dr. Hudson Armerding, who later went on to be Wheaton's fifth president. My dad served as president his senior year. He was honored as the first recipient of the "Old Man of the Year" award in the spring of 2018, just six months before he passed on to Glory at the age of 99.

As I grew up, he also told me stories of his experience with the legendary director Dr. Bill (Uncle Bill) Nordin. I often compared my experiences with my equally distinguished director Dr. Clayton ("Coach") Halvorsen. However, there was one story that stands out. While I have no comparable experience, it does speak to the fraternity and fellowship we all have experienced as "Old Men."

I will let him tell you the story in his own words from his autobiography, written in 2011 when he was 92 years of age.

Remembering "Uncle Bill" Nordin

In the fall of 1965, one day, I was at work in my study at my home on Lake St. (Route 19). It was nearing 11:00 a.m. And suddenly I found myself thinking about Uncle Bill Nordin, who had been my Glee Club director in college days. It had been 22 years since I had graduated from Wheaton, but that morning, I couldn't get "Uncle Bill" out of my mind.

So, I left my desk, went into the living room, and found a Glee Club recording to play from when I was in college. I put the record on the record player, and sat and enjoyed the recording, playing both sides of it. When I finished, it was about 11:30 a.m., and I went back to my work in my study.

The next morning, I was reading the Chicago Tribune at breakfast. And when I hit the obituary page, I glanced over the names. I was surprised to see that Uncle Bill Nordin's obituary was there. He had died the day before, the very day that I was impressed to dig out the old Glee Club recording and play it on my record player.

Sometime later, probably several months later, I had occasion to pick up some pictures at the Photo Salon where Uncle Bill's daughter worked in Wheaton. She remembered me as a "Glee Clubber." I told her about my strange reverie and the playing of my Glee Club record on the very day that Uncle Bill died. I said, "Could you tell me what time of day it was when he passed away?" She said, "It was about eleven o'clock in the morning!" Something to ponder for me?



THE BASS/TENOR FOOTBALL GAME

James Graham '22

Long after the scandals, geopolitics, and headline-dominating talks of impeachment are lost to the dustbins of time, one event will remain. Indeed, if anything at all is remembered from the year of our Lord 2019, it may as well be the Annual Bass-Tenor Football Game, otherwise known as Football-a-Geddon. Don't hate us because we're epic.

It began innocently enough. On a drizzly, chilled Saturday at the end of October, the tenors gathered in an admittedly futile attempt to stop the basses continuing a century-plus winning streak. Both sides were well rested from Fall Break, and armed with the tremendous and unshakable support of the Women's Chorale, lined up on the (Lawson) Field of Battle.

The first half storyline was dominated by seemingly innumerable bass TDs, including a run for the ages by the ever-modest James Graham. By halftime, one could've been forgiven for betting Robert Redford had a better chance of surviving All is Lost than the Tenors had in coming back from that slaughter. Their plight seemed more daunting than the four Wheaties suing the fair city of Chicago.

But come back, they did. Led by New Men Ian Rose as QB and his favorite target, Captain Josh Garrett at RB, the Tenors went on an impressive scoring streak of their own, threatening to change the headline and win ultimate glory. Their resilience and energy were quite remarkable. But rising to the occasion (and possibly predicting a world-dominating future), Old Men Basses Andrew Madsen and Captain Nathaniel McGowan proved a linebacking duo for the ages. They spearheaded a series of three Red Zone stands during separate Tenor drives, repelling each one in a way that would make any Spartan from Thermopylae proud. With valiant spirits and an all-out physical effort, the Tenors proved worthy adversaries and commendable brothers in arms. It is rightly said that offense wins games while defense wins championships, which the Basses proved this year, and that is the lesson in all of this. One hundred and thirteen in a row. Boo-yah!



NOT CONNECTED?

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.

A Call for Glee Club Devotions

If you are interested in giving a roughly five to ten-minute devotional, the club would love to hear old men impart their experience and wisdom!

You can contact Paul Boersma (paul.boersma@my.wheaton.edu) the current VP/Chaplain to coordinate the day you would like to participate.



Spring 2020 CALENDAR

March 7th, - 15th 2020

MGC Florida Tour

March 27th, 2020

MGC Home Concert and Reception

Pull out your calendars and mark March 27th down to join fellow Old Men at the MGC Home Concert. This is sure to be a great time of giving our all to the Lord as we sing to praise him. Following the concert will be a reception hosted by your OMA board which will foster a great time of fellowship with one another.

Click here to support the tour!

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.

Watch our concerts LIVE on-line!

Visit wheaton.edu/streaming in order to watch our concerts when you are unable to attend in person.

