

THE OLD MAN ASSOCIATION

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



What's Inside

- p. 2: Letter from Professor Swedberg
- p. 3-4: Reflections and Pictures from the 2024-2025 Season
- p. 5: Music Digitization Project Update
- p. 6: Announcements

Upcoming Performances Spring 2025 Men's Glee Club Events

4/12, 7:30 p.m. MGC Home Concert

5/9, 7:30 p.m. Commencement
Celebration Concert

LETTER FROM PROFESSOR JOHN SWEDBERG



Greetings, Old Men!

The Men's Glee Club had a very rewarding second half of our fall semester. The Choral Showcase Concert on November 2nd was a great opportunity for us to put the Concert Hall through its paces. We sang a couple of numbers from the stage but also had a chance to sing from the back of the hall. We also sang a "surround sound" piece with the Concert Choir and Women's Chorale, and the audience was very appreciative. Having such a wonderful space on campus to sing is a blessing.

I especially enjoyed participating in my first Wheaton College Christmas Festival, which I hope many of you were able to catch either in person or via the livestream. The "Draw Near" program is still on YouTube, in case you missed it. A few days later, we all had much fun at the Club's annual Christmas Party. Seeing the men enjoy each other's company outside the rehearsal room was a blessing.

This semester has been a good change of pace. We were blessed to sing in chapel on February 28th, but other than that, we have mostly been preparing for our Spring Concert on April 12th. This year's concert title is "Joie de Vivre," and it features (mostly) pieces related to Joy. With several months before our first big concert, it has been beneficial to take our time and dig into skills and pieces without the pressure of another performance just around the corner. One piece I have enjoyed learning with the group is Kile Smith's "I Want to Write a Book of Praise." The composer is living but wrote this piece in the ancient Gregorian chant style. It has been fun to explore this musical language that is relatively unfamiliar to most of the men. Our concert will also feature folksongs and spirituals, along with music by Handel, Brahms, Poulenc, Emma Lou Diemer, and Dan Forrest, to name a few. I hope many of you can make it on April 12th. We look forward to having you join us for "E'en So" and "A Mighty Fortress" and fellowship with you at the reception afterward.

Cordially,
John Swedberg

REFLECTIONS ON THE 2025-2026 SEASON

Joining the Men's Glee Club was the best thing I could've done freshman year! I am so thankful that I was able to join and get to know all the amazing members of the Club. Through the Club, I have made awesome friendships, deepened my faith in the Lord, and developed my vocal abilities. If I was given a chance to redo freshman year, I would again choose the Men's Glee Club in a heartbeat.

Grayson Brezina ('28)

I had the privilege of joining the Men's Glee Club this semester, and it truly has been a highlight of this school year. I only knew a handful of the members prior to joining and as a more introverted person, I had some worries about how easy fitting in would be. Those doubts were quickly shattered on my first day; everyone was friendly, and the group felt like one big family. To me, this ensemble maintains a healthy balance of having fun and working to praise God with musical excellence.

Nathanael Santi ('27)

My time in Glee Club this past year has been awesome! I always enjoy getting to know the new freshmen who join the Club and being a part of all the traditions and parties that take place every year. I have also enjoyed the time we have had with Professor Swedberg, and the many songs that he has led this year have been incredible! I am so thankful for the time I have been a part of this Club, and I can't wait to keep singing with everyone for one more year!

Mark Curcio ('26)

Although I have only been in Men's Glee Club for two years, these two years have brought so much joy and friendship. As a senior, it's sad to think that I will have to leave behind this group of men that I love spending time with, but I know that leaving Wheaton, I am a better friend, singer, and gentleman because of the Glee Club.

Andrew Lamb ('25)

PICTURES FROM THE 2025-2026 SEASON



The Glee Club intramural basketball team, Buxtahoopa, enjoyed another winning season! ... All of the games were won by negative points.



Aydin Henderson ('25) and Noah Doolan ('25) enjoy iced tea from goblets before a concert performance.



Glee Clubbers sit and chat about the semester at the annual Christmas Party.



Glee Clubbers stage a fight between people with either blue or purple sheet music.

MUSIC DIGITIZATION PROJECT UPDATE

The MGC Archive has now been in public testing for two years, accepting signups through our newsletter and in-person events. Old Men everywhere can stream Glee Club recordings whenever they like, preserving and presenting the Club's musical history. Development has been slow, but the response from Old Men has been very encouraging.

Almost 100 Old Men have signed up for the Archive, with more still waiting to be added as testers. The average user has listened to 68 songs, totaling 169 hours of MGC recordings streamed by MGC alumni in the since 2023.

Unsurprisingly, "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" (58) and "E'en So Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" (36) have received some of the most plays, but favorites like "At the Cross" (40), and "Death, I Do Not Fear Thee" (23) also received plenty of playtime.

Despite our best efforts, the archive is incomplete. Below are some of the missing Spring Concerts from our collection. If you or a fellow Old Man have physical or digital copies of these albums, please get in touch with us at mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu.

Pre-1970

1972, 1973, 1974

1983, 1986, 1987

1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999

2002, 2007

2020

The archive is available at stream.mgcarchive.org, and you can still sign up to be a tester at mgcarchive.org.



CONNECT YOURSELF!!!

Join the "Wheaton College Men's Glee Club Old Man Association" Facebook group to keep in touch with what is going on with your fellow Old Men!

CONNECT YOUR FRIENDS!!!

Know any former Glee Clubbers who don't receive these newsletters? Help them out! Send their email address to alumni@wheaton.edu (or encourage them to do so)!

Announcements

- Participating in the Men's Glee Club has been a life-changing and life-defining experience for many of us. As we seek to stay connected as Old Men and part of each other's lives, we'd like to begin sharing news and updates of significant life moments such as weddings, births, and the deaths of Old Men. But we need your help! If you've recently married, expanded your family, or know of a recent passing of an Old Man from your era, we'd like to hear from you. Please send your news and the years you were in MGC to mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu and help us share these events.
- Submit Your Stories! The Old Man Association is always excited to collect memories and reflections from Clubbers past and present. Whether you recently found some old MGC memorabilia or have a score to settle from the Bass-Tenor football game, you can send stories and photos to mgc.alumni@my.wheaton.edu.
- The Men's Glee Club Concert, Joie de Vivre, is at 7:30 on April 12. Please join us in singing "A Mighty Fortress" and "E'en So!" Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at tickets.wheaton.edu.

