



Pitt Men's Glee Club Fall Newsletter 2016

OUR EBOARD: RISHI GUPTA, JOE ROGERS, ETHAN PAULES, KEN MORSE, AND ALEX ROWDEN

IMPORTANT NEWS

Announcing: International Tour 2017!

by Joe Rogers, Vice President & Alumni Liason

Every three years, PMGC embarks on an international tour to expand our international presence and spread our sound across nations. Our previous tour was to Italy for our 125th anniversary on campus, where we traveled from Naples in the south to Venice in the North and were able to perform at historic venues such as Il Duomo in Florence and the Vatican. For our next tour, we will be embracing a new experience all together.

We are both proud and excited to announce that the Pitt Men's Glee Club has been invited by the Belgian government to perform at a World War I Memorial event in 2017. We will be singing at the American Cemetery in Flanders Fields and will be joined by a Belgian Choir and a German Choir, making PMGC the only American choir performing at this historic event. As part of this tour, we will be performing in other venues nearby, including a church in Amsterdam, Netherlands and other locations in Belgium. Our tour will last from October 4 – October 9, 2017, and participating members will be excused from their classes

so that they can attend. While part of the tour will be financed by the Belgian government, we will be launching a crowdfunding campaign through the university next semester in January.

Current members of the Glee Club will be joined by some alumni and several members of Steel City Men's Chorale to boost numbers for this tour. Unfortunately, new members for the 2017-18 school year will not be able to attend, as some of our repertoire for this tour will be learned in the spring and rehearsed during sessions in the summer. The Glee Club has not been to Belgium since 2013, when we went on a tour to France, Belgium and the Netherlands, and we are very excited to return. We are positively ecstatic to be planning for this tour, and hope to expand our international presence and make more connections in Europe while we are there!



Upcoming Events

Our Holiday Concert will be held this year on Saturday, December 10, at 4:00 PM, in the Sanctuary of the First Baptist Church of Pittsburgh. We will be performing pieces by Lauridsen, Shaw, Boersma, Barrow, and more, as well as a few pieces directed by Mr. Teaster. We will also be featuring pieces by the Pantherhythms, including a piece by Paul McCartney. Tickets will be at the door or online at <http://www.music.pitt.edu/tickets> and are \$15 for non-students. We hope to see you in the audience!

Our annual Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser will be held on Friday, January 27th, 2017, at First Baptist Church. Tickets are \$7 for Pitt students and \$10 otherwise. All proceeds go toward daily expenses and our tour fund. Tickets can be purchased [here](#) online.

Pitt Make a Difference Day

by Joe Rogers

This year, PMGC signed up for Pitt Makes a Difference Day, where Pitt organizations are assigned to service projects across the city and give back to the community. Six Glee Club members boarded a bus at 9:00 AM on a Saturday morning. Alongside organizations such as Rainbow Alliance and several sororities, we were assigned to a project in the Perry South neighborhood on the North Side. We were helping Pulse Pittsburgh, a nonprofit organization that helps recent college graduates give back to the community. This area in particular was in need of cleaning on some of the houses, so despite the rain and cold weather that morning, we took buckets and sponges with us and cleaned the siding on the porches of several houses that needed it. Several of these houses were owned by Pulse and housed people getting ready for other projects across the city. When we were done cleaning our assigned areas, we took



trash bags with us and scoured the neighborhood for trash and recyclables. From our efforts our team that day was able to fill up a recycling-themed structure with recyclables, which Pulse will use to showcase and demonstrate their efforts to clean up Pittsburgh and give back to the community. It was a wonderful experience all around, and we hope to participate again next year with stronger numbers.

PMADD WITH PULSE

Members Joe Rogers, Chris Spicer, Alex Rowden, Ethan Paules, Ben Zak, and Jack Habib volunteered for 5 hours on a Saturday to clean up a local neighborhood. *Picture Credit: Pat Healy*



Domestic Tour 2017

by Christopher Spicer, Tour Manager

Hello, everyone! My name is Christopher Spicer, and I am the Tour Manager for the 2016-2017 school year. Glee club has an exciting tour lined up this year, one that some of our more recent alumni will find reminiscent of our spring 2014 tour.

After departing Pittsburgh on Saturday, March 4th, our tour will begin in Philadelphia, PA with an afternoon concert on Sunday, March 5th at The Church of the Holy Trinity, Rittenhouse Square. That night, we leave for New York City, where we will sing at St. Patrick's Cathedral the very next day. After singing there in the spring of 2014, the group was once again invited back to perform in their concert series. We have another NYC concert on Tuesday, this time at the Trinity Wall Street Church. The next day, we will

leave New York and head to Connecticut, where we have an evening concert at The First Congregational Church of Granby. On Thursday, we will leave Connecticut for Boston, Massachusetts where we will tour the city and have a concert in Millis, Massachusetts the following evening. The next day, we will begin the long journey back to our home in Pittsburgh.

I couldn't be more excited for tour this year, and the group hopes to see some of you along the way! Also, be sure to follow along with our tour on the glee club website, where a tour blog will be updated regularly as we journey from destination to destination.

PHOTOS FROM RETREAT



The Freshman Fall Retreat Experience

By Ben Zak, Freshman from Ohio

Joining Pitt Men's Glee Club has been one of the best decisions I've made in college so far. As a freshman in college, there are a lot of new and somewhat scary experiences to face. However, since my first day in PMGC, it has been a place where I can go and feel comfortable while being challenged to grow as a singer. It is a place where I get to go share in the beauty of creating music with fellow Pitt students. It is quite different from any other choir I have been in previously. Richard works hard to push us to improve our individual singing and technique while encouraging us to blend as one unit.

PMGC has also been a great opportunity to make friends. All of the members are friendly and very approachable. The upperclassmen have done a wonderful job of making all of the new members feel included and truly part of such a talented group. Since joining PMGC, I have had the chance to meet new friends, create music, and grow both as a person and a musician. I'm very grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a fantastic club.



Ben Zak, current member

By Joe Rogers

Our retreat this semester took us to Ohiopyle State Park in Fayette County, Pennsylvania. While we started our rehearsals in Oakland at First Baptist Church on Friday, we left early Saturday morning

to rehearse at a church in Uniontown, PA, where they graciously provided us with bagels for breakfast. After several hours of rehearsal, we left for Ohiopyle, which was a half hour drive away, and met at a pavilion in the heart of the park.

While a large group of guys played Ultimate Frisbee in a large field, several members went hiking in the woods and went to Cucumber Falls and a nearby river. The day started off cloudy and a bit rainy, but cleared up later and proved to be an excellent day to be outside. We met back at the pavilion later in the day and grilled burgers for dinner, then played some icebreaker games and learned names. At 8:00 PM, we went back to Uniontown where we had booked a hotel for the night, and most of the guys went to the lobby to play cards or to one of the bigger rooms to talk and bond. We drove back as a group the next morning, and as a reward for hard work the members didn't have rehearsal that Sunday night – which meant more time for napping!

