Sing in the Season

On December 10th, 2015, the Holy Cross College Choirs in conjunction with the Holy Cross Chamber Orchestra and the Chaplains Office present the 37th Annual Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols. The evening will include traditional readings by members of the college community, interspersed with music by the College Choirs and Chamber Orchestra. The music will feature traditional carols, combined with contemporary gospel arrangements and an original piece by Holy Cross senior and Organ Scholar, Abraham Ross, ’16. The festival, which is based on a traditional service that began at the Kings College Chapel in England in 1918, provides an opportunity for the Holy Cross community to gather together in music, reflection, and prayer during a busy time on The Hill. The festival has become one of the most popular events of the season, and is widely attended by the Holy Cross and Worcester communities. This year’s Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols will take place at 8pm on Thursday, December 10th in St. Joseph Memorial Chapel, and will also be streamed live through the Holy Cross website at holycross.edu/live.

Julia Palmerino, ‘18

Calendar of Events

December 10, 8 PM – Lessons and Carols
College Choir and Chamber Singers
St. Joseph Memorial Chapel

February 14, 3 PM – Schubert “Mass in G”
Chamber Singers with Worcester Symphonic Project
Mechanics Hall

March 19, 7 PM – Poulenc “Gloria” and Bach “Magnificat”
College Choir and Chamber Singers with Chamber Orchestra
St. Joseph Memorial Chapel

April 22, 8 PM – Guide You Home
College Choir and Chamber Singers
Brooks Concert Hall

ATTENTION ALUMNI!

Please join us on December 10 to sing O Come, O Come Emmanuel, Once in Royal David’s City, and Adam Lay Y’Bounden. Email jdharris@holycross.edu for more information.

Can’t make it to Lessons and Carols? You can live stream it at holycross.edu/live

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The College Choir Goes Home

After a series of discussions and vision meetings, the College Choir is now committed to touring annually. The benefits are many, from promoting the school's image, to building a tight-nit performing ensemble, to using music to "Ask More", to experiencing the spiritual deepening with music that can only happen in a touring environment. For our second tour, we're taking it home, at least, to my home, in Alabama. One of the perks of having an older brother as a choir director too is that every now and again an opportunity arises for us to work together, and this one is good to pass up. In March, we will join with Quint's choir and the Alabama Symphony Orchestra to perform a series of concerts around Alabama. We'll begin in north Alabama, using song to give back to the community there in a concert whose proceeds will benefit the Gorham's Bluff Institute, a non-profit arts organization whose mission is dedicated to providing arts and cultural activities to traditionally under-served populations. Next we'll perform in Birmingham, at Quint's church, and we'll wrap up the experience in Tuscaloosa, performing at the University of Alabama's glorious Moody Music Hall, one of the best concert venues in the south. Along the way we'll spend time with local culture, explore the Civil Rights narrative, and eat some down home southern cooking. To keep it all in the family, my parents have agreed to open their bed and breakfast to the choir, giving them a true taste of the beautiful rural southeast, cotton fields and all. Between diving into southern music, experiencing southern culture, and presenting amazing concerts, this will be a trip to remember.

David Harris, Choir Director

Alabama’s beautiful Moody Music Hall

“New Beginnings” Released!

We've released our first album, a compilation of studio and live tracks from the past two years, and it’s great for Christmas presents! You can buy your copy through the Holy Cross Bookstore or at one of our concerts. All proceeds go toward the upcoming tour!

PA$$ION

On October 23, the College Choir made their debut of the 2015-2016 year with their concert, PA$$ION. The repertoire ranged from mashups to newly composed choral works, but they all centered on humanity’s complicated relationship with money. The College Choir spent the entire semester preparing for this concert, which resulted in a sense of pride and relief after performing for an enthusiastic audience. There were many special moments that occurred that night. A few major accomplishments were being able to perform Money is Your VuVuZea and Stabat Mater. These pieces were both challenging, but the practice time in rehearsal paid off. PA$$ION was a very exciting concert for us and we hope you all enjoyed it as much as we did! Video and audio tracks from the concert are available at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8hoovros6xq8pv/AAC9_V5MwfcPoF3Vntixgeza?dl=0

Carley Buckley, ‘18
Romancing the Brooks

In the past, the Holy Cross Chamber Singers used to present a solo concert that helped showcase their talents and hard work. In reviving this tradition, the Chamber Singers decided to produce a project out of their comfort zone and create a showcase the campus had never seen before. With the great help of resident vocologist, Laurel Mehaffey, Love and the Fyer was born.

Having a typical concert in Brooks wasn’t enough. Instead, the group worked and produced an engaging, interactive performance for the audience. With a plethora of classical and operatic pieces ranging from Mozart to Brahms, the group created their own characters and a storyline to go with each piece. Throughout the performance, the audience followed various story lines happening at one party, including that of a couple falling in love, sisters bickering over romantic suitors, an acting troupe putting on a performance, a young waitress hoping to escape her dull occupation, an eccentric bartender keeping everyone happy, and party guests finding romance.

For many Chamber Singers, the experience allowed them to venture out of their comfort zone and experiment with the pieces. With this, taking up the opportunity to act things out added a new dimension to the performance. Despite the challenges that came with producing this concert, the group took each one gracefully. In the end, Love and the Fyer was more than a portfolio of accomplishments from the fall, but rather a celebration of hard work and dedication.

Diana Hurtado, ‘17

Semester Reflection

If I could pick one word to describe the experience of Chamber Singers this semester it would have to be busy. Not busy in the frenzied “I don’t have time to breathe” sense -- after all, we only had one Chamber Singers concert this semester -- but busy in the physically satisfying and emotionally fulfilling sense. My fellow Chamber Singers and I would agree that the concert on November 20, dedicated entirely to staged opera arias, duets, and choruses, was a demanding endeavor. Most of us had never acted before let alone act while singing. But in the midst of the challenging repertoire, the Chamber Singers made considerable strides, mastering the art of character building and improvisation as well as refining our vocal techniques and learning how to sing operatically. By the end of the process, I didn’t feel burned-out or fed-up; rather, I felt an overwhelming sense of pride in what we accomplished. With champagne glasses in hand, we made the daunting leap together, leaving no stragglers behind (if you attended the concert, then you’ll get the reference). I’m proud of what we have done this semester and I’m eager to see what we will accomplish together in the spring!

Adam Ouellet, ‘16

Meet the Staff!

Editor
Emma Garaban, ‘17

Writers
Carley Buckley, ‘18
Diana Hurtado, ‘17
Adam Ouellet, ‘16
Julia Palmerino, ‘18

Readers
David Harris, Director
Adam Ouellet, Chair
Hannah Moore, ‘18, singing her solo during PASSION

Adam Ouellet, ‘16, and Carley Buckley, ‘18 sharing a moment during Love and the Fyre

Teresa Murphy, ‘19, performing her solo in Love and the Fyre