Major Works Kick-Off

On Sunday, February 14th, the Chamber Singers, in collaboration with the Worcester Symphonic Project performed Schubert’s “Mass in G” at Mechanics Hall. This was the first of three major works that the College Choirs will be performing this semester. Singing with a full orchestra was something that several members of the choir had not yet experienced. Overall, it was a learning process that resulted in success.

To follow this, the College Choir and Chamber Singers present “Seraphim” on March 19th, a concert featuring Poulenc’s “Gloria” and Bach’s “Magnificat”. Both pieces are of high caliber, containing several different rhythmic challenges and interesting melodic and harmonic contour. This is a concert that you don’t want to miss. We hope to see you there!

Emma Garaban, ‘17

Calendar of Events

March 5-9 – Southeastern Tour

March 19, 7 PM – Seraphim featuring 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

Lessons & Carols Recap

On December 10th, a busy Thursday close to finals, nearly 1,000 people gathered in Saint Joseph’s for one of Holy Cross’ most celebrated tradition. Included in this the event was the debut of a new work by Abe Ross, ’16. There were quite a bit special moments, including “O Magnum Mysterium”, and the collaboration with the chamber orchestra of “For Unto Us a Child is Born”. Overall, these pieces were challenging, but all musicians were able to successfully learn their parts. If you missed Lessons & Carols, the you can view it at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB0fl77d0ww.

Karen Xu, ‘19
It is almost upon us; this Spring break the Holy Cross Choirs is traveling to beautiful (and warmer!) Alabama for our Roll Tide! Tour. We have several amazing events planned such as singing at the Moody Music Hall at the University of Alabama. I don’t know about anyone else, but this is going to be like nothing I have ever experienced. I couldn’t be more thrilled to spend part of my spring break on tour with the choir, and to create and share new memories.

Allison Rancourt, ‘17

The College Choir's Southeastern Tour is just around the corner, and we’ve been preparing with great anticipation. 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, Vestavia Hills United Methodist 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, eat some down home southern cooking, and experience some scenic culture. Between diving into southern music, experiencing southern culture, and presenting amazing concerts, this will be a trip to remember.

David Harris, director

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!

Elizabeth Driver, ‘19

The Choir Weekend Experience

On January 23-25, I was fortunate enough to be a part of the Chamber Singers and College Choir’s early return to campus. We were able to immerse ourselves in numerous new large works, such as Poulenc’s Gloria and Bach’s Magnificat. Undertaking these lengthy, complicated works required a team effort by all, and each individual was willing to contribute everything they had to move the progress of the pieces along.

The most fascinating part of the weekend was definitely learning more about vocology, or the science of the voice. We are so lucky to have our own vocologist, Laurel Mehaffey, in residence to help us out! With innovative, cutting-edge technology, we were able to see our own voices, projected as frequencies in various formants and harmonics, on a computer screen! For singers, whose instrument is one that cannot be seen in plain sight, this was an exciting experience.

Elizabeth Driver, ‘19
Looking Forward for a Final Time

Looking back on the fall semester, I can’t help but smile in pride of what the College Choirs accomplished. We successfully welcomed a new group of talented singers, integrated vocology into our rehearsal routine, and improved our technique. In addition, we performed several celebrated concerts, including Lessons and Carols (which in my opinion was our most successful one throughout my four years at HC) and an unprecedented Chamber Singers concert (“Love and the Fyer”) featuring staged opera scenes. Meanwhile, the Choir Board was extremely busy. We hosted a series of popular social events as well as created an in-house graphic design and photography team among other accomplishments. I’d say that last semester the board transformed into a well-oiled machine, becoming increasingly efficient. But despite our productivity, it’s important as chair to step back for a moment and articulate the vision; after all, without a vision, efficiency is meaningless. This semester, I wish to create a space where all members of the choir are able to grow both socially and musically. I hope to build upon the momentum of last semester by engaging members of the choir whether it’s through formal or informal social events and empowering section leaders to continue developing their leadership skills. As I enter my last semester at Holy Cross and my final semester as a member of the College Choirs, I’ve already started to become nostalgic and even a bit sad that I’ll soon be leaving Mount St. James. But I’m incredibly grateful to my fellow singers who have played such an important role in my life over the past four years.

Adam Ouellet, ‘16

Meet the Staff!

Editor
Emma Garaban, ‘17

Writers
Elizabeth Driver, ‘19
Adam Ouellet, ‘16
Karen Xu, ‘19

Readers
David Harris, Director
Adam Ouellet, Chair

If you missed our “PA$$ION” Concert, you can view it at https://www.dropbox.com/sh/8hoovros6xsq8pv/AAC9_V5MwfcePoF3Vntixgeza?dl=0

How can you help? We’d love to fill up St. Joseph Memorial Chapel for our “Seraphim” concert featuring Poulenc “Gloria” and Bach “Magnificat”. It’s going to be an incredible evening. You can help by inviting everyone you know! Share this link https://www.facebook.com/events/442379955886654/

We hope to see you there!