

## The University Glee Club of New Haven

### Historical Highlights

#### Membership –

Founded by 10 men December 7, 1924, membership grew to 49 by the first concert April 7, 1925. From the mid-1920s to the mid 1970s there were about 70 to 90 members. For a time, it appeared to be capped at 80—evenly distributed among the 4 parts! Peak membership was 91 in the Winter of 1939 (it hit 100 in Spring 1945, including 30 men on military leave). After shrinking to 22 in the Spring of 2002, it is now on the rebound. The longest tenure by a singing member is a remarkable 63 seasons by Elliott Barske, our previous club historian and now honorary member. The longest father-son tenure belongs to Bill and Merritt Cleaver—78 seasons and counting. Forty year tenures have not been uncommon, and we presently have a member in his 55<sup>th</sup> year: Dr. Bob LaCamera! Our members, who have included doctors, lawyers, policemen, firemen, ministers, rabbis, professors and students are joined by a common love of singing. As Barty (Marshall Bartholomew) has said: “There is altogether too much talking in this world and not enough singing.”

#### Directors –

Our close relationship with Yale is evidenced by leadership from Directors of the Yale Glee Club and Freshman Glee Club, the Dean of the Yale School of Music, the founder of the Yale Alumni Chorus, and several talented grads of the Yale School of Music:

Marshall “Barty” Bartholomew	12½ seasons:	1925-27, 1939-48, 1951
Mark Andrews	12	“ 1927-39
Luther Noss	2	“ 1948-50
Walter S. Collins II	1	“ 1950-51
Arthur Frantz	3½	“ 1952-55
Fenno Heath	30½	“ 1955-65, 1966-83, 1984-86
H. Harmon Diers	½	“ 1966
Allen Brown	½	“ 1984
Mark Dollhopf	16½	“ 1986-93, 1994-98, 1999-2002, 2003-04
Vince Edwards	½	“ 1994
Timothy Snyder	1	“ 1998-99
Stephanie Gregory	½	“ 2003
Frank Martignetti	½	“ 2005
Ethan Nash	4	“ 2005-09
Kevin M. Buno, Jr		2009-

#### Venues –

From January 1926 to December 1976 our main concerts were held in Woolsey Hall. Then (through 1985) we alternated between Sprague Hall in the spring and Woolsey Hall in the winter. For the next 20 years, Battelle Chapel was our primary concert site. More recently, we have chosen to sing in various churches in the greater New Haven area, as well as the New Haven Lawn Club. In addition, our glee club has participated in several significant out-of-state concerts: the Sesquicentennial Exposition (for the Declaration of Independence) at Philadelphia; 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Yale Glee Club at Carnegie Hall; the New York World’s Fair; and several gatherings of the Associated Glee Clubs of America at Madison Square Garden (as many as 3700 voices). For Connecticut’s Tercentenary we joined 71 other state choruses in the Yale Bowl. We’ve joined the New Haven Symphony in the Yale Bowl for a Pops Concert. We have sung joint concerts with many other singing groups, and at venues such as book stores, ball parks, country clubs, hospitals and retirement communities.

#### Other –

Closing our winter programs with O Holy Night (Andrews arr.) and O Come All Ye Faithful (Baldwin arr.) has been the rule since 1936. Since 1960, all concerts have begun with Greig’s Brothers Sing On. From Charles Kullman (Met Opera) to Stephanie Gregory, we have engaged many talented outside singers and instrumentalists. Most popular has been the Trinity Church Boys Choir with 23 winter appearances between 1936 and 1977. During Fenno Heath’s tenure, Judith (Fay) Caldwell was a favorite.