

# Fol-de-rol

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Newsletter of the  
Yale Glee Club Associates  
Winter 2014

## "Are We There Yet?" New Year Launches Hendrie Hall Renovation and Expansion

**"Are We There Yet?"**—It's a question Glee Club Director Jeff Douma and Music School Dean Robert Blocker have heard too many times since the Yale board put the renovation of Hendrie Hall back on the "to-do" list a year ago.

And in the dawning days of 2014, their answer is a joyful "yes!"

What's their definition of "there"? Jeff reports that YGCA giving, sparked by several generous gifts at year's end, has pushed alumni totals past the \$250,000 goal; a \$100,000 December gift lifted the total to \$311,000, which, matched by endowment gift funds, exceeds our \$500,000 "there."

Dean Blocker says the School of Music's "there" is \$50 million (\$55 million would be nice, he adds). "We currently have \$22.3 million in hand and the rest in pledges," he said, "enough to start site preparation this summer and building work in the fall."

Translated into reality in a couple of years, the plans for the "new" Hendrie are magical. Imagine a rehearsal in 201, for example, which will look about the same until you notice that the radiators are gone and will feel about the same until you realized that the windows are soundproofed and that heating and air conditioning are silent.

### What's Ahead for YGCA's Support?

After all the handshakes and congratulations and thanks for surpassing our fund-raising goal, it's tempting to sit back and watch as the "new" Hendrie Hall emerges from beneath the renovators' scaffolding.

However, in the immortal words of the TV pitcher, "But wait! There's more!"

Yes, the project will begin in earnest when stu-

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**Elm Street's Hendrie Hall, long-time home to the Glee Club, Band, Orchestra, WYBC, and even cap-and-gown rentals.**

Jeff will be able to press a button and the rehearsal will be recorded. He can record a section and replay it to accompany another section or rehearse with a chorus in another nation or time zone, live, in real time. Six other rooms in the new building will have these technological resources, according to Michael Yaffe, Yale School of Music Associate Dean, who is leading the project for Dean Blocker.

A new four-story building will connect Hendrie and Leigh Halls. The new complex will house 35 practice rooms, compared to the seven practice spaces currently on the Hendrie's third floor. The renovation will also create an atrium for a student lounge, an orches-

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# Bass Notes

Editorial Comment • Linus Travers

Two or more decades ago I came to 201 Hendrie Hall for a meeting and was shocked to find that the stair treads were no longer concave—after a century of use they had been worn to alarming angles, and an attempt to rejuvenate the building involved replacing stair treads. I nearly tripped.

The lights seemed brighter, the old paint had been covered with new paint, the floor had been refinished to gymnasium luster—that was the 1990's definition of renovation.

In May, work will begin on a significantly more ambitious architectural, aesthetic, and, really for the first time, technological renovation. I expect to be shocked again when I amble up the "new" stairs in 2016, "shocked" as in "shock and awe." The pictures, the plans, the promises are

just that; what a joy it will be to sample the real spaces twenty-four months hence.

So many have worked and waited for this project to move off paper, so many have written checks and pledged support. Many of them will be there for the ribbon cutting and hear reality-inspired thank-you's. But for all who have pitched in so far, thank you! Fifty-five million thank-you's!

\* \* \* \* \*

A tip of the hat to YGCA president **Clay Kaufman** and his organizing team, **Sandra Cashion** among them, for producing a banner YGC concert and our first Singing Dinner outside New Haven & New York to kick off the new year.

And on the subject of road shows, keep in mind the March 28-30 **15th Singing Weekend in Boston** (Milton) when Jeff will lead Mozart's *Vespers* and other works slated for the **Alumni Chorus's June performances in Washington DC** (again!). Info: ltravers@umassd.edu.

Ticket time: On Feb. 22 in Woolsey, PBS vet and "the Pope's Maestro," Yale Music alum **Sir Gilbert Levine**, will conduct the YGC and the Symphony in Mahler's *Resurrection Symphony*; on Apr. 5, **YGCA Singing Dinner's** at the New York Yale Club. Sean has tix for both.

"Fol-de-rol (de-rol-rol-rol)," the newsletter of the Yale Glee Club Associates, ought to be published twice yearly at New Haven, CT.

Publisher: Clay Kaufmann '84

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Layout & production: it depends

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# Budget Cutbacks Stalled Effort, But Vision, Leadership Gifts Prevailed

**Where We've Been**—Nearly a year ago, *Yale Daily News* reporters Sophie Gold and Sarah Swong chronicled the on-again-off-again-on-again Hendrie Hall renovation story:

"The \$45 million renovation of the building — which houses practice spaces and offices for undergraduate musical organizations, along with some School of Music departments — was one of the seven major construction projects put on hold in 2008 when administrators grew concerned about the University's finances following the onset of the economic downturn. After the project received a \$5 million donation in December 2011, University President Richard Levin and School of Music Dean Robert Blocker ramped up discussions with potential donors to raise the remaining funds needed for the project.



"Blocker said in an email that he and Levin have received a 'commitment' from Stephen Adams '59 and Denise Adams, who gave a \$100 million donation to the School of Music in 2005 that enabled the school to be tuition-free for all students. Their potential gift to Hendrie Hall 'will take us to our goal,' Levin told the News, . . . allowing the project to move forward next spring and reach completion by 2016.

"Within the last year, both Dean Blocker and I have solicited major gifts toward the project, and we are very close to finalizing an agreement with a donor that will take us to our goal,' Levin said.

"Before the recession, the University had planned to cover a portion of the renovation costs for Hendrie Hall, Blocker said, but this financial scheme became inadvisable when the endowment lost nearly a quarter of its value in fiscal year 2009. The Hendrie Hall project will be funded entirely by gifts and 'capital replacement funds' set aside by the School of Music from its operating budget, Deputy Provost Lloyd Suttle said in a Feb. 5 [2013] email.

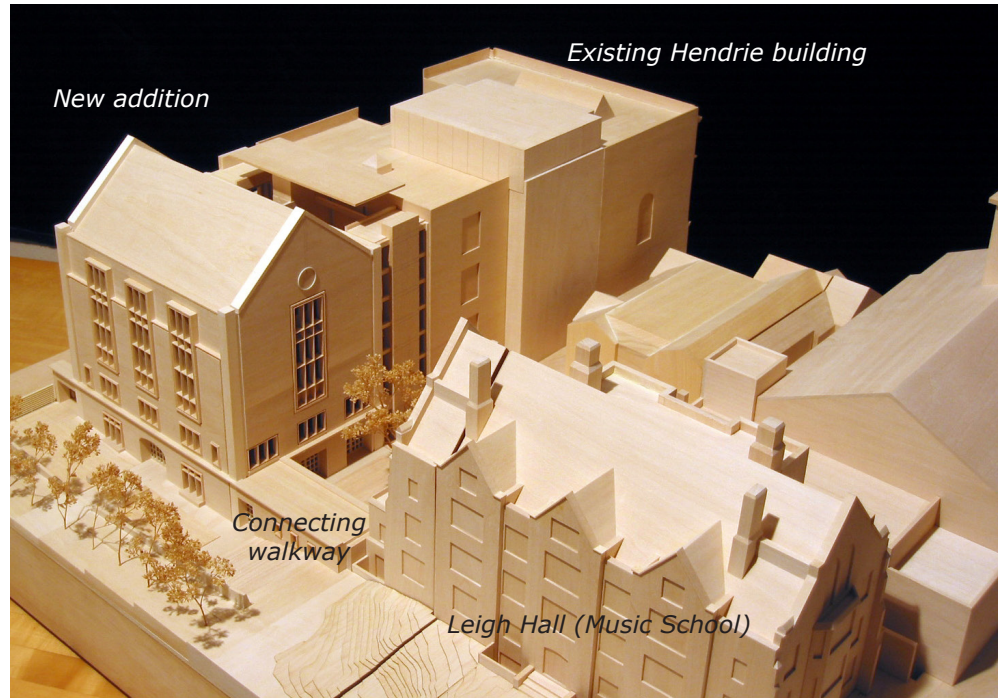
"Most of the donors for the project are Yale College alumni who 'love music,' Levin said, adding that at least one of the major donors is an alumnus of the School of Music.

"The Glee Club, which has rehearsed in Hendrie Hall since 1937, reached out to its alumni in December [2012] to solicit additional donations for the renovation project. The Glee Club room and Band room will be updated but will retain their historic features, Blocker said."

# New Spaces Reaffirm Yale's Commitment to Musical Preeminence

"The new building will give us a common area that we've never had. The commons will have space for people to gather . . . even a fire-place if I can get the funds. People can bring their coffee there . . . undergrads, grad students, alumni, and faculty can come together."

The original staircase will remain, but there will be elevators so that percussionists will no longer have to carry timpani up and down that cherished staircase.



The planned renovation and expansion of Hendrie Hall will dramatically redefine the building's capabilities and character. A 28,500-square-foot addition will increase Hendrie's capacity by 80 percent, housing optimized rehearsal rooms, a digital studio, a common area, and event facilities. The new north wing will feature a courtyard and an enclosed walkway connected to Leigh Hall.

Inside, the rehearsal space for the Yale Philharmonia, Yale Band, and Yale Symphony will incorporate technology for live musical exchanges around the world. Other rooms will boast state-of-the-art acoustics ideal for groups like the Yale Camerata and the Schola Cantorum, and there will be improved spaces for classes, seminars, choral conducting instruction, instrument storage, a cappella group rehearsals, and alumni groups returning to campus.

Inside: 35 practice rooms, each about 100 square feet closed-off, acoustically-appropriate spaces, each with a piano. (There were only 7 in the old building, on the 3rd floor). . . . 7 classrooms plus band, orchestra, and glee club rooms . . . classrooms have "lecture capture" capacity—at the touch of a button a class can be recorded (audio and video) for future use.



**"As the train pulled out of Grand Central"—**  
YGC choristers sing their way home after New York Yale Club holiday concert.

## 2013 Gifts Ensure 2014 Start

*Hendrie—continued from page 1*

tral rehearsal space and several new administrative offices, faculty studios, and student lockers.

Building costs are in the neighborhood of \$50 million. Are we there yet? Dean Blocker said "We're close. Steve Adams' pledge of an additional \$10 million put us within close range. So did Cornelia & Joe Rossi's generous gift to redo the Glee Club Room. We've had incredible support. We are still seeking commitments of \$3 or \$4 million more for overall maintenance and support."



**School of Music Dean Robert Blocker**

"Yale's music complex hadn't been touched for more than 100 years," he said. "Now we have a system in place. I think we're in a good place, given the delay."



*Rendering by Kuwabara Payne McKenna Blumberg, Architects*

## YGCA Support Challenge Continues

*Support—continued from page 1*

dents leave in May. Jeff and Sean will pack up their portable equipment and trundle down the street to 143 Elm Street, a late 18th century brick building for the next couple of years. The music library will go with them. Summer chorus and fall YGC tryouts/rehearsals will take place in Connecticut Hall. The band and symphony will relocate to the Divinity School, with frequent shuttles connecting them to the main campus. Music faculty and other residents of Hendrie have their own plans for the duration. It'll be Music business as usual (well, sort of) until September, 2016.

But while the 2014-15 and 2015-16 seasons come and go, the Glee Club alumni will have some funding challenges to meet. For example:

- Botox and Lipitor will not be enough to bring Jeff's Steinway back to where it needs to be. Some funding exists for the purpose, but there's more work than that ahead.
- Botox and Lipitor will also be inadequate elixirs for the 201 rehearsal piano—no surprise here, either.
- The YGC sheet music library is enormous—more than 2,300 titles and copies currently fill 356 linear feet of shelving (thanks, Sean). The Band and Symphony have their own sheet music collections which will need to be rehoused and catalogued in the renovated spaces. Will they remain separate?

"The Glee Club Room is not only a rehearsal space, but also something of a museum of Yale singing. The walls hold portraits of each Club going back to 1893, including when Cole Porter was president in 1913. The Club also possesses the oldest known photo of a Yale singing group, the oldest printed Yale song, and a section of the original fence where informal singing groups gathered."

—Jeff Douma

Combined? Reduced to electronic storage print-on-demand resources? Plans are still fluid, but whatever decisions are made, our support will be required.

- The YGC has amassed an amazing collection of archive material, not the least of which are concert tour posters, audio discs, tapes, and CD's, video tapes and discs, and more. Much is already housed in Sterling Library's viscera, but what will return to Hendrie? How will it be stored? Displayed? Portraits, posters, and photos on the walls, as usual, but display cases? Appropriate lighting? Again, alumni support will make possible these tangible reminders of a proud 155 years of song.

• Other projects? You bet!

So, hearty thanks again to the 284 YGC singers who wrote checks or prodded PayPal and led us over the top!

Now it's time for the other 2,216 YGC singers—88%—to pitch in and raise the percentage of our support for the project. The YGCA board reached 100% participation by year's end. What percentage of support from the whole YGC alumni pool—2,500—would you be comfortable with? . . . Just asking.

## Travers, Pruett Awarded Coveted YGC Medals

Two more Glee Club alumni were added to the small circle of singers awarded the Yale Glee Club Medal. The 16<sup>th</sup> went to **Linus Travers '58 '59MAT** at the 2012 Singing Dinner in New York, the 17<sup>th</sup> to **Kyle D. Pruett MD '65** at the 2013 Singing Dinner in New Haven.

As undergraduates, both men sang in the Glee Club with Fenno Heath and performed with a cap-pella groups (Duke's Men and Spizzwinks(?), then the Whiffenpoofs). Both sang for Barty (informally) and Fenno as undergraduates and for David and Jeff as alumni. Both have continuing ties to the Glee Club Associates, Pruett as board member and president 1985-89, Travers as long-time board member and editor of the YGCA newsletter, "Fol-de-Rol," since its inception.

In his award citation, YGCA President Clay Kaufman noted that Travers, as "a founding board member and active leader of the Yale Alumni Chorus, has helped bring alumni singing at Yale to the forefront; as founder of the Milton Festival, he has gathered alumni and friends for 15 years for full weekends of inspirational Yale singing."



**Linus Travers**

Pruett, whose medical career at Yale's Child Study Center kept him close to Yale music, "led the YGCA Board during its transition from an informal gathering of singers to a more formal planning and advisory board," Kaufman said. "He was long a great friend and supporter of Fenno and Carol Heath. Many will remember his thoughtful, articulate remarks at Fenno's memorial service and at Glee Club reunions."



**Kyle D. Pruett MD**

He was featured in many of the Glee Club's Christmas *Messiah* performances, at Battell and at the New York Yale Club, and has been a cherished, often behind-the-scenes mentor to many YGC members and alumni. "Musical to his core,"

Kaufman said, "Kyle and his older brother Gordon were both members of the Glee Club and the YGCA board. Music—including the Yale Glee Club and the Whiffenpoofs—has been a major part of Kyle's life and embedded deeply in his heart."

Kaufman pointed out that Travers "is famous for his extemporaneous musings as part of the humming section of 'Bandolero,'" while Pruett's rich solo tenor has become almost synonymous with the Songbook classic, "Drink to Me Only." Pruett was also awarded the Yale Child Study Center's Lifetime Service Award in July.

**YGCA Board Met in New York in October, 2013:** Back row (L-R) Berenblum, Kingsbury, Douma, Kaufman, Goren, Hanold, Goodman, Kim, Woods, Curchack, Neijstrom, Kaestle; Front row (L-R): Helfand, Davis, Lewin, Cashion, Crist



## Yale Glee Club Associates

### Officers

Clay Kaufman '84, President  
Sandra Davis Cashion '92, Vice President  
Catherine Olender Neijstrom '98, Secretary  
Jim Kingsbury '56, Treasurer

### Members

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Jonathan Bush '53  
Sandra Cashion '92  
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Lee Davis '05  
Jody Goodman '80  
Harriett Goren '83  
Marion Hanold '83  
Sarah Heath '73  
Carl Kaestle '62  
Lisa Kant '06  
Clayton Kaufman '84  
Daniel Kim '99  
Jim Kingsbury '56  
Naomi Lewin '74  
Catherine Olender Neijstrom '98  
Linus Travers '58 (Honorary)  
R. Scott Woods '06

### Ex Officio Members

Marvin B. Berenblum '56, Pres. 2006-09  
David H. Connell MusM '83, DMA '91,  
Director 1992-2002  
Mark Dollhopf '77 Pres. 2001-2003  
Jeffrey Douma, Director, 2003-  
Conner Fay '51, Pres. 1977-80  
Rita Helfand, MD '83, Pres. 2003-06  
Charles Kaufmann '66, Pres. 1974-77  
Richard Kimball '52, Pres. 1980-85  
Kyle Pruett, MD '65, Pres. 1985-89  
Rev. Peter Sipple '62, Pres. 1995-2001  
Kenneth Wood, Jr. '50, Pres. 1989-95  
T. Sean Maher, Administrative Associate  
Jere Johnston '63 YAC President

### Yale Glee Club Conductors

Gustave J. Stoeckel, 1868-1873  
Thomas G. Shepard, 1873-1905  
G. Frank Goodale, 1905-1921  
Marshall Bartholomew, 1921-1953  
Fenno Heath, 1953-1992  
David H. Connell, 1992-2002  
Jeffrey Douma 2003-

# Glee Club and Area Alums Wow DC Audiences

By Sandra L. Cashion '92 and Clay Kaufman '84

The 153rd Yale Glee Club visited Washington DC on January 9th and 10th, 2014, as part of a mini-tour along the East coast. The Glee Club shared the first Washington DC Singing Dinner at a local school, Kensington MD's Academy of the Holy Cross. Aply attended, with over 115 people, current Glee Clubbers and alums shared an evening of stories, camaraderie and, of course, song.

Its timing impeccable, as always, the Glee Club arrived just in time that afternoon to sing several songs to the Holy Cross students. Our road warrior Glee Clubbers had just made the trek from New Haven to DC, and what did they crave? Food, fellowship, and song, of course! Our own Clay Kaufman wisely arranged each table to include current singers, so the conversations were enjoyable for all in attendance.



Jeff Douma artfully peppered the evening with songs both old and new from our beloved *Yale Songbook*. The evening ended too soon, but after a long day of driving it was time for the students to meet their respective hosts and travel to

their temporary lodgings.

Friday included a tour of the Supreme Court building and a chance to meet in person with Justices Samuel Alito and Sonia Sotomayor, followed by a concert at the National Presbyterian Church in DC. The enthusiastic audience of nearly 500 was entertained by the Glee



**Amici Curia**—The Yale Glee Club at the US Supreme Court on Jan. 10, under a portrait of Taft, with Justices Alito, Thomas, and Sotomayor. "We sang a Puerto Rican song for Sotomayor!" — Jeffrey Douma

Club's remarkable sound—Theodore Morrison's setting of Yeats' "The Wild Swans at Coole" was spectacular. A chorus of 40 alumni offered favorites including "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel", the "Switzer Boy" yodel featuring Bert Ifill '79 PhD, Marty Brennan '87, and Buzz Mauro '84 on the yodels, and a special alumni song written by Bill Flanders '55 (who sang under both Barty and Fenno, as well as David and Jeff as part of the Yale Alumni Chorus). 'Twas topped off by "We Who Sang at Yale."



One of the highlights of the evening was when at the concert's close the current Glee Club welcomed the alumni on stage for "Raise Your Voices," the "Football Medley," and "Bright College Years."



**Glee Club concert photos by Andre Shomorony '13; Singing Dinner photo by Sandra L. Cashion '92.**

**YGCA Singing Dinner**  
**6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 5, 2014**  
**Yale Club of New York**