

Smith Sings!

A History of Choral Singing at Smith

Smith College Glee Club:
1885-present
Smith College Chamber Singers
1951-present

Celebrating Collaborations
April 17th, 2010

Alexandra Ghiz, Class of 2012

Smith College Glee Club

Beginnings in Hubbard House

- “It was ten years ago this coming October, when, after a concert by the Yale Glee Club, one young lady in the old time Choral Class, instead of dutifully gibling her attention to the intricacies of the “Wanderer’s Night Song”, which was then rehearsing, thought to herself, “Why can’t we have a club for singing glees like the Yale men?” (Smith College Monthly, 1895)
- Fall 1885: 14 Members from the Class of 1888 in Hubbard form a group
 - Sing at House Dramatics (Tertium Quid)
 - Transcribe Arrangements from Yale book
- Officially Chartered 1886-1887
 - First Public Appearance: February 1987 in Social Hall (asked by President Seelye)
- Student leadership
 - Mandolin and Banjo clubs
 - House Dramatics
 - Operettas: The Mikado, Chimes of Normandy, H.M.S. Pinafore

Glee Club 1887-1888



Glee Club and Mandolin club



Smith College Glee Club

Summary of Directors



- 1885/1886-1923 student run
- 1923-1945 Ivan T. Gorokhoff
- 1945-1948 Robert S. Brawley
- 1948-1979 Iva Dee Hiatt
- 1979-1980 G. Roberts Kolb
- 1980-1986 Theodore Morrison
- 1986-1995 Lucinda Thayer
- 1995-1997 Paul Flight
- 1997-present Jonathan Hirsh

Smith College Glee Club

New Leadership



- Ivan T. Gorokhoff (1923-1945)
 - First faculty director of Glee Club, director of Oratorio Chorus (1918-1923)
 - Founder of the Russian Cathedral Choir (1912)
 - Glee Club--First radio appearance 1934
 - Russian works incorporated into repertoire: Arkhangelsy, Rimsky-Korsakoff, Tschaikovsky, Russian folk songs
 - Morrow Cup (awarded at choir competitions) changed to his name

Gorokhoff conducting Smith-Amherst Choirs in JMG



Smith College Glee Club

Robert S. Brawley



- Post-War Activity
- Organized 1st recording and television appearance —November 1947
- Re-organized the choir system
 - 4 class choirs become Smith College Choir (250 members)
 - 2 years in choir: prerequisite for joining Glee Club

Smith College Glee Club 1946-47



Smith College Glee Club

Iva Dee Hiatt 1948-1979



- New level of achievement
 - Performances averaged once a month
 - Regular (annual) concert tours
 - Reorganized Choirs
 - Over 400 students involved in singing
 - Founder of Smith College Chamber Singers in 1950
 - First tour, summer 1951

Iva Dee with the Glee Club, outside



Iva Dee with Glee Club in Front of Center For Performing Arts



Iva Dee and Chamber Singers, 1978-1979



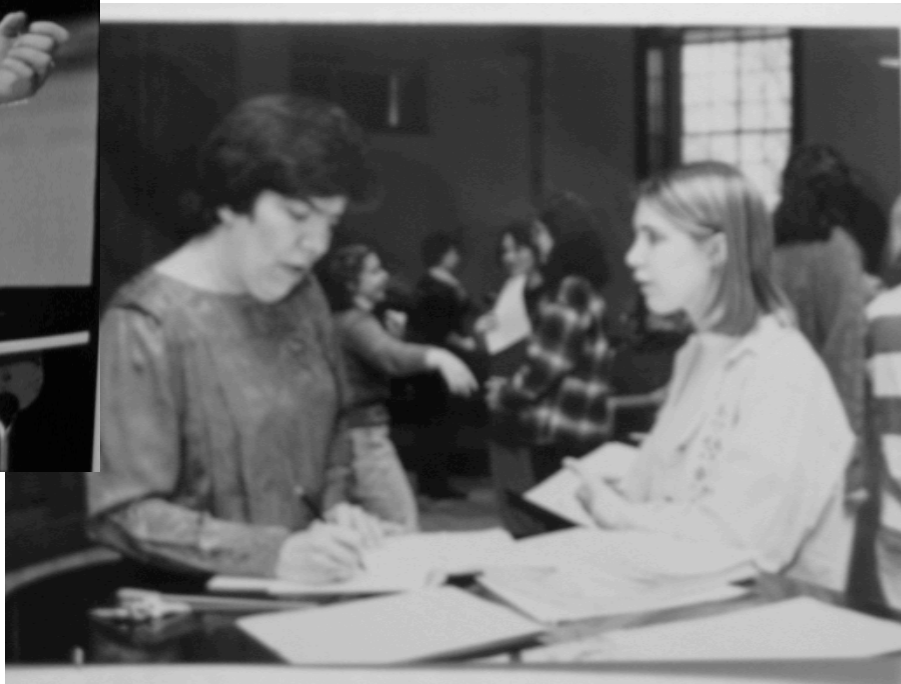
Smith College Glee Club



Theodore Morrison
1980-1986

Moving Forward

- 1979-1980 G. .Roberts Kolb (not pictured)
- 1980-1986 Theodore Morrison
- 1986-1995 Lucinda Thayer
- 1995-1997 Paul Flight
- 1997-present Jonathan Hirsh



Lucinda Thayer 1986-1995

Glee Club Traditions



Christmas Vespers, Undated
feat. Amherst College Glee Club

- Opening Convocation
- Sophia's Circus
- Thanksgiving Service
- Christmas Vespers

- Rally Day
- Commencement Concert

Seniors wear hats for Rally Day
Photo c. 1990



Smith College Chamber Singers



- Selected by audition from those participating in one of the choral groups (in Hiatt's time, over 400!)
- International tour in alternate years

Chamber Singers Tour 1955-56

- 1st group from a women's college to make a concert tour of Europe
- 1st woman's choral group EVER to sing in Canterbury, St. Paul's Cathedral (London) and Chartres Cathedral in France



Smith College Chamber Singers

EVA MAZE präsentiert:

Unter der Schirmherrschaft des Kultur-
referates der Landeshauptstadt München

Werke von
William Byrd Joseph Haydn
Henry Purcell american folksongs

Dirigenten:
Prof. Iva Dee Hiatt Prof. Walter L. Nollner

smith -
princeton -
chamber chorus
herkulesaal
RESIDENZ U.S.A.

montag, 21. juni
1965 — 20 uhr

Vorverkauf: Max Heber am Dom; Amtl. Bayer. Reisebüro am Stachus; Residenz-Bücherstube, Residenzstr. 1; Buchdlig. Lehmkühl, Leopoldstr. 45; Musikalien-Bauer, Maximilianstr. 21; Kongreß- u. Verkehrsstelle München GMBH, im Hauptbahnhof, bei Gleis 21; und Abendkasse

Edmund Lee Hartmann - Druck: Winkler & Co., Frankfurt a. M.

Smith College Chamber Singers

**Asociación Universitaria
Patio de Escuelas**

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**SMITH COLLEGE
CHAMBER SINGERS**

(Agrupación de cuarenta y ocho voces)

DIRECTOR: Iva Dee Hiatt

OBRAS DE: Alfonso X el Sabio, N. Porpora,
Obrecht, Espirituales Negros...

CONCIERTO: Sábado, 17, a las ocho de la tarde,
en la Capilla del Colegio Mayor
Arzobispo Fonseca.

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Día, 18

- Intervención del Grupo en la misa de una, de la Parroquia de San Juan de Sahagún.
- A las ocho de la tarde, concierto en la Iglesia de San Juan de Barbalos.

La entrada, es libre.

San Juan de Barbalos, 18 de Septiembre, 1991

Conclusions



A Collection of
Vespers programs,
early 1990s



A rehearsal in
Earle, 1994

c. 1980s rehearsal with a men's group



Bibliography

- All photographs courtesy of the Smith College Archives
- Recordings used with permission from Werner Josten Library
- Iva Dee Hiatt Papers, Boxes 3-4, Smith College Archives
- Music Department Records: Clubs, Boxes 1173, 1175-1179