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 gibing 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 glee 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 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

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

Theodore Morrison 1980-1986

Lucinda Thayer 1986-1995
Glee Club Traditions

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

Christmas Vespers, Undated feat. Amherst College Glee Club

- 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
Asociación Universitaria
Patio de Escuelas

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.

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.
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