



The Princeton University Glee Club (PUGC), Princeton's oldest and most prestigious choir, was founded in 1874 by Andrew Fleming West '74, the first Dean of the Graduate College and continues to be the premier vocal ensemble at Princeton University.

WHY IS IT CALLED A 'GLEE CLUB'?

The name 'Glee Club' comes from 18th Century England – specifically from Harrow School (where the Glee Club's current director was educated!). The term referred then to a small group of men singing parlour songs, folk songs and other ditties in close harmony, normally without accompaniment. The early American Glee Clubs were based on this model but have since exploded in to the large ensembles we now find at many Ivy League schools. At Princeton we keep the name 'Glee Club' out of reverence for this tradition.

WHO IS THE DIRECTOR?

Gabriel Crouch has been the director of musical and choral performance at Princeton University and the director of the Princeton University Glee Club since 2010. Before his current post, Mr. Crouch was a member of the world renowned British vocal ensemble, the King's Singers. In 2005, Mr. Crouch left the King's Singers to accept the position as head of the choral program at DePauw University until joining the faculty at Princeton. Mr. Crouch holds a degree from the University of Cambridge where he completed a choral scholarship at Trinity College.

HOW LARGE IS THE GLEE CLUB?

The precise number of the Glee Club fluctuates from anywhere between 60 and 80 members. Currently, there are around 80 students who are current members of Glee Club as well as a piano accompanist who is also a student.

ARE ALL MEMBERS 'MUSICIANS'?

Not at all! The vast majority of Glee Club singers are amateurs in the best sense of the word; volunteers who come to the ensemble from all backgrounds, all corners of the globe, and all academic departments on campus.

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DOES THE GLEE CLUB SING?

Anything from the 15th to the 21st Century, from the most solemnly sacred to the most provocatively profane, and from the



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most revered choral masterworks to the Princeton fight songs we are proud to be the keepers of. Highlights from last season include such choral standards as the Faure Requiem and Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs as well as works from contemporary composer Ola Gjeilo and folk songs from Bulgaria, Estonia, and Romania.

ARE ONLY UNDERGRADUATES MEMBERS?

No, we have several graduate students currently serving in the choir. Competition for places is high though, so sadly we are not able to welcome community members except on special occasions.

WHERE HAS THE GLEE CLUB BEEN PERFORMING?

Recent tours have taken the Glee Club to Paris, Buenos Aires, and Hong Kong, where we have sung for such diverse audiences as community members in Chartres Cathedral to foreign diplomats at UNESCO, all the while sharing our passion for music with audiences all around the world.

DOES THE GLEE CLUB TRAVEL?

Yes! Each year we travel to either Harvard or Yale for a joint concert with their Glee Clubs, and we tour internationally on alternate years. These trips are a wonderful way for the Glee Club to represent our university and bring wonderful music to our audiences and it is made possible by the generosity of our sponsors and alumni community. Our upcoming tour will be to Dresden, Leipzig and Prague in 2014!

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

The students and the director run the choir jointly. The student officers are each responsible for a different aspect of the Glee Club's life, and together ensure that Glee Club is smartly dressed, well publicized, and strongly connected to its alumni. However, it is the generosity of our audiences and alumni community that truly serve to keep the excellence and rich tradition of the Glee Club alive!

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information about our group or how to contact us for a performance opportunity, please visit our website at www.princetongleeclub.com or send us an e-mail at princetongleeclub@gmail.com.