



News from the

Radcliffe Choral Society

April, 2009

A Letter from Our President

Dear Alumnae,

After such a great year, I find it bitter-sweet to write to you my last letter as President of RCS. In the beginning of May, we will be holding our elections and ushering in a new group of dedicated and responsible women to take the reins and continue to push RCS forward. I cannot describe how honored I am to have been the President of such a remarkable organization, especially in seeing how much we have accomplished in this past year. Our year began with a fun-filled retreat with the Glee Club and a very musical concert with the Collegium Musicum. We then continued with our tradition of a Christmas Concert with HGC in December before a well-deserved holiday break. Perhaps RCS' most outstanding accomplishment this year was the Festival of Women's Choruses in February, which was a great success! It allowed for a musical exchange and a strengthening of alumnae connections that could only come about from such a large-scale celebration of women's choral music and of RCS. Another great accomplishment this year was our tour to Georgia and Tennessee – perhaps one of the most collaborative tours in recent years, and by far the most financially sound. Even in these trying economic times, RCS



RCSers with Conductor Jim Marvin go on a hike during our spring tour to Georgia and Tennessee.



Erin McKenna '09 and Kavita Kannan '09 introduce the Festival of Women's Choruses in Memorial Church.

received significant honoraria for its performances on tour – something that we hope continues for future tours as RCS becomes more and more prominent throughout the country and the world. Now, as we enter our final weeks of rehearsals for the Beethoven *Missa Solemnis*, I think it is very valuable for us to look back and see how much we have accomplished in the last year. None of this could have been done without the gracious support of our alumnae, and for this we sincerely thank you.

While I hope that these past few years have marked the beginning of many things for RCS – a continued tradition of Women's Choral Festivals, an even more prominent place in the choral community, and a stronger relationship with our alumnae – next year will also mark the end of a significant era as we bid farewell to our beloved Dr. Jameson Marvin. Jim will be retiring at the end of the 2009-2010 academic year, so please stay tuned for a large farewell event this time next year! I hope that this event will provide yet another opportunity to strengthen our connections with you – our wonderful alumnae – as we all say goodbye to a much-loved conductor.

Warmly,
Erin McKenna '09
President, Radcliffe Choral Society

The Appalachian Spring Tour

Our Appalachian Spring Tour was a huge success with great venues, large audiences, and fun activities. Among other things, we explored the sights of the Civil War, traveled on a paddlewheel boat on the Tennessee River, and line danced with Jim. Thank you to all of you who supported us during the planning. Here are a few pictures of highlights from the tour.



- 1) RCS and the Spelman College Glee Club perform together in Sisters Chapel on the Spelman campus.
- 2) RCSers visit the Sun Sphere in Knoxville, TN. 3) Kayaking at the Rich Family Farm outside of Nashville, TN. 4) At the Wild Horse Saloon in Nashville for some line dancing. 5) Enjoying the sun on a river boat tour of the Tennessee River in Knoxville. 6) Our tour managers receive posters at tour banquet as thanks for all their hard work (left to right: Joan Xu '11, Bianca Calderon '09, and head tour manager Nora Barr '10). 7) Skits at tour banquet. 8) Members of RCS and the Lee University Chorale meet at a post-concert reception. 9) Visiting the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville.

Festival of Women's Choruses

During the last weekend of February this year, the Radcliffe Choral Society welcomed eleven other choirs to Harvard to participate in our Festival of Women's Choruses. The Festival provided a unique opportunity for members of RCS and the other choirs to share their music with youth, high school, college and professional ensembles from the Northeast. The weekend also featured panels with publishers and composers of music for treble choirs, an open meeting of the leadership of several of the college choirs, and a seminar on healthy singing. This Festival showcased to the greater community the artistic heights that women's choirs can reach.

The Festival of Women's Choruses also provided opportunities for our alumnae to meet current RCSers and reconnect with each other. In addition to the Festival concerts, alumnae attended a brunch sponsored by the Friends. We hope to make this brunch one of many future opportunities for alumnae to gather with current RCSers to share stories, reminisce over photo albums, dig through the 'Cliffe Notes library for a favorite arrangement, listen to RCS recordings through the years, and enjoy this wonderful community of women. We would like to thank our alumnae for all their support in organizing the brunch, particularly Marianne Cook '02 and Stephanie Teng '08. This weekend would not have been possible without your generosity!



At the alumnae brunch after the festival, there were plenty of photos and memories for alums to share.



Alumnae viewed RCS's performance at Memorial Church together.



Jim Marvin introduces the Festival of Women's Choruses.

Announcing Tour 2010!

As the tans we received from our Southern Spring Tour begin to fade in this moody Cambridge weather, we begin to look forward to Broadway shows, Philly cheese steaks, and maybe even a glimpse of the new White House puppy. That's right! Next spring, from Saturday, March 13, to Sunday, March 21, RCS will be singing up and down the East Coast, from Washington, D.C. to Philadelphia to New York City. We are looking forward to seeing many of you! We also hope that you will offer your suggestions, comments, useful contacts, and ideas to our 2010 Tour Manager, Joan Xu (tour2010@radcliffechoralsociety.org). At this point, plans have not yet been finalized, so any help would be greatly appreciated. Stay tuned for more updates on Tour 2010 in future newsletters!

A Message from the Friends of the Radcliffe Choral Society

Thanks to all who joined us for the Women's Choral Festival and Alumnae Brunch at the end of February! It was wonderful to hear about the diverse paths fellow alumnae have taken since leaving college, and of course we enjoyed sharing stories about the Choral Society. In addition, we appreciated the great conversations that took place regarding the roles you think FRCS should play in strengthening our alumnae network.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that alumnae are planning a series of gatherings surrounding the Choral Society's 2010 spring tour along the East Coast. From March 13 to March 21, RCS will travel to Washington, D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City. If you are interested in helping to organize an alumnae event in one of these cities, please contact Cara Ferrentino at ferrentino@post.harvard.edu.

All local alumnae are also invited to join us for the next FRCS meeting on May 13, at 7pm in Harvard Hall. If you are interested in attending, or for more information about the Friends, please contact Wendy Coleman (wcoleman276@verizon.net) or Liz Bedell (Elizabeth_Bedell@concordacademy.org).

Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis*

Please join us on May 1 at 8pm for our performance of Beethoven's *Missa Solemnis* with the Harvard Glee Club and Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum. For tickets, please visit the Harvard Box Office in person or online at <http://boxoffice.harvard.edu>. All three choirs have been putting a lot of work into what will be a very memorable performance of this masterwork, and we greatly appreciate your support.

Contact RCS:
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Holden Chapel
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www.radcliffechoralsociety.org



In March, RCS hosted a recital for female vocalists on campus, giving several RCSers an opportunity to share their voices.

Remember When...?

"Remember when RCS discovered *guarana*, that tasty little Brazilian berry that appeared in soft drinks across the country? It sure packed a punch of caffeine, and many of us became instant devotees on South America tour. One group of RCSers was particularly fond of *Kuat*, a guarana soda brand that not only tasted great but had the best name ever. They performed an inspired musical tribute to *Kuat* at the final banquet which had us all rolling on the floor. Since then, guarana has made it to the States and can be found in a lot of health foods and energy drinks. I like to think that RCS discovered it first." *Marianne Cook '02.*

Share a favorite RCS memory for a future newsletter by sending an email to the RCS historian at historian@radcliffechoralsociety.org or sending a note to the Radcliffe Choral Society, Holden Chapel, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138.



This year we joined with the Harvard Glee Club and the Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum to hold the first Holden Formal.