



# Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation

DECEMBER 2013 • VOL. 4 ISS. 1 • HOLDEN CHAPEL, HARVARD YARD • CAMBRIDGE, MA 02138

DEAR ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS,

It has been an honor and a joy to serve as your president. In the past three years, I saw the Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation grow from an idea floated in Harvard Hall to a nonprofit with a multigenerational, 21-women board. I watched connections to all of you grow, via the Communications and Alumnae Affairs teams and through your own initiative in sharing your memories and love of RCS. RCS represents an ideal of what a musical community of women can be, and I am so proud of what we have accomplished.

As I step down from the presidency, I am succeeded by Antonia Fraker Esposito '09. Antonia is a former student manager of RCS and recently married within the Holden family, to Mike Esposito HRCM '09. She spent two years teaching in Kansas City through Teach For America and currently lives in Cambridge, working at Cambridge Associates to provide investment consulting advice to non-profit organizations.

Antonia's grace, good judgment, passion, and dedication are unparalleled, and she brings to the role her longstanding commitment to RCS and its management, as well as her professional expertise in investment advising. As recent VP of Student Affairs for RCSF, she became a trusted adviser to the undergraduates and spent countless hours developing an investment allocation, facilitating student phonathons, and helping out where the need arose. She will foster an even stronger Foundation community in support of women's choral music, and I am thrilled to continue working with her in my new role chairing the Nominating Committee.

Thank you for a wonderful three years. I look forward to many more.

Jenny Wolahan '07  
President Emerita  
Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation

DEAR ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS,

I could not be more honored to write my first letter to you as president of the RCS Foundation. It is truly a privilege to work alongside such dedicated and incredible women towards fulfilling our Foundation's goals: to grow in scope and impact, to strengthen community among our alumnae, and, of course, to support the activities of RCS to the fullest extent we can.

Your board has been hard at work this year on a variety of initiatives, including:

- Laying the groundwork for investing our own RCSF endowment
- Continuing to connect with alumnae more effectively through various media, and supporting alumnae-organized events around the country
- Supporting the RCS tour to Texas and Louisiana
- Collaborating to support a new music commission for RCS and HGC, premiering at the holiday concert
- Improving our internal governance and finance systems to become a stronger organization
- Upholding our ongoing commitment as a resource and fellow collaborator to the students, Andy, and the other Holden foundations

We are especially happy to be offering live streaming of select concerts this year so that RCS's music can reach alumnae and supporters all over the world—look out for livestream links on [rcsfoundation.org](http://rcsfoundation.org)! We are also proud to be working alongside Andy and representatives from the Holden community to envision goals for the Holden program for the next 20 years (see "A Holden 2020 Vision" on pg. 2 for details).

Of course, all this isn't possible without the support of our alumnae, and I would like to thank you for everything you do to engage with RCS and RCSF. Whether through concert attendance, gifts to the Foundation, or homestays and connections for tour, we truly

## GULF COAST TOUR 2014

RCS's spring tour will be to the Gulf Coast: New Orleans, Austin, Dallas, and Fort Worth from March 14th-23rd. We would be grateful for your recommendations toward bus companies, an additional venue in Austin, and housing in Austin—please contact Carol Meuth '14 and Claire Fitzgerald '14 at [rcstour2014@gmail.com](mailto:rcstour2014@gmail.com). Please also let RCSF (Kavita Kannan '09 at [kkannan@post.harvard.edu](mailto:kkannan@post.harvard.edu)) know if you live along the tour path and would like to organize or host an alumnae event.

## STAYING IN TOUCH BY EMAIL

Have you been receiving announcements from RCSF in your email inbox? If not, please send us your email address to add to our database! The best option is to update your profile at the Harvard Alumni Association by registering an account or logging in to [alumni.harvard.edu](http://alumni.harvard.edu) and adding a current email address. You can also email [records@rcsfoundation.org](mailto:records@rcsfoundation.org), including your full name and class year, or fill in your email on the donation slip when you send it in. Timely reminders, color photos, events in your area, and video await.

couldn't be successful without you. If you are interested in becoming involved in the board or its committees, would like to organize an RCS alumnae event in your city, or just have ideas for us, please don't hesitate to reach out! I would be delighted to connect with you.

Thank you again for supporting RCSF. Here's to a fantastic 2014 and beyond!

Warmly,  
Antonia Fraker Esposito '09  
President, Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation  
[president@rcsfoundation.org](mailto:president@rcsfoundation.org)

## REACHING OUTSIDE CAMBRIDGE

We are happy to announce that we will be increasing our focus on non-Boston alumnae activities! We'll be streaming 2-3 concerts a year so alums can watch RCS live, remotely. Further, we'll encourage you to watch these concerts together if you live in a place with a concentration of Holden alumni (with refreshments provided by RCSF)—this has already happened in NYC and DC. We are also looking to support fun group events, such as the recent karaoke night in DC or other music-related outings. We'd love to hear and provide support for your ideas for bringing alumni together in your area! Email [kkannan@post.harvard.edu](mailto:kkannan@post.harvard.edu) with ideas or to volunteer as a local contact.



RCS alumnae plus Holden friends belting out tunes at a karaoke night in DC on November 17th.



RCS alumnae gathered in DC for an evening of concert viewing and choral anecdotes on November 9th.



Trio of RCSers, Xinlan, Carol, and Claire, before the fall concert, holding their traditional roses from RCSF.

## PRESENTING THE RCSF MISSION STATEMENT

The RCSF board is pleased to announce the adoption of a Mission Statement and Statement of Commitment to RCS to articulate and encapsulate the Foundation's purpose and to guide its work, as follows.

**Mission:** The Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation preserves and advances women's choral music as a vital part of the musical canon, empowers women to lead rich and creative lives, and connects generations of women with one another in pursuit of artistic excellence and in service to the broader community.

**Statement of Commitment to the Radcliffe Choral Society:** The Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation is committed to supporting the Radcliffe Choral Society and its activities as the fundamental means through which the Foundation fulfills its mission.

For the full Statement of Commitment to RCS, check [rcsfoundation.org](http://rcsfoundation.org). Special thanks to Ann Marie Lindquist '84 for leading the Mission Task Force.

## A HOLDEN 2020 VISION

*After three years as Director of Choral Activities, Andy has addressed a letter to the Holden alumni foundations on Holden's present realities and his plans for its future. What follows is an excerpt. Read the entire document and updates on [rcsfoundation.org/holden-2020/](http://rcsfoundation.org/holden-2020/).*

"We face unprecedented demands on our students' time and attention through the staggering proliferation of vocal ensembles, competition from hundreds of other extra-curricular opportunities, escalating course conflicts, increased pressures on academic performances as a consequence of a shrinking job market, and declining numbers at auditions and in our audiences. [...] Many of our students arrive without having had any serious exposure to music as part of their education. Singing in our ensembles thus requires what may now be described as counter-cultural prerequisites: focused concentration, long-term commitment, self-sacrifice, and an audience willing to listen. In the context of our world, one might conclude, sadly, that choral music has never been more anachronistic. At the same time, [there] has never been a more promising and conducive atmosphere for the Arts at Harvard. [...]"

I've asked HGC alumnus Robert Fox AB '86 to help me assemble a 'strategy team' of students and alumni representing the three Holden choruses to analyze the current work [...] and set a course for the future. The 'Holden 2020' group will aim to develop a long-range plan for the years 2015-2020. [...] We will draw upon the experience, expertise, and passion of our alumni throughout this process. In the next year, we will be soliciting your input through a variety of means. Stay tuned for more specifics and updates from our Holden 2020 planning group!"

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Antonia Fraker Esposito AB '09, President  
Kavita Kannan AB '09, VP of Alumnae Affairs  
Emily Pierce AB '10, VP of Student Affairs  
Jenn Hoang AB '00, Treasurer  
Caroline Smart AB '11, Secretary  
Jenny Wolahan AB '07, Nominating Chair  
Jean Burg Leed AB '64 and Anne Lewandowski AB '09, Development Co-Chairs  
Margaret R. Loss AB '67, Governance Chair  
Nora Barr AB '10, Julie Yao Cooper AB '85, MBA '91, Joyce Putnam Curll AB '65, Deepa Dhume Datta AB '05, PhD '11, Cara Ferrentino AB '08, Angelina L. Fryer AB '03, Stacey Hanson AB '10, Catherine Boulton Hughes AB '66, Jaime Leifer AB '01, Ann Marie Lindquist AB '84, Susan Erburu Reardon AB '77, JD '80, Michelle Schutz AB '01, Katie Woolf  
Newsletter: Jadyn Granick AB '08, Faith Zhang AB '12

## UPCOMING EVENTS

*All RCS concerts are in Sanders Theatre at 8pm. Tickets are available at the Harvard Box Office.*

**FRIDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 28 | 8PM**

**Junior Parents Weekend Concert**  
Radcliffe Choral Society & Harvard Glee Club

**FRIDAY - SUNDAY**  
**MARCH 14 - 23**

**Spring Tour to the Gulf Coast**  
Radcliffe Choral Society

**DATE TBD**

**Youville Annual Sing**  
Radcliffe Choral Society & alumnae

**DATE TBD**

**History Tea**  
Radcliffe Choral Society & alumnae

**SATURDAY**  
**APRIL 26 | 8PM**

**Verdi's *Requiem***  
Radcliffe Choral Society, Harvard Glee Club, Harvard-Radcliffe Collegium Musicum, & Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra

**DATE TBD**

**Reunion Sing and RCSF Annual Meeting**  
Radcliffe Choral Society alumnae



## CELEBRATE RCS THIS SEASON OF GIVING

At this season, I know you have choices when it comes to which charitable causes to support. So now I'm asking you, on behalf of the Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation, to make a gift to the Foundation among your other donations.

Why give to the Foundation? Because when you do:

- You're supporting RCS, the RCS alumnae network that we're revitalizing, and women's choral music worldwide
- You're acknowledging the value of the life lessons you learned and all the lifelong relationships you formed during your years of singing in RCS
- You're joining other RCS alumnae as we build this organization's role and importance in the Harvard community.

Last year (our third), nearly 150 donors contributed almost \$33,000 to the Foundation. This year, we want to increase the number of donors substantially, and the amount we raise, so that we can do even more, such as create choral endowments, support Holden 2020, send more students on tours, and offer more alumnae events. Please consider making a year-end gift, using the form below, or online at [rcsfoundation.org/support](https://rcsfoundation.org/support). Thank you!

Jean Burg Leed '64  
Development Co-Chair, Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation



**RCSF**

Please make checks payable to  
**Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation**

Donations should be sent to  
**Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation**  
**Holden Chapel**  
**Harvard University**  
**Cambridge, MA 02138**

Donations can be made online at  
[www.rcsfoundation.org](https://www.rcsfoundation.org)

YES! I want to help support the Radcliffe Choral Society Foundation with my tax-deductible contribution.

☐ \$1000 Maestro    ☐ \$250 Patron    ☐ \$50 Friend  
☐ \$500 Conductor's Circle    ☐ \$100 Sponsor    ☐ \$25 Donor    ☐ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Years(and tours, if any) with RCS: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I prefer my gift to remain anonymous

Thank you!

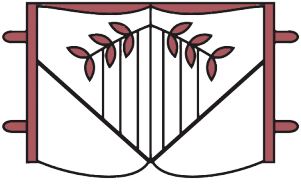
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Holden Chapel  
Harvard University  
Cambridge, MA 02138



WHAT'S INSIDE:

- Welcoming Antonia Fraker Esposito, new RCSF president
- Director of Choral Activities, Andy Clark, on Holden's future
- How you can help RCS tour the Gulf Coast
- RCSF could be headed your way!
- Celebrate RCS by Giving



*"We should strive, together, to create a new blueprint for choral music for this new century."*  
— Andy Clark