

THE CLASS NOTES

celebrating 25 years!

FEBRUARY 2009

CUTTIN' CLASS XXV

This year is the 25th anniversary of Cuttin' Class! The Class Notes have been an integral part of our personal experiences at Cornell – building friendships and family, feeding our musical passions, affecting our grades – doesn't this call for a celebration? We think so, and we want you to be there!

Ideally, we would like to extend the celebration beyond the concert, and in this way, we have decided to organize activities into two categories: singing and food – because what do Class Notes like to do besides sing? Yes, eat.

Musically, we would like to invite all of you to sing during the performance itself. For those of you who attended Cuttin' Class XX, this will be a significantly different experience in that we would like you to sing with us during the show. Through this, we feel that it will bridge the few generations that our group now covers, integrating us in a new way.

Based on those of you who would like to participate, we will decide upon a couple of songs, (some more current, some less so) that will be performed during the concert. Once we know what voice parts to expect, we will select songs and distribute parts over the internet. The current Notes will learn the songs on our own, and everyone – current Notes and alumni – will come together for a rehearsal on the day of the concert. A sound check will follow – specifics on this will come once we know who will be in attendance (soloists, etc.). Of course, we understand if you are not able to make it into Ithaca this early in the day, but the opportunity is there for those who can.

Food-wise, we have three events planned, the locations of which have yet to be determined. The first of these is a casual dinner prior to the concert. Here, we are leaning towards The Nines, and it is possible that the meal will have a fixed price. Following the show, we will celebrate in style with a reception, hopefully at the Memorial Room of Willard Straight Hall, or at the Big Red Barn. (Hooray Cornell!) The last event will be a Saturday morning brunch – perhaps buffet-style at the Statler Hotel. The timing of these events can be seen in the **tentative schedule** on the back.

We want this to be an experience for you and your families as much as it is for ours, so please feel free to bring along your families and significant others.

To further plans, we now need responses. Please email our concert manager, Eugene Chang (bec35@cornell.edu), with the following information by **March 8th** the latest:

Will you be attending, and if so, which events?

Are you interested in singing during the performance? (Please include your voice-part)

Would you be interested in an arch-sing type performance on Saturday evening?

Will you need babysitting accommodations? (If so, also respond as soon as possible)

We would like to set up a block of rooms at the Statler Hotel and/or the Best Western at East Hill Plaza. If you are interested in either, please indicate which, and respond as soon as possible.

(Continued on next page)

APRIL 24
1:00 PM

1:30-3:30
4:00-5:00
5:30-7:00
7:15
7:30
9:30

APRIL 25
10:00-12:00

FRIDAY
Arrive at the Statler Auditorium
(welcome and introductions)
Joint rehearsal
Sound check
Dinner
Anniversary Slideshow begins
Cuttin' Class XXV!
Reception

SATURDAY
Brunch

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE



Truth Room:

Matt Bovenzi '06 and Julia Schlenker '06 are getting married! Previous Musical Director and General Manager of the group (respectively) we are so excited to celebrate their wedding *next* summer, on July 4th! Congratulations!!

My Dear Alumni,

This is my third and final year as the Musical Director of The Class Notes, and it is such a pleasure to be ending this era with a 25th anniversary! With so many years of history, the group's musical taste has clearly undergone some adjustments to contemporary culture, and I thought it appropriate to inform you of our current repertoire.

In recent years, the Notes have acquired a reputation for covering a wide range of musical genres. Steering towards pop, we have covered everything from jazz to folk, country to R&B, and even a little "boy-band". We also take pride in bringing unknown artists to campus, who tend to gain standing as a result - including Marc Broussard, James Morrison, and Ingrid Michaelson. Classics such as *Something to Talk About* (Bonnie Rait), *Helplessly Hoping* (CSNY) and *Dancin' in the Street*, are also standards in our repertoire.

Of course, we haven't completely abandoned our roots. Songs like *Only You*, and *That's the Way it Goes* (also known as TTWIG), will always remain current – meaning something special to all generations. We even do some of the same warm ups! ("Baroque" for example – though perhaps this is a recent name.) The Manhattan Transfer has also made a come back in *The Offbeat of Avenues* – first performed in 2006, now returning for the upcoming Cuttin' Class!

After the anniversary extravaganza, the group's next big undertaking will be a new CD! As recent trends have shown, we have produced an album every two to three years, and as such, we are aiming for release in the spring of 2010. So it's time to get the ball rolling! Overall, The Class Notes remains a strong presence on campus, maintaining ever-present standards for musicality, entertainment, and of course, fun.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Cuttin' Class XXV!

Musically yours,

Natalie Pierro
Musical Director

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Alex Woogmaster '09
General Manager
Bass



Bethany Nichols '12
Mezzo



Eugene Chang '09
Concert Manager,
Tenor



Grace Epstein '11
Asst. Musical Director,
Soprano



Gwen Waichman '11
Tour Manager, Alto

Dear Class Notes Alumni,

My name is Alex Woogmaster, and after a semester of architectural studies abroad in Rome, I'm glad to begin my second term as General Manager for the Class Notes! This group has made an indelible impression on my life here at Cornell, since I joined as a sophomore—and now, two years later, I'm thrilled to be a part of Cuttin' Class XXV, our anniversary blow-out extravaganza!

This is the newest edition of what we hope to make a semi-annual newsletter. We are including information regarding our current group members in the margins of the page, highlighting our fantastic Newbies at the bottom right. Along with our "Newbie" corner we would also like to inaugurate a "Truth Room" with recent alumni news. If you have anything you would like to see published in the next issue, comments, or questions, please email us at classnotes@cornell.edu. You'll be able to find more Class Notes information, events, and photos on our soon-to-be updated website (www.theclassnotes.com).

We look forward to seeing you all at Cuttin' Class XXV, it's going to be an incredible show, and we can't wait to spend a wonderful weekend with you!

All the best,

Alex Woogmaster
General Manager

(CUTTIN' CLASS XXV, CONTINUED)

Please be sure that we have your most **current email address**. Through this, we will be sending out further information regarding hotel accommodations, babysitting, expenses for food, and other details regarding the concert.



Additionally, if you are interested in assisting with the organization of the event, please email alumna Kristen Conrad '90 (kconrad@partnersinc.com), who has been kind enough to donate her time to us once again. We also welcome any comments, suggestions, or even fun shout-outs, all of which can be sent Eugene's way.

All in all, we are delighted to share this experience with you! Twenty-five years is an impressive age for an a cappella group – especially one that has maintained high standards of musicality and talent throughout (ahem ahem). We feel that with your involvement, Cuttin' Class XXV will be an amazing experience that will set a standard for future interactions between alumni and current Class Notes.

With much musical love,

Eugene Chang and Natalie Pierro
Concert Manager Musical Director

FALL 2008, In Review:

"Ten" was the magic number for The Class Notes last semester. Ten lovely singers—comprised of five men and five women—could cover all voice parts. And ten adventurous Cornellians could hop into only two cars and travel almost anywhere.

Yes, last fall meant Class Notes road trips: mainly our weekend in Saratoga Springs for the "Allegiance Trust Bowl" and our fall break tour in Southwest Florida. Both trips included special ipod playlists, "truth car", ample snacks, faulty navigation, and single sex automobiles (i.e. the "Man Van"). Yet, each trip was distinctly different.

Saratoga happened first. The Allegiance Trust Bowl is a charity football game, raising money for little league. Our role was to sing the National Anthem at the game, a set of songs at a pre-game banquet, and to give a performance at the local high school. These were our first real gigs of the semester. Our newbies, still spinning from their crash course in our current repertoire, hadn't even experienced an archsing. But with some shifting of parts, and a little finesse, we somehow managed to compensate for the loss of our most recent graduates.

In many ways, I think of Saratoga as a test run for the Florida tour. We were still bonding as a group, and it had been a short trip. By the time that Florida came around, we were incredibly well prepared: both as a musical group, and more importantly, as a group of friends.

Unlike the epic road trips of the early Class Notes years, we cheated and flew down to Florida (obviously this included one in-flight entertainment stint to please an incredibly enthusiastic flight attendant). Once we arrived, Gwen Waichman's mom, Ellen, welcomed us into her beautiful home with lots of food...delicious food. In fact, much of the trip had to do with consuming chicken wings and fudge brownies (with occasional trips to the beach). And honestly, nothing could have made us happier: we pushed prelims out of our minds and focused on getting sleep and sun, for bragging rights back in Ithaca.

Not all of us caught tans, but after fully-packed days of sleeping on the beach and singing together at retirement homes, we became a family. It was wonderful that we were all on the same level; no cliques, no uncomfortable moments, and oddly enough, no Class Notes romantic relationships. Instead, there was Class Notes love, and plenty of it, which ensures that we are still the successful group that we have always been.

Regards,

Rachel Kleinman
General Manager, Fall 2008

NEWBIES!



Cassie Greene '12
Mezzo
Ardsley, NY
Biological Engineering
Favorite Interpretive
Dance: Anything involving
a sequined leotard.



Jacob Chamoun '11
Bass
Bala Cynwyd, PA
Engineering Physics
Favorite Afternoon Plan:
Watching "Love and
Death" while eating
buttermilk pancakes with
his pet griffin, Archibald.



Lindsay McDonald '12
Alto
Saratoga Springs, NY
Art and Sciences
Favorite Flick: Anything
with Catherine Hepburn.



Natalie Pierro '09
Musical Director,
Soprano



Rachel Kleinman '10
(abroad) Alto



Scott Hayes '09
Treasurer, Tenor



Steve Linderman '10
Administrative Director,
Bass



Thomas Shepherd '12
Publicity Manager
Tenor