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# RESONANCE

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SPELMAN COLLEGE GLEE CLUB  
ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

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SAVOR THE  
SUMMER

SUMMER EDITION

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SCGC FOR LIFE GLEE SISTERS ROCK  
SCGC PARAPHERNALIA DURING  
MARKET FRIDAY.

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# DR. KEVIN JOHNSON

DIRECTOR

Greetings glee club alumnae!

The glee club is looking forward to an exciting year of performance excellence.

We have been engaged by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra to sing alongside Kathleen Battle and the Morehouse College Glee Club in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination with a concert at symphony hall. We are also excited to be invited to sing in the opening concert for the American Choral Directors Association Southern Division Convention in Kentucky in February. While we will perform in a variety of other venues, we are particularly happy to performing in April with the Georgia Symphony in a hallmark performance. We will celebrate the glee club reunion in 2018 and look forward to the return of many of our SCGC4Life members. Please look forward to receiving information about the reunion soon. I hope that many will attend from far and wide as we celebrate our unparalleled tradition. The glee club will also work hard to ensure our members academic success through a new program developed to help our current members in their academic lives at Spelman College. You'll hear more about the new program in the coming months. We are so happy that our alumnae membership is strong, free and vibrant. We are proud of you, we love you and hope that you will keep us informed about what wonderful things you are doing. I look forward to seeing many of you at Christmas Carol this year.

Doc





# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

## CONTACT

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scgcalumnae@spelman.edu

### Greetings Sisters,

I hope summer is treating you all well! This summer, I spent completing an internship, traveling, and reading about the experiences that you all had while in the Glee Club. In this issue, I once again shed light on what a current member has been up to this summer, as well as give insight from one of our alumnae about her time in Glee, which is located in the Spelmanite Spotlight section. In Retrospective, you will get a glimpse of more of what the Glee Club accomplished in the 2016 - 2017 school year.

I am excited for you all to read this issue because I enjoyed making it. Wherever you are today, whether it be in an office or at home, relax and enjoy the July Edition of Resonance: Savor the Summer! As always, I look forward to your feedback and response.

Best,

**Daphne Joseph '20**

*Alumnae Liaison*



# SPELMANITE SPOTLIGHT

CURRENT STUDENTS

## JESSENIA INGRAM



**BRITISH EXCURSION** Jessenia Ingram, Junior Drama Major, enjoys her summer studying in England. During her time there, she managed to take the opportunity to trek the city of London and even Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace.

This summer I have been studying abroad with the British American Drama Academy. I was selected to participate in a month long program studying abroad at Magdalen College in Oxford, England. We have been focusing on developing as actors through the works of Shakespeare as well as some modern playwrights.

*Jessenia spent majority of July and will be spending some of August studying abroad.*





# SPELMANITE SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNAE

## LLEWELYN BARTON

**For this month's issue, I was able to get the "scoop" on what it was like to sing under the direction of the late Dr. Roland Allison. Golden Girl, Llewelyn Barton, class of 1970, was more than willing to share her experiences in SCGC as it transitioned from one director to another. Enjoy her stories with me, as I am positive that you will have had a laugh or two by the end of this segment.**



*Ms. Llewelyn Barton is pictured on the left with two other Glee sisters.*

I am in the class of 1970 as is Ave Maria Lindsey Marshall...We were in the Glee Club together -- me first alto and her second alto. When I came to Spelman in the fall of 1966, Dr. James was in charge of the Glee Club. He passed away while we were away for Christmas break. I heard that the Glee Club sang at his funeral. Since I'm from Springfield, Illinois, I wasn't there. I vaguely remember auditioning for the Glee Club and also playing the piano. Dr. James told me I wasn't a great pianist. I should have listened!

Anyway, the music department formed an ensemble of about eight girls to fulfill the Glee Club's obligations for the rest of the year. I was the only freshman in the group.

The next year, 1967-68, Dr. Allison came to Spelman. There was none like him and there will never be another one. We girls just loved him and the Glee Club came together beautifully. He was a true one of a kind. In the spring, we went on Glee Club tour all over the country on a Greyhound bus. Our bus driver was a "redneck" from the backwoods of Georgia named Mr. Cunningham. Being from Illinois, I was a little skeptical. However, he had such a good time that he asked to be our driver for the next three years. On the last night of the tour, he would get dressed up and attend the concert.

I have never been back to Detroit or to Oklahoma. I don't remember which year but they wheeled a piano into the state house in Oklahoma City and we sang the song Oklahoma. They then gave us a proclamation and made us honorary Okies. There was an oil derrick on the front lawn of the building. My first visit to Washington, DC was with the Glee Club. Dr. Allison let us loose at the Smithsonian. I haven't been back there yet either though I've been vowing to return for nearly 50 years.

We also went to my hometown of Springfield, Illinois twice. I remember going to Lincoln's Home with the Glee Club and knowing more than the tour guide. It then hit me that in high school when we would go to summer school, my friends and I would walk through Lincoln's Home on our way home because it was air conditioned. The first time was a concert and the second time we were driving from our concert in St. Louis to Chicago and Springfield is on the way. We decided to have lunch there. Of course, I picked the place where I had a taste for -- the Ann Rutledge Pancake House. I had forgotten until Regina Roberson Fletcher '71 reminded me. I called my father and he came over and paid the bill for the Glee Club. (continued on page 6)





# SPELMANITE SPOTLIGHT

ALUMNAE

## LLEWELYN BARTON

I don't know who convinced me that I should be a music major. However, I made it through Joyce Finch Johnson's classes with decent grades. She kept my teenage-aged self terrorized. Dr. Grace Boggs Smith would tell me how I would get arthritis in my knees because I wore my skirts so short. The last laugh is on her. My middle finger on both hands is very arthritic because of overuse (not practicing the piano) and my knees are fine.

I was in Dr. Whalem's A-M-S Chorus and also in a small group that he had that he took to Friendship Baptist Church to sing. He would come by and pick us up in his big black car. The preacher, Dr. Samuel Williams was Hank Aaron's wife's first husband. He sermonized about Black people who went to white people's churches one Sunday and we were turned off. Among us Spelman girls were a couple of Catholics and Episcopalians.

A Jubilant Song will stay in my head until the day I die! We used to boogie across the parking lot jazzing up the la la part and dancing to it. Recording the Glee Club album seems just like yesterday. We did it in the chapel and had to stop when a train or truck blew its horn. The other song that won't leave my brain is Dr. James' How Lovely is thy Dwelling Place. I was jealous of the second altos. The had the most beautiful solo line -- A thousand years are but as yesterdays gone past ...

Mrs. Johnson and Dr. Smith sitting in the chapel during the entire weekend that Martin Luther King, Jr. playing sticks in my mind. The organ had been removed and they were working on replacing it. Dr. Allison talked constantly about the \$200,000 Haufkamp organ that was being installed. You are still listening to it. There were holes in the wall so they draped them with black cloth and rented an organ.

The other "big" memory was an ensemble of us performing at the first birthday celebration after the death of Dr. King. We were downstairs scoping out our friends in the Morehouse Glee Club when who should appear but Harry Belafonte. He was the epitome of FINE!!!! He must have been 40ish and was totally cool. I kept my autographed program. I didn't realized who we were on the program with -- such luminaries as Rosa Parks, etc.

I managed to make it through Spelman and just missed graduating cum laude by a fraction of a point! I also pledged Delta in the summer of 1969 with a good dozen other Glee Club members. When they told us we had to perform, we knew what to do. There was one girl from another school who was a gospel pianist. Oh Happy Day was a big hit on the radio that summer. Of course, we changed it to Oh Happy Day when I became a Delta Girl. We went on to be the charter members of Eta Kappa Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta. Miriam Blalock, who did the solo on A Jubilant Song on the recording did a rap in the middle of Oh Happy Day. She has turned into quite a poet.

After college, I came to NYC. I wasn't sure what I wanted to do but just managed to fall into show biz world. I had a gentleman friend who was one of the Manhattans. We were backstage at the Apollo and Love Unlimited was performing their hit song -- Walking in the Rain with the One I Love. They were the ones who did Barry White's background. They were so out of tune and flat. When they passed by me when they came off stage, they were, I'm not trying to be catty, so out of shape. Not a good look. The light switch turned on and I realized that I could do what they do. And then it was on. The show biz life in the 1970s is another story.



2016 - 2017

**1** Fellow SCGC alumnae and current members gather to sing the Spelman Hymn at the end of the annual Spring Concert. **2** Student Conductor Julia Dennis, class of 2017, passionately sings a solo during Spring Tour.



**3** Graduated Seniors of SCGC sang the "Thank You" song one last time during Founder's Day. **4** Members of the Glee Club participate in the Processional of the 90th Annual Christmas Carol. **5** Dressed in all white, the Glee Club performed for their sisters during the Founder's Day Convocation.



# RETROSPECTIVE

## LOOKING BACK AT THE YEAR





# CONNECT WITH SCGC

TO BE FEATURED IN THE NEXT  
ISSUE OF THE ALUMNAE  
NEWSLETTER OR FOR  
INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT  
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