



RESONANCE

SPELMAN COLLEGE GLEE CLUB ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER

FOR THE
Love
OF MUSIC

FEBRUARY 2018 • ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 2



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FEBRUARY 2018

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Messages



Dr. Kevin P. Johnson

Director

The Spelman College Glee Club has enjoyed a busy year so far and have had great success in our performances with Kathleen Battle and at ACDA (Southern Division of American Choral Directors Association) Convention. I am very proud of the level of performance of our current students and am deeply grateful to the alumnae that participated with us for the Kathleen Battle concert for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration. Your participation was meaningful and touched me deeply. It goes without saying, but I'll say it anyway that the celebration of our 10th anniversary of "We Are Christmas" with Sarah Benibo was an outstanding success. This year, Christmas Carol was streamed on Facebook live and had over 100k views on the very evening of the performance. My collaborations with Sarah have touched the life of Spelman College in so many ways and for that I am deeply thankful and humbly grateful. As we prepare for tour, our performance with the Georgia Symphony Orchestra and the Annual Spring Concert, I want to ask all friends and family of the Glee Club to keep us in prayer as we navigate our beloved tradition through these trying times. May music and singing at Spelman continue to be the soul expression of the College for many years to come. I would say more but I'm late for rehearsal!

Doc

We had a great end of the semester with the Morehouse College Glee Club at 91st Christmas Carol Concert and we began the semester in a similar way. The Spelman College Glee Club and Morehouse College Glee Club started the semester off strong with a performance with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Kathleen Battle and we've only had great experiences since then. This month we sang at the American Choral Directors Southern Division opening concert and it was an amazing opportunity to be chosen to sing as well as to be able to sing with some other great choirs. As we prepare for our annual spring tour I'm very excited for the locations we have chosen for this year and for the performances to come!



Cora L. Evans

President



EDITOR'S NOTE

DAPHNE JOSEPH

Happy New Year and Happy Valentine's Day Alumnae! The Glee Club has been in the midst of some changes as we transitioned into the new year. As you may or may not know, February marks a year since the first release of Resonance! In this issue, I am announcing that the Glee Club will be going on our Annual Spring Tour this March. More information regarding the dates and locations are included. Be on the lookout for your sisters in the upcoming weeks!

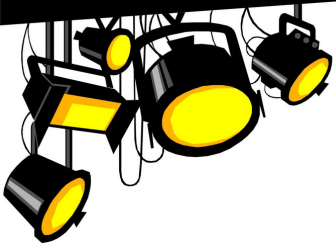
In this issue of Resonance, you will get a glance at what your fellow alumna, Sarah Benibo, has been up to for the past decade. This past December, Benibo was featured as the guest speaker of our annual Christmas Carol Brunch where she delivered a riveting speech about spreading holiday lights throughout the season. Later on that night, she sang her well renowned song, "We Are Christmas", in celebration of the song's 10th anniversary. This performance has been viewed more than 100,000 times online.

At this past Christmas Carol Brunch, Sarah Benibo was awarded the Inaugural We Are Christmas Award for her excellent contributions to the Spelman College Glee Club.

This issue will also shed light on the accomplishments of one of our graduating seniors, Courtney Marshall. Marshall has been active in the Glee Club for the past four years and was excited to share the what her experience has been thus far. She will be graduating this Spring with a Bachelor's of Arts in Music.

As you dig into this issue, please feel free to contact me about any information regarding upcoming performances or interests in coming to view rehearsals during the week.

Daphne Joseph, C'2020
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Spelman College Glee Club
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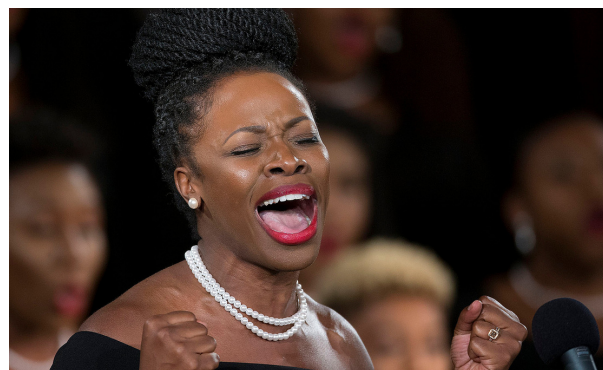
Spelmanite Spotlight

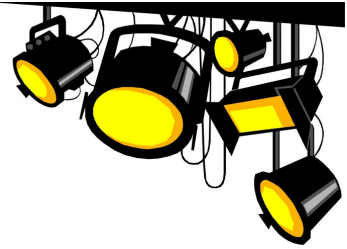
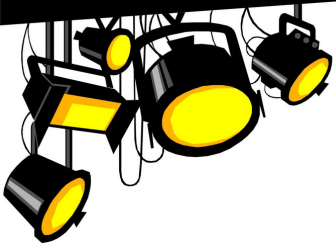
Sarah Benibo is a singer and songwriter born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. Her childhood was shaped by the local church, where she was exposed to gospel music and the power of a microphone. Raised by two parents heavily involved in ministry, Sarah had no other choice but to find her place in the church. She chose the choir stand. As her love for singing grew, Sarah became interested in pursuing music as a profession. She received a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Spelman College (Atlanta, Georgia) and it was there that she was bitten by the songwriting bug. One of her first songs "We Are Christmas" (co-written by Music Chair, Dr. Kevin P. Johnson) is now a Spelman standard, sung every year at the annual Spelman-Morehouse Christmas Carol Concert. In 2007, Sarah was commissioned to write a song to capture the experience and pursuit of Spelman graduates. This song, "A Choice To Change The World", titled after Spelman's mantra, has since been adopted as the de facto school song.



Sarah has over 15 years of experience in music ministry as one-third of gospel trio, God's Chosen. With this group she has released two albums ("Love Ever After" and "1&6") and plans to release a third next year. Most recently, God's Chosen was featured on "Earnest Pugh's Gospel's Rising Stars" compilation album, where their worship song "You Reign" has received much acclaim. Sarah has appeared in two notable musicals at the St. Louis Black Repertory Theater Tell Me Something Good and The Wiz, where she played the part of Dorothy. In 2009, Sarah joined The Golden Gospel Singers on their European tour and in 2012 she sang with One Voice in Bogota, Columbia, teaching and singing Gospel music on both occasions.

Sarah's passion is to communicate the love of Christ through music. She considers every opportunity to do so a blessing. Sarah currently resides with her husband in Dallas, Texas.





Spelmanite Spotlight

Courtney Marshall is a graduating Senior Music major from Ypsilanti, Michigan. During her four years at Spelman College, she served as the Chaplain and the Secretary of the Glee Club. Marshall also served as both the Soprano 1 and Soprano 2 section leader, but spent her years singing Soprano 1.

Marshall has not only spent time abroad studying in Trinidad and Tobago, but she has also managed to serve as Miss Phi Mu Alpha 2017-2018 and sang background for Lloyd. After graduating in May, Courtney plans to work with the Mama Foundation in Harlem, New York.



Courtney Marshall
C'2018



Retrospective



These past few months, alumnae have been present at various Glee Club functions. We hosted the Annual Glee Club Brunch at which several seniors and their families watched fellow alumna, Sarah Benibo deliver a captivating speech about spreading holiday light. Later on that night, many of you witnessed the 91st Annual Christmas Carol where we celebrated the 10th anniversary of Stephens' song, "We Are Christmas". This past January, fellow alumnae joined current members for a performance with Kathleen Battle and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. This was a performance deemed unforgettable. Lastly, the Glee Club finished the month of February with a performance at the American Choral Directors Association where they sang with Reuben Studdard and other notable choirs.



UPCOMING EVENTS

THE SPELMAN COLLEGE GLEE CLUB PRESENTS

Resilience

Annual Spring Tour 2018

3/10 Columbus, MS

Missionary Union Baptist Church
1207 5th Avenue
Columbus, MS 39701
7:00 pm CONCERT

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

3/11 New Orleans, LA

St. Raymond and St. Leo
the Great Catholic Church
301 St. Joseph St.
New Orleans, LA 70119
5:00 pm CONCERT

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

3/12 Houston, TX

Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church
3826 Wheeler Ave.,
Houston, TX 77004
7:00 pm CONCERT
\$50-FLOOR, \$25-BALCONY

3/14 Oklahoma City, OK

Fifth Street Missionary Baptist Church
801 NE 5th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73104
7:00 pm CONCERT

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

3/16 St. Louis, MO

St. Joseph Catholic Church
567 Saint Joseph Lane
Manchester, MO 63021
7:00 pm CONCERT

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

3/17 Huntsville, AL

Academy for Academics & Arts
4800 Sparkman Drive
Huntsville, Alabama 35810
5:00 pm CONCERT
\$25-General, \$15-Student



SPRING TOUR

march 10th - 18th

SPIVEY HALL

march 27th
11:15 am

SPRING CONCERT

april 8th
5:00 pm
Sister's Chapel

FOUNDERS DAY

april 10th
10:00-11:15am
Sister's Chapel

AMERICA, VOL.4

GA SYMPHONY
april 20th-21st
8pm
Ray Charles Performing Arts Center



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