

RESONANCE

SPELMAN COLLEGE GLEE CLUB ALUMNAE NEWSLETTER



Herstory
IN THE MAKING

MARCH 2018 · ISSUE 2 · VOLUME 2



IN THIS ISSUE

MARCH 2018

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR AND PRESIDENT | 2

EDITOR'S NOTE | 3

MONTHLY MELODY | 4

SPELMANITE SPOTLIGHT | 5

RETROSPECTIVE | 8

UPCOMING EVENTS | 9

Messages



Dr. Kevin P. Johnson

Director

Herstory means to me that I take part in Spelman's important role of telling the stories of African American women. As an African American man I am always glad that I chose to engage in this piece of African American history at Spelman College. I could have been at another institution, but I think as it relates to culture, I am glad that I am here and I can facilitate the spread of our history. In regard to Spring Tour this month, I think every time we sing, we teach people that young Black women are at the forefront of intellectual activity in America. They don't expect that we have so many different majors because they assume the students are all just singers. I think our role in sustaining the Glee Club is very vital because if we don't, the impact that we have could disappear.

To me, Herstory means the celebration of those who weren't originally acknowledged in history. It also means women banding together to recognize people that they feel like should be acknowledged in their communities. Being in an all Black womens choir is not really a thing that exists in many places, so we as a Glee Club are able to go on tour and spread the herstory of Spelman, if you will, and portray the importance of Black women in history and in the present. As we sing, we make the importance of our history as women known throughout the nation.



Cora L. Evans

President



EDITOR'S NOTE

DAPHNE JOSEPH

I remember quite vividly the first time I encountered the term "Herstory". Attending a majority African American middle school in the suburbs of Atlanta, I routinely was graced with the presence of Black guest speakers hoping to leave an impact on our fragile minds. It was Career Week circa 2011, which meant that we had an influx of guests coming in to speak with us each day. On this particular day my class had a series of speakers come in consecutively and my antsy 6th grade brain eagerly anticipated each speaker that walked into my classroom. Eventually, a Black woman walked in clothed in vibrant colors and her natural curls, silencing the room as soon as she stepped foot in. She immediately walked to the board and boldly took a marker, writing one word: HERSTORY.

She went on to describe her journey through life as a Black woman and the many setbacks that came along her path. She ended stating that it was the task of each of us to envision our lives as history in the making. I have always kept her words in the back of my head as I maneuvered through life, constantly asking myself, "How am I contributing to the vast legacy that Black women have created?" As you read through this issue of Resonance, I challenge you to

also consider your life as HERstory in the making and to consciously live as such. I also thank you for your contributions to the etching of the history of the Glee Club.

This month's newsletter focuses on the historic contributions of the Glee Club to Spelman College and this nation. A few words from Doctor Johnson, Cora Evans, and many others encourage each of us to focus on our greater purpose as individuals and as women. Also found in this issue are reminders of upcoming events such as Founder's Day and Spring Concert. We hope to see each of you there!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with feedback on the newsletter. You are also always welcome to come visit us during rehearsal every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in the Fine Arts Building, Room 107.

Best,

Daphne Joseph, C'2020
Alumnae Liaison,
Spelman College Glee Club
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MONTHLY MELODY

AMARIAH SLEDGE

March is Women's History Month. During this time, it is important to reflect on all the women who have made significant contributions in all scopes of history. Whether we discuss Florence Price, who was the first African American woman to be recognized as a symphonic composer, or Marian Anderson, the first black woman to sing at the Metropolitan Opera, these trailblazers paved the way for the women who were to follow their footsteps. Their stories are narratives that are important for the preservation and cultivation of our own history, or Herstory if you will.

First coined in the late 20th century, Herstory derived from history, which is taken to mean "his" "story", a recollection of historical events often told of men and by men. Herstory as a term is almost radical as it emphasizes the importance of women telling their own stories. While it is rooted in inclusion, the actual act of documenting Herstory has not always been inclusive. Black women were seldom granted the opportunity to voice their own stories of strength in the past. Today, we must put an emphasis on Black Herstory. Not just to have a seat at the table, but to have a voice at the table. Singer Solange Knowles sang it, best stating that herstory must be told "...for us...by us...".

This edition of Resonance seeks to tell the stories of the amazing women of the Spelman College Glee Club. It is of the utmost importance that we discuss Herstory as it relates to the Glee Club because this ensemble is comprised only of women. Historically, glee clubs have been composed of only men or mixed with men and women, never solely women. For alumnae, Herstory means continuing a legacy of greatness. Alumnae can share their inspiring stories in hopes to light a fire in the hearts of generations to come. For Spelman College, Herstory truly is "our choice to change the world". Spelman College has been a cultivator and incubator of Black Girl Magic for over 130 years. Imagine this, there's a little girl with dreams of becoming the best doctor, lawyer, teacher, engineer, Senator, or President of the United States she possibly could be but she lives in a world where society constantly tells her "No you can't". For this little girl, Spelman is a beacon of hope. She is able to see both students and alumnae break glass ceilings and be the firsts in their fields, because we do still live in a world of firsts. This little girl sees her future in front of her and sees that despite the naysayers, it is bright.

We invite you, as you read through this edition of Resonance, to think of your own narratives and share them with us and even the rest of the world. You never know, your story may be the inspiration to that young child and you may become her Herstory hero.



Spelmanite Spotlight

Interviewed by: Kendra Grisoldm

"In my time at Spelman, I was surrounded by women who were leaders and trailblazers. I was directly influenced by their resolution, courage, and passion. I felt obligated to continue their legacy of musicianship, leadership and scholarship. It was my duty to uphold their legacy."

Dr. Paula Grissom-Broughton entered the gates of Spelman College as a Psychology major, however, after signing up for a music class and much convincing from the Honorary Glee Sister Dr. Joyce Finch Johnson, Broughton changed her major to music--beginning her journey as a musician, educator, and leader. In all four of her years at Spelman, Broughton was a member of the Spelman College Glee Club. Not only did she sing in the Soprano 2 section, but she accompanied the ensemble as well. Dr. Broughton recalled many fond memories from her matriculation at Spelman but cited her time performing outside of Spelman, in Sigma Alpha Iota, as well as the Spelman College Glee Club as the highlights of her Spelman experience. Specifically she mentioned that the Annual Spring Tour, any of the four tours that she went on, were a fun time.



Dr. Paula Grissom-Broughton
C' 97

Broughton finished her time at Spelman, graduating with her Bachelors of Arts in Music and a minor in Religion in 1997. However, her studies did not end there, as she went on to attend Northwestern University to study Piano Performance and Pedagogy. Broughton then moved to Winston-Salem, North Carolina where she taught a music history course, piano, and accompanied for the chorus and music department at Winston-Salem State University. She has always had a love for learning and knowledge so much so that she furthered her studies at Boston University where she earned a Doctorate of Musical Arts.





Spelmanite Spotlight

After some time away from Atlanta, Dr. Broughton returned to teach at Mayes High School and Mount Olive Elementary School in Fulton County, Georgia. Broughton made her return to Spelman in 2003 when Dr. Joyce Finch Johnson took a sabbatical. She also worked as an adjunct, accompanying for the department, and later came back as a full time faculty member. Dr. Broughton made so much of an impression on the department that she was offered the position of Chair in Summer 2016 and officially began work in this capacity in Fall 2016. Broughton states that "It has been an honor to serve the department that molded me." and acknowledges her mother, Dr. Joyce Finch Johnson, and all her former piano and music teachers from junior and high school as her Herstory Heroes.

Dr. Broughton is a former winner of the Atlanta Steinway Piano Competition and remains an active musician and scholar. She has spent her time in academia researching race and gender in the music classroom and music education. When asked why she employed the lens of race and gender in her research she responded saying, "Most of the scholarly work of music, music education and music research omits the narratives of black women in particular. It is my duty as a black woman to find the place for these narratives to be told and for the research to be published; giving a voice to those who were historically silenced."

Dr. Paula Grissom-Broughton is a scholar, teacher, and leader that significantly influences all those who encounter her. Whether it be as a panel discussion member, workshop facilitator, music teacher, or Chair of the music department, Dr. Broughton does all that she does in excellence, just as those before her and as those who she will influence in generations to come.





Spelmanite Spotlight

Interviewed by Daphne Joseph

Serving as the Student Conductor of the Glee Club, Junior Music Major Brooke Joynes has had the opportunity to light the path for her successors to come. Coming from Durham, North Carolina, Joynes has been accomplishing many of her major goals upon arrival. "One of my main achievements was being able to conduct my arrangement of "Bohemian Rhapsody" on last year's Annual Spring Tour. It was kind of my foray into conducting and was pretty exciting." Since then, Joynes went on to arrange another one of her own piece titled, "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" for this year's Annual Spring Tour.



Joynes' ambitions do not end at Spelman College. In fact, upon graduating, she hopes to get her Masters and Doctorate in Choral Conducting in order to come back to conduct and become a professor at her alma mater. Of course this goal will come with many obstacles for her. Joynes states, "As a Black woman, I anticipate many difficulties because not only is the world of conducting generally a White field, but it is also a "man's world". Despite this, Joynes believes in her work ethic and will not stop until she reaches her goals.

Joynes offers a unique perception of her contributions to Women's History. "I define Herstory as the lives that we as women lead." As a Black woman, she inevitably correlates this month to Black History Month declaring that, "I think it's a lot like Black History where we make Black History everyday in the way that we are living and existing as Black people. In that sense, I think Herstory can be defined as the way that we are just living and existing as women." As Student Conductor Joynes oversees each of the section leaders while also leading her very own Alto 1 section. She, like many others before her is actively seeking to "Amaze and Inspire" during her time with the Glee Club.



Retrospective



As announced in last month's edition of Resonance, the Spelman College Glee Club took to the Interstates and went on their Annual Spring Tour. This year, the theme of tour was Resilience--a word that truly captured the spirit of the Glee Club as they sang. From March 10th to March 17th, the Glee Club performed in 6 different cities across the Southern and Midwest regions of the United States. The Glee Club was also invited to Spivey Hall at Clayton State University in celebration of Women's History Month. There, they performed for the Young People's Concerts program, specifically designed to engage audiences and serve as educational opportunities that emphasize Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics for schools on field trips to the concert hall.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Spelman College Department of Music Presents

**SPELMAN COLLEGE
GLEE CLUB**

Annual Spring Concert

RESILIENCE

SUNDAY, APRIL 8, 2018, AT 5:00 P.M.

SISTERS CHAPEL

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

In observation of the 137th Founders Day of Spelman College and the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

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WWW.SPELMAN.EDU/GLEECLUB

Spelman College
A Choice to Change the World

SPRING CONCERT

april 8th

5:00 pm

Sister's Chapel, Spelman College

FOUNDERS DAY ALUMNAE CELEBRATION

april 9th

5:30-8 pm

The Camille Olivia Hanks Cosby, Ed.D. Academic Center Lobby & Auditorium, Spelman College

FOUNDERS DAY

april 10th

10:00-11:15am

Sister's Chapel, Spelman College

AMERICA, VOL.4

GA SYMPHONY

april 20th-21st

8 pm

Night 1: Ray Charles Performing Arts Center (enter ticket promotion code GSO4S)

Night 2: Marietta Performing Arts Center



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