

LONGWOOD CHORUS

The Newsletter

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Staying Connected



Rehearsal in **Vanderbilt Hall**

Welcome again to the second issue of this newsletter. As time seems to both speed on and [melt](#) away, then return in moments of prior normalcy, I have been reflecting on what is now a novelty - a choir which meets weekly. Though Megan's emails reminding us that it is indeed a Tuesday sometimes come as a surprise, it is a happy one. Though March 16th, 2020 feels like an eon ago, I can pleasantly recall each of our music club meetings in the spring and our first virtual choir pieces. There is almost a strangeness to the familiarity of our meetings; it is a kind of structure among structurelessness. Yet our practice is unfamiliar. Singing into laptops and tuning to MIDI tracks. What then compels us to keep our structure? Well in part it is of course the hope and expectation that we will sing together again before too long. But perhaps more powerful and more present is the exercise of sharing space. Physical or otherwise. It is a space in which we are invited to join others and are met. It is that same invitation we hope to extend here in the newsletter.

- Dan Horgan, **Social Chair**. Interviews co-authored by George Fei, **Stage Manager**.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, NEWS, & CONGRATULATIONS!

October is a big month for birthdays here in the Longwood Chorus! Please join us in saying a happy birthday to: Mindy Kim, Pamela Chen, Sonya Maria Douglas, Emily Graham, Molly Belsky, Johannes Bill, Alex Zhang, David Mazumder, and Philip Lederer!

An additional huge congratulations to Iris Chan, our Assistant Director and pianist, who received her white coat this past month in her first year in the Tufts Medical School program.

We would also like to offer a heartfelt thank you to Reginald Mobley for sharing his time, kindness, and wisdom with the choir last week. We're including a few of his recommended resources here which we hope folks will have a chance to check out.

[Black Voices Matter Pledge](#)

[Nigra Sum](#) (featuring Reggie)

Please email Dan (dnhorgn@gmail.com) with any updates, big plans, birthdays, occasions, reflections, or news etc. that you have to report either for yourself or on the behalf of another choir member.

THIS WEEK'S Featured Faces



David!



Carolyn!



Sarah!

David Campbell

Vascular Surgeon, [Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center](#)

Where Is He From?

David's parents were religious emigres from Northern Ireland, but David was born and raised in Liverpool and attended nearby Stonyhurst College, "probably the most famous Catholic School in the United Kingdom." While a student at Cambridge (the Uni), he first crossed the pond and came to Massachusetts to coach tennis for a summer, and it was the parent of one of his students that convinced him to go into surgery in the States. David later applied to residency at the BIDMC back in 1975, and he's been there ever since. David now splits his time between Boston and his home in West Falmouth.

What Does A Day At BIDMC Look Like?

In David's own words, his job is to "walk around and look important," but he has confessed to deeply enjoying interacting with his patients and accompanying them on their medical journey. Because David is actually still an independent practitioner, he has the freedom to really grow the relationship with his patients. He is also appointed Associate Professor of Surgery through BIDMC, and though he has little interest in research, he enjoys giving lectures.

Where Did He Get His Start Singing?

Save for some ill-fated piano lessons in his youth, David originally had no formal training in music but started singing with the local Saengerfest Chorus upon invitation from a friend. With more and more practice, David became a regular singer, even seeing through the Saengerfest's evolution into a formal choir, now the Boston Saengerfest Men's Chorus. After his kids grew up, he also picked up the piano. David is now also a member of the Yale Alumni Chorus, with which he has travelled to the far corners of the globe, including South Africa, Vietnam, and Georgia (the country!).

What Does David Do For Fun?

David describes himself as a major history buff and gave us this fun fact: "hillbilly" comes from the term "billy," a term meaning "companion" used by the Scots-Irish who emigrated from Northern Ireland after the Battle of Boyne during the Williamite Wars. David is also a self-identified jock, having had a passion for rugby and tennis, though with his knee replacements, he mostly sticks to golf and biking these days. Besides recreation, he spends much of his time running a non-profit that teaches in Vietnam. However, out of all of these accomplishments, David revealed that none make him prouder than his children. Despite

all their busy lives, his family, including now a granddaughter, frequently gather at his home on the Cape.

Asked For Some Of His Favorite Music, David Said:

“While I love to sing renaissance choral music, I play 70’s folk when I operate. That said my favorite single piece is a Welsh Love song, [Myfanwy](#).’

Sarah Hindenach

Clinical Research Nurse, [Dana-Farber Cancer Institute](#)

Where Is She From?

Sarah hails from Fairfield, Connecticut, where she was born and raised and where her parents still live now. She attended college at Northeastern and was introduced to the nursing profession during two semesters she spent as part of the school’s Co-operational Education program. Through the program, Sarah even got to spend two months in Malta. Since graduating, she’s stuck around working at the Longwood hospitals.

What Does A Day At DFCI Look Like?

As a clinical research nurse at DFCI, Sarah’s job is helping patients get on clinical trials for therapies for gynecologic cancers and taking care of them during treatment. Though before the pandemic, she was in the hospital full-time, she now splits the week in half between in-person and remote care. Sarah has always been passionate about women’s health, and because getting a first nursing job can often be a challenge, “getting this job felt like a dream job” to her.

Where Did She Get Her Start Singing?

You can all have Britney Spears to thank for giving us Sarah the Singer. A certain early 2000s documentary on the Princess of Pop inspired Sarah to flex her vocal muscles. Her mother, ever supportive, found the Fairfield County Children’s Choir for Sarah to join when she was in the 4th grade, and she continued to stay there all the way through high school. Even though she participated in many other singing groups, like her high school choir and a cappella groups, Sarah speaks fondly of the County Choir, having met many of her best friends there and having travelled a great deal locally and abroad for concerts. In college, she sang in the school and chamber choirs and continued to do so 2 years after graduating but decided to leave after their conductor of 40+ years retired. Luckily, she found us through well-placed Facebook posts that a friend found and sent to her.

What Does Sarah Do For Fun?

Sarah is big on dancing, having danced throughout much of her childhood, though she stopped in high school since singing and field hockey took up much of her time. She returned to it in college and has been at it ever since. Her preferred style is hip-hop, but she also loves Zumba and dreams of returning to tap dancing one day. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, she hasn't had much opportunity to stretch her dancing legs. To get out and get active, Sarah enjoys tossing frisbees or playing KanJam with friends.

Finally We Asked, What's One Of Your Favorite Songs?

Her answer: [Echo](#) by Incubus. A beautiful B-Side from one of the paragons of Y2K-era sound.

Carolyn Hsu

Speech Pathologist, [MD Anderson Cancer Center](#)

Where Is She From?

Carolyn was born and raised in sunny central New Jersey, near Trenton. Brought out to the midwest to attend undergraduate at Northwestern University, she began to prepare for her future career in the medical field while simultaneously earning a certificate in music. Seeing her own interest and path in speech pathology before her, she decided to take a working gap year before applying to graduate school. She moved to Madison, WI to work for the then much smaller Epic Systems, Co. who now most certainly help manage most of the patient records in medicine! Carolyn eventually ended up in Boston and around the Longwood area when she decided to attend the MGH Institute of Health Professions for graduate school. A decision made easier by her parents and sister's move to Massachusetts around that time as well. After graduating she stayed in the area to work at the Brigham and then Dana Farber.

What's A Day At Work For Carolyn?

Just last year in a big move, Carolyn was recruited to work for the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX; the largest cancer center in the United States! As a speech pathologist she specializes in patients with swallowing disorders. One of the most common causes of such a disorder is head and neck cancer, which connected her expertise to the needs of the patients at MD Anderson. She says that as cancer treatment methods improve, more patients survive and can thus reach a rehabilitation phase. The patients she sees everyday are recovering and Carolyn plays a critical role in their convalescence.

Where Did She Get Her Start Singing?

Starting in fourth grade, Carolyn joined the school choir. From that moment on she dreamed of being a career singer. While her father was not as keen on the idea and pushed her toward the medical track, she was always able to find an avenue for singing along the way. In high school she found musical theater and jazz band and in college she took as many classes in music that her non-music program would allow. While studying at the MGHI she noticed a distinct lack of student life. Responding to that absence she decided to start a music and choir program called the IHP Musicians. While small at first (like us!) the choir quickly grew and they are still playing today (like us!). Following her graduation and move to the working world of Longwood she found our chorus in Spring 2018 and has been a member ever since.

What Does Carolyn Do For Fun?

Outside of work and music Carolyn keeps herself quite busy! Her favorite mode of exercise, transportation, and sometimes recreation is cycling. She notes though that her enjoyment of time on the bike has diminished this past year in Houston as the heat and humidity can often make it feel as though she is “swimming through the air.” Hopefully she’ll have a chance to bike the streets of Boston again before too long. She is also something of an artist. Calligraphy, the art of giving form to signs in an expressive, harmonious, and skillful manner, has been a practice of hers for several years. Recent projects have included greeting cards, interior deco signage, and framable lyrics and prayers. Another, perhaps even more challenging, art form Carolyn began to dedicate herself to a few years ago was figure skating. Beginning as a novice who could not skate at all, she took lessons every week in Boston. Her practice has, in my opinion, made her quite the expert; able to flow across the ice, spinning and leaping.

Finally We Asked, What’s One Of Your Favorite Songs?

She says: [I Want You Back by the Jackson 5](#) has “the best bassline in the world ever and forever in the future as well.” Strong words. She is also currently greatly enjoying the soundtrack of the new Eurovision movie on Netflix.

Board Member of the Week



Vice President - Megan McCurry, Chemical Biology PhD Candidate

Megan is our Vice President *and* Clerk. As part of her role she handles all internal communications in the choir. This includes weekly rehearsal updates and attendance. She also is responsible for maintaining choral membership records and taking notes at board meetings.

Megan is a Chemical Biology PhD Student at Harvard, and works in Sloan Devlin's lab in the Biological Chemistry & Molecular Pharmacology Department at Harvard Medical School. For her thesis project, she is studying how gut bacteria metabolize endogenous steroid hormones and how this metabolism affects human health. Outside the lab, she enjoys bouldering, the (home) gym (#doyouevenliftbro), (horror) movies, parentheticals and copious amounts of Netflix.

I asked Megan, as I did Chris last issue, **what does the choir mean to you?** Her response reminds us that during a strange and distant moment for the choir, the feeling of community is still present and paramount. She answered the following:

“To me, the chorus is both an escape and a community. With the constant failure and lack of structure that is grad school, it's rewarding to have a chance to escape life for an hour or two every Tuesday evening to delve into the music. On the other hand, the chorus is also a community, and all of us are going through similar struggles, whether it be in the lab or in the clinic. After getting more involved in the Board, the chorus has become even more of a community for me. A place where all contributions are cherished, whether it be just as a voice or through organizing events or taking attendance. Just by showing up, we are all contributing in some way, whether we realize it or not. And these days, when loneliness is at its peak for a lot of us, it's nice to be a part of something that inspires maintaining connections to others and to music.”

Thank you all. We'll see you at rehearsal.

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