



# THE UPDATE

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## FROM THE GUYS...

Season's greetings, Glee Club Alumni and Friends! On behalf of the UNI Varsity Men's Glee Club, I cordially invite you and your family to join us on Dec. 2nd and 3rd for the 34th Annual University of Northern Iowa Varsity Men's Glee club Christmas Variety Shows! This year we plan on bringing back the holiday spirit with some of our favorite traditional Christmas songs like "Lo how a rose e'er blooming" and "We Need a Little Christmas," along with several new songs and special guests. With an emphasis on tradition, the Arthur Murder Dancers will grace the stage, but you might notice a few new dance moves which are sure to put a smile on your face.

We understand that this is a difficult time of year for families to travel, so we are very grateful to all of you who have been braving the bad weather and long miles year after year. As this Spring is a European trip, we would love to have you come out with us to Tony's on Main Street after the show and share with us your stories from tour. We want to get the underclassmen excited for this trip and it would mean a lot to them to hear how the trips impacted your lives.

As always, you can get tickets from contacting a current Glee Club member (which helps him go on tour!) or you can call the ticket office directly at (319) 273-4TIX.

Happy Holidays and Brothers Sing On,  
John Preston, BA in Philosophy  
Class of 2012



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Dylan Keller is a tenor II from Donnellson, Iowa. He is a sophomore majoring in Political Communication and minoring in Politics and Law. He joined the Glee Club in the Fall of 2010 and joined the Glee Club Counsel the Spring of 2011. He has continually shown leadership and enthusiasm. Dylan has been key in the planning several of our social gatherings this semester as well as aiding Dillon Bottorff on selling ad space for the Christmas Program. One of Dylan's favorite Glee Club memories is from his first Christmas show:

"My favorite Glee Club memory has to be my first Christmas Show in 2010. It was an honor to share the stage with the founding and past members and directors of this prestigious club to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary. I recall getting goose bumps at the beginning of the second act when we entered back on stage with candles in hand. We practiced this numerous times, but this was different. Our candles were lit and the Great Hall was packed. It is hard to put down in words what emotions were running through my body, but I imagine everyone had a similar experience or I least I hope they did. The cherry on top was when I teamed up with Corry Derringer and Alex Steines in a comedy bit. I was the Razz-a-Matazz with my tapping feet and witnessed a standing ovation each show. Those memories always will humble me as I look at how the Glee Club has and will impact my life."

## FROM THE ALUMNI...



I recall sitting with Bob Byrnes after a Christmas Variety Show talking about the future of the Varsity Men's Glee Club. Bob was very intense that we needed to build a pot of money so we could always have the strength to assure the Varsity Men's Glee Club was available to the men of UNI. He knew that economic times could cause the School of Music or the University to sometime have to cut a program. He saw other organizations with strong Alumni support and knew because of the passion and enjoyment each of us had in the Glee Club we could build an endowment. The strength of the endowment is the principal, which is untouchable. We can create a fund which can use the growth and income to support a strong program. We could even build the fund so we could hire a Director and keep the group viable from now and into perpetuity. We have had a goal of raising \$300,000 and we are getting close and need your support to make this happen. With these dollars raised so far we have supported a Scholarship at the Price Lab; purchased Tuxedos and Shirts for Glee Club members; offset the cost of transportation for the Europe and Iowa Tours; and provided great parties for reunions. The only way we can grow these funds is through your support.

-Austin Jones, Class of 1986

2012 is a European Tour year. This year the Glee Club is revisiting Germany and Austria, basing out of Munich, Salzburg, and Vienna. Of course, the exact itinerary is still a bit fluid, but it appears that we will be performing at the Salzburg Dom and St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna. In addition, the Glee Club will return to one of our favorite cities -- Grödig -- and will perform at the Hauptschule. Our final performance venue is in Freising, just outside of Munich. Friesing is home to the world's oldest brewery (I imagine the guys might want to schedule some free time in Freising...). The guys are truly energized about the trip and I am personally excited to go on my first Glee Club European Tour.

As always, please accept my deep thanks for the continued support each of you give to the Glee Club by your attendance at concerts and gifts to the Les Hale Endowment Fund. If you ever have any questions about the group, suggestions for the future, or simply want to tell me a story about your time in Glee Club, please feel free to contact me at (319) 273-7142.

Brothers, Sing On!

John

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

The year began with a bang for the Glee Club. The Glee Club was featured as the finale in the School of Music's Annual Scholarship Benefit Concert, performing Gustav Holst's "London Pageant" with the Wind Symphony. At first I was concerned that the guys might not enjoy the music -- it is classical and, at times, simplistic. My concerns were quickly dashed when I heard them singing the refrain of "The Raven" at the OP during Seminar. Alumni who return for the Christmas Show should ask the guys to lead a verse or two at Tony's.

Of course, the bulk of the semester has been spent on preparing the Christmas Variety Show. Most of our time has been spent on a jazz arrangement of "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" and another song titled "Estampie Natalis" that many of the guys liken to the theme song of HBO's "Game of Thrones."

The Glee Club has a lot of work to do between now and show week - there's music to memorize, tickets to sell, and Arthur Murder steps to practice. I imagine you all know exactly how these next few weeks feel for the members! As always, the guys will be ready and the show will be fun. Please come out and join us for the show and for the after party at Tony's.

