

2012 YALE INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL

**This is your invitation to sign up to participate
in the 2012 Yale International Choral Festival
in New Haven June 19-24, 2012.**

The Yale Alumni Chorus has always been a mission-driven organization. That mission is “to promote harmony through choral music, at home and abroad.”

Those words have framed our activities since our beginning and, certainly, the international journey of the Yale Alumni Chorus has been amazing and rewarding. You may recall a small New York recording studio in 1996 when Mark Dollhopf imagined “we could go sing in China” . . . and then we did. We hoped to perform in the world’s greatest halls with acclaimed conductors and soloists . . . and we have. We wanted to start a music school in the Rio favela, the City of God! We did that too . . . and it has endured. And the tradition continues as The Yale Alumni Chorus has been on a mighty international journey these last three years: Mexico and Guatemala in 2009, Cuba in 2010, Turkey, Armenia and Georgia in 2011. YAC has been to 13 countries promoting harmony abroad.

It is time now to fulfill the other part of our mission: promoting harmony at home. 2012 is the year we bring the YAC mission home to Yale. While it is true we have performed on campus, that is different from organizing a full program in New Haven designed to share our culture with others as well as to foster friendship and understanding. The Yale International Choral Festival will create a great new institution that will set high standards for choral music and be the cornerstone to enhance the positioning of Yale and New Haven in the world of international performing arts.

The 2012 Yale International Choral Festival will feature many of the great hallmarks of Yale Alumni Chorus adventures of the past:

International cross-cultural exchange

There will be guest choruses from around the world, places we have been and places where we will go in the future—think of it as a tour to China, Indonesia, South Africa and England . . . all in 5 days! 150 singers from noted choral groups of these countries will join us, many of whom we have met before in our international travels. Here is a quick rundown of the choruses who will attend the event:

Central Conservatory of Music Choir, Beijing: The Central Conservatory of Music is the most important music school in China. It was closed during the Cultural Revolution, and its famous “Class of 78” has become among the most prominent



musicians and composers in classical music today. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HFJvIpvZj7s>

The Manado State University Choir, Indonesia: These performers make Mixed Company look like retiring wallflowers! The rhythms, costumes and choreography will dazzle you. See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aCvGkjexD5I>

Imilonji Kantu Choral Society, South Africa: For those of you unfamiliar with the joy and artistry of this incredible group, check them out on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LUYuqiEgEqE> or the 5 minute mark: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ga8aFPLT93g> (and do not miss the arrangement of another South African youth choir doing “Every Time I Feel the Spirit” at the beginning). It will be very special to have these friends in New Haven.

Cambridge University Chamber Choir, England: And now for something completely different. . . . This choir is comprised of choral scholars from the various college choirs within Cambridge University, but specializes in extended works that are not regularly performed in chapel services—exceptional voices and ensemble in the classic “Oxbridge” tradition. The group is also affiliated with the Cambridge University Musical Society, a frequent YAC co-conspirator.

The opportunities for interaction will in many respects run far deeper than the shared concert experience that we have abroad because we will be in New Haven with them for the five days. We will work with their conductors. We will live with them and eat with them. We will get to show them Yale. Think about it - for years, we have told other singers around the world about this special place called Yale. Our size, attire and sound have provoked wonderment . . . and now we can share it with them directly. We will share so many more of our traditions with the friends we have made during our travels and with new friends who will go back to their countries with pictures, stories, recordings and memories.

A world class artistic experience: We are packing a TON of singing into five festival days, with a program that will provide a broad array of musical experiences and reach new musical heights.



Central Conservatory of Music Choir, Beijing

How about learning a piece from each of the visiting countries of the Festival-rehearsed together with the conductor and chorus from that country? We are doing that.

How about singing with full orchestra and a world-class soloist from the international opera stage? We are doing that too!

How about going into the community for an inspiring morning performing for and with local singers? Yep, that too.

And how about having some informal singing at dinners and in the TD courtyard late into the night? Pace your enthusiasm, but of course this will be going on too.

And finally, what about the opportunity to rehearse and sing again with our very own phenomenal Jeff Douma! Who wouldn't want to jump at the chance?

Music

For the Yale Alumni Chorus concert Saturday night, a gala concert in Woolsey Hall will showcase our diverse traditions as Ambassadors of Song, being accompanied by the New Haven Symphony Orchestra. It will open with the Colin Britt fanfare, "A Dream and a Song," commissioned by the Yale Alumni Chorus. The first half will include traditional YAC repertoire and a piece from the countries of each of our guest choruses.

The second half will feature Parry's *I Was Glad* and Verdi's *Inno Delle Nazioni* (Hymn of the Nations). The Verdi is the perfect piece for this occasion, a cantata celebrating the coming together of nations in song. It literally strings together numerous national anthems, smashed together with early prefigurations of the *Aida* Triumphal March. Written in 1862 (our performance will mark the 150th Anniversary of the work and usher in the 2013 Verdi Bicentennial), the libretto was written by Arrigo Boito who went on to collaborate with Verdi on *Otello* and *Falstaff* (not to mention his own opera *Mefistofele*).



New Haven Symphony Orchestra in Woolsey Hall

The work has had an interesting, at times politicized performance history, with notable renditions over the decades by Arturo Toscanini and Jan Peerce during World War II (which you can begin to see in the uncensored version here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hdDjfsnvWBc>), and by Placido Domingo and the LA Philharmonic in Bud Greenspan's 1984 film *16 days of glory* here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SWk63xa15s>. (We will be performing in Boito's original Italian.)

It has been some years since we have had the pleasure of performing with someone from the international opera stage, and we are very fortunate to be joined in the Verdi by Russell Thomas. Thomas was in the Metropolitan Opera's Young Artist program and is known among the world's top opera administrators as a voice of choice when it comes to Verdi. He impressed Riccardo Muti at the Met last year when he took the tenor lead in *Attila*, he recently premiered a new opera by John Adams, and he will be in *Simon Boccanegra* at the Royal Opera House for the Verdi Centennial in 2013. (See his full bio at www.russell-thomas.com)

Outreach

We will have the opportunity to collaborate with a local school group or cultural center one morning, close to campus. We will sing for them, they for us, and they will be our special guests at our Saturday concert at Woolsey Hall.

Collaborations

We have spoken about collaborations with the choruses. But we will also be collaborating deeply on this project with the Yale Glee Club. Jeff Douma and the YGC are, in fact, working with

the International Federation for Choral Music and the American Choral Directors Association to organize a two-day symposium entitled *Choirs Transforming Our World*. The symposium will explore the ways in which people are using choral music to reach beyond the concert and rehearsal hall to create positive social change, foster international understanding, and promote individual well-being through choral singing on a local, national, and international level. We have the opportunity to attend and contribute to all these activities. For this one week, our Yale International Choral Festival will be the world's center of choral activity.



The Manado State University Choir, Indonesia

And of course, YACtivities. We will have our festive meals shared with our international guests, dancing with the South Africans, baseball with the Chinese, as well as our unique YAC cabaret and late night singing. And all this right on the Yale Campus! It will be like a Yale reunion where everybody sings.

And the cultural experience goes beyond our own performances - when we are not rehearsing and singing, we will have the ability to attend five, count 'em, five choral concerts that will be taking place right in the heart of the City of New Haven's International Festival of Arts and Ideas, now one of the most important cultural festivals in the country. We will have a wealth of opportunities to attend these events.

While the 2012 festival lineup has not been announced yet, last year's lineup (the 43-page brochure is available here: http://www.artidea.org/2011_art_idea_catalog/2011index.html) included Yo-Yo Ma, Bang on a Can All Stars, The Bill T. Jones Dance Company, along with walking tours, foodie tours and many talks and films. We do know that next year's festival WILL include the Mark Morris Dance Group, for which we will have an early opportunity to register.

Truly, this will be one of the most intensely-packed weeks of culture you will ever experience, as both spectator and participant. Any non-singers or family members who seek to join us will have PLENTY to see and do this week!

A New Tradition

And yet, while there will be so much that is familiar to a Yale Alumni Chorus experience, this adventure will be very different and new, in ways that contribute profoundly to our future.

Indulge me one more moment while I come back to our mission.

One of the early influences and inspirations for the Yale Alumni Chorus and our international profile was the International Choral Festival of Lincoln Center, led for so many years by the late Jim Bjorge '53 JD. Influenced himself by the Yale Glee Club's and Marshall Bartholomew's pioneering roles as Ambassadors of Song, Jim brought international choruses to New York and then routed them on tours across America. The Yale International Choral Festival follows his example. We are creating something new and, if all goes well, establishing a new tradition, a new institution to support choral music. We could do this festival every few years, which would completely transform our ability to plan into the future. We could begin relationships with international music organizations and choruses with invitations to Yale, and then go visit them on subsequent tours. The Yale International Choral Festival establishes roots on campus and becomes a vital part of our foundation as we continue our efforts abroad.

Inclusiveness and Flexible Options

The Yale International Choral Festival will expand the opportunity for Yale alumni singing beyond the usual members of the Yale Alumni Chorus. A five-day program (and for younger alumni, a three-day option) opens up our doors to a much wider constituency. We have tried to price the entire experience very reasonably, with accommodations and meal options for different budgets. And we will seek out new participants! Since the Festival is a collaboration with the Yale Glee Club, all Yale Glee Club Associates are receiving this invitation simultaneously, and we will also invite those who may have sung only in other organizations, such as the Yale Russian Chorus or a cappella singing groups.



Imilonji Kantu Choral Society, South Africa

And finally, the Yale International Choral Festival is in many respects going to be the most FLEXIBLE experience we have ever created. When the Yale Alumni Chorus brings an intimate group of 300 people to such familiar garden spots as Tbilisi and Havana, it has always been critical that we stay in the same place, move as a group and follow more or less the same schedule. In an effort to be as inclusive and accommodating as possible, the Yale International Choral Festival will have a number of flexible options:

Flexible housing: While a stay in Timothy Dwight with the international choruses will maximize the campus experience and the opportunity to meet the other singers, those interested in such modern conveniences as air conditioning and en suite bathrooms may opt for the nearby swing dorm or one of the hotels (where we have a room block). Additionally, singers who live in the region will, of course, have a participation option that enables them to forego campus housing altogether.

Flexible meal plan: On a diet? Like to sleep through breakfast? Or do you plan to meet friends during lunch? You can choose from several different meal plans.

Full week vs. partial week: 50 alumni from the classes of 2002-2012 will have the option to arrive on Thursday, June 21st and participate in the second half of the Saturday concert program with orchestra. This shorter option will have a lower fee.

Optional activities: There will be a dazzling array of activities each day, from educational to social to cultural. While we will have plenty of structured time for the entire group, there will be other parts of the day to sample master classes, lectures, museums, outreach activities, concerts, and collaborative events with the visiting choruses.

Anticipated Schedule

Here is some sense of how it will all happen, day by day (schedule and details subject to change):

Day 1 (Tuesday, June 19): Arrival Day

9:00 a.m.: Registration Opens at Sprague Hall

Come by train, car, air, boat, bike or foot. We are all responsible for getting ourselves to New Haven by 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 19. If you would like to arrive the night before and stay on campus, you will be able to do so.

10:30 a.m.: Official Welcome and Lecture/Workshop with Yang Hongnian, conductor of the Central Conservatory Choir, Beijing. These workshops will be unparalleled opportunities for us to learn more about singing cultures and singing styles in the countries of our visiting choruses.

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: Lunch with the Chinese and Indonesians! Each day, we have set aside ample time for lunch which you can choose to take at Timothy Dwight College, or go off with your own small group, perhaps with a few of our international guests, to sample favorite New Haven haunts.

1:00-3:00 p.m.: Conducting Masterclass 1: Central Conservatory Choir, Beijing. Talented young conductors from around the country will be chosen by audition to work with three of our visiting choirs and be coached by our guest conductors and by Jeff.

2:30 p.m.: YAC choral rehearsals begin in Battell Chapel, an acoustically and aesthetically wonderful place to prepare. At Tuesday and Wednesday's rehearsals, we will be working the repertoire for the first half of Saturday's concert program.

4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.: Rehearse the Chinese repertoire with Yang Hongnian and the Central Conservatory of Music Choir.

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.: Singing Dinner with the Chinese, Indonesians and South Africans, TD Dining Hall. We will be forming welcome committees to enable each of our international guests to have a buddy or three. The group dinners will feature some shared interest tables, and all will be encouraged to mix it up.

8:00 p.m.: Yale Choral Artists in concert at Sprague Hall. This is a new project-based professional chamber choir that the School of Music is launching this year. The group will be led by Jeff, and will be comprised of leading professional singers from around the country. Their program will consist of works by contemporary American composers. Prepare to be awed.

Day 2 (Wednesday, June 20)

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.: Rehearsal in Battell.

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: Immediately afterwards, there will be options galore.

Option #1: George Mxadana will present a lecture and workshop with the Imilonji Kantu Choral Society.

Option #2: Explore Yale museums. For instance, the Yale University Art Gallery will have a fascinating exhibition entitled: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness.

Option #3: Enjoy some of the offerings of the International Festival of Arts and Ideas, perhaps a lecture or a food tour of New Haven.

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Back to School! We are organizing a series of faculty lectures, befitting our festival themes, repertoire and visitors.

Option #1: Conducting Masterclass featuring the Yale Choral Artists, with student conductors receiving feedback from none other than Jeff Douma and Maggie Brooks, the Simon Cowell and Paula Abdul of the choral world.

Option #2: Hours before hearing the Central Conservatory Choir, we may have a lecture on Modern China from a Yale faculty member.

2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.: So You Think You Can Dance? Mid-afternoon, it will be a combination of rehearsal and YACTivities on Old Campus with the Imilonji Kantu and Manado State University Choir. For all you enthusiasts of Bawo, prepare to learn some NEW DANCES...

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.: indonesia Manado State University Choir Concert at Sprague Hall

6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.: Dinner with the Chinese, Indonesians, and South Africans

8:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.: Central Conservatory of Music Choir, Beijing Concert at Sprague Hall.

Day 3 (Thursday, June 21)

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.: YAC Rehearsal in Battell

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.: Lecture/workshop led by Martin Ennis with the Cambridge University Chamber Choir.

11:30 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.: Lunch

1:00-3:00 p.m.: Back to School!

Option #1: Conducting Masterclass featuring the Cambridge University Chamber Choir (led by Ennis and guest)

Option #2: Hours before hearing Imilonji Kantu, we will have a lecture by Yale faculty on South Africa today.

Option #3: International Festival of Arts and Ideas activities

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: YAC rehearsal in Battell. We will rehearse the second half of the Saturday program. Those arriving for the YAC weekend program must arrive in time for this rehearsal. Towards the end of this rehearsal, we will be joined by Martin Ennis and his choir, who will work with us on Parry's *I Was Glad*.

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.: The Imilonji Kantu Choral Society, live in Sprague Hall.

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.: Dinner with the South Africans and English choirs.

8:30 p.m. – Mark Morris Dance Group will be one of the highlights of this year's International Festival of Arts & Ideas, performing a wonderful music program featuring chorus: Haydn's *Horn Concerto No. 2 in D Major*, Bach's *Jesu, Meine Freude*, and Vivaldi's *Gloria*. This concert will be performed at the Schubert Theater, and will include the Yale Choral Artists. We are being offered tickets in advance of the general public for Thursday evening, and this is an add-on option to the Choral Festival fee at the time of registration.



The Mark Morris Dance Group in Performance

10:00 p.m. – ? : *Isicathamiya* session! Afterwards, a late night competition of small group harmony with the South Africans. Singing group alums start your engine

Day 4 (Friday, June 22)

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.: Three options for the morning.

Option #1: There will be a YAC outreach event in New Haven. This may involve some of the principal churches and cultural centers in the community.

Option #2: Participation in the Symposium: Choirs Transforming Our World which will be held in Sprague Hall.

Option #3: International Festival of Arts and Ideas events and tours.

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.: Lunch

1:30 p.m. Three options for the afternoon:

Option #1: Lecture on Giuseppe Verdi and The Hymn of the Nations.

Option #2: Participation in the Symposium: Choirs Transforming Our World which will be held in Sprague Hall.

Option #3: International Festival of Arts and Ideas events and tours.

4:00 p.m.-6:00p.m.: YAC choral rehearsal in Woolsey Hall

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.-Dinner

8:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.: – Cambridge University Chamber Choir in Sprague Hall

9:30 p.m.- ??: The evening will be capped off with Kati's Late Nite Kabaret, organized by our very own impresario-in-residence Kati Cowles. Come see many of your YAC friends exhibit talents you (and they) never knew they had (and quite possibly don't). It is a good good time.

Day 5 (Saturday, June 23)

10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.: Dress Rehearsal in Woolsey Hall. Joining us to rehearse the second half of our program-Parry's *I Was Glad* and Verdi's *Inno Delle Nazioni* (Hymn of the Nations)-- will be the New Haven Symphony Orchestra and soloist Russell Thomas.

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.: Lunch

2:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.: Options in the afternoon will include catching part of Day Two of Choirs Transforming Our World, take in a museum, or take advantage of the International Festival of Arts & Ideas.

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.: Woolsey concert featuring Yale Alumni Chorus and New Haven Symphony Orchestra. The concert will be integrated into the International Festival of Arts and Ideas, and should have a great crowd.



Tenor Russell Thomas

8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.: Gala dinner following the concert, which we're looking to hold in an interesting, unusual place.

Sunday, June 24

Brunch will be available in TD, after which we all say farewell after a tremendous week together!



Cambridge University Chamber Choir

Registration Process

Sounds AMAZING, right? So how do you sign up? Registration is different than YAC tours in the past. It is being handled completely by Yale Conference Services, like a reunion, and can be accessed at the following link: <http://www.regonline.com/yalealumnichorus>.

There are five steps, outlined briefly here:

Choose your program. The core program fee is \$590. Fifty registrants from undergraduate classes of 2002-2012 have an option to participate in the second half of the program, staying Thursday-Sunday only; their program fee is \$395. HOWEVER, because we wish to encourage early registration, the respective fees will be \$490 and \$295 until January 1, 2012!

Choose your housing option from these four:

Stay in TD for \$50/night + a one-time \$10 charge for linens/towels

Stay in the swing dorm space (air-conditioned, en-suite bathrooms) for \$88/night. Only a 10-minute walk down the road.

Stay at the Omni, the Study, the New Haven Hotel, or the Courtyard. We have room blocks at each. If you are interested in this option, please contact the hotel directly to make your reservation and indicate you are part of the Yale Alumni Chorus group; it will not go through Yale Conference Services.

Omni Hotel: 1-800-843-6664; \$199.00 per night
The Study: 203-503-3900; \$189.00 per night
New Haven Hotel : 203-498-3100; \$129.00 per night
Courtyard New Haven: 203-777-6221; \$119.00 per night

Stay at your own home or a friend's home. No charge, just the obligation to be at morning rehearsals on time!

Choose your meal plan. There is nuance here, so pay attention. All dinners are already included in your core program fee. If you are staying at home, you do not need to sign up for the dining hall breakfast plan. And if you prefer to explore the great lunch options around New Haven with smaller groups of friends, you may do so. But each meal block is either opt-in or opt-out (i.e. all lunches or no lunches). In other words, if you do not choose to have lunches in the college and on Wednesday you decide you want to join some friends there, you will not have the option of purchasing a ticket just for that day.

Select the Mark Morris concert if you wish for Thursday; the cost is \$48.

Make a contribution. Use this link to the Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation site: <http://alumninet.yale.edu/signs/yac/upcoming.html>. Gifts will not be handled by Yale Conference Services.

There are several reasons to register for this RIGHT AWAY!! First, **registration is being offered FIRST to all YAC members and YGC Associates**, and will be opened to the broader Yale alumni singing community in two weeks.

Second, **on January 1, participation fee will increase** by \$100. Third, in case your plans change, **there is a cancellation provision**. You can cancel up until March 15 and receive all monies back except for \$200 for the full week, and \$150 for the weekend only option. (After that time, there is no refund.) Fourth, as with past Yale Alumni Chorus experiences, **a portion of the fee may be tax deductible**. (At this stage in the planning it is not possible to make a final determination of the tax deductibility of your fee payment. We will advise you when a final determination is made.)

Finally, **we have only a limited number of slots for this event—300 singers**—and will fill them on a first-come first-served basis. We expect we will fill them quickly. So don't wait! Go to <http://www.regonline.com/yalealumnichorus> now!

Contribution Opportunities

Beyond your participation, we would also like to ask for your help. We have deliberately kept fees for this experience low in order to make this first festival very attractive, and to encourage participation. However, participation fees alone do not cover the full cost of the experience nor contribute towards any sort of a base for the Festival's future growth. Both the Yale Glee Club and the Yale Alumni Chorus Foundation are investing substantially to establish the Yale International Choral Festival.

Now that you have had a chance to learn more what this festival is about, the mission that it fulfills, and its aspirations for the future, we encourage you to consider some level of contribution to the best of your abilities. Opportunities, outlined below, range from joining a Founder's Circle, to presenting a visiting chorus, to becoming a patron or friend of the Festival.

We are pleased to report that we already have received pledges for the Founder's Circle and Champion levels, a great start! We greatly appreciate anything you can do. (Please note that these are one-time gifts, not a part of our annual appeal.)

Founder's Circle \$10,000

Designation in program as a Founder of YICF
Participation in official opening ceremony for Yale International Choral Festival
1/2 page space in the festival program (used at all concerts)
2 reserved tickets front of balcony for each of 6 choral concerts
Invitation for 2 to Tuesday sponsor afterglow at Mory's

Festival Leader \$5,000

Designation in program as a Leader of YICF
Participation in official opening ceremony for Yale International Choral Festival
1/4 page space in the festival program (used at all concerts)
2 reserved tickets front of balcony for each of 6 choral concerts
Invitation for 2 to Tuesday sponsor afterglow at Mory's

Choral Presenter: \$2,500

China, South Africa, England, Indonesia, Yale Choral Artists
Opportunity to welcome the chorus from the stage at the concert
Dinner with the conductor of the group you are sponsoring.
8 Front row balcony for the concert when the chorus you are sponsoring is performing
Acknowledgement as Choral Presenter in program
Plaque presentation to the group

Patron: \$1,000

2 reserved tickets front of balcony for each of 6 choral concerts
Invitation for 2 to Tuesday sponsor afterglow at Mory's
Patron listing in program

Champion: \$500

2 reserved tickets front of balcony for each of 6 choral concert
Invitation for 2 to Tuesday sponsor afterglow at Mory's
Champion listing in program

Friend: \$250

2 reserved tickets front of balcony for Saturday gala concert
Friend listing in program

If you have questions about contributions, or wish to discuss further, please contact Matt Ringel (matthewringel@gmail.com) or Ed Greenberg (esgreenb@optonline.net).

Key Dates

October 31: Registration opens broadly beyond YAC and YGCA

January 1, 2012: Registration deadline before fee increase

February 15: Rehearsal materials (music and recorded parts) will be distributed

March 15: Cancellation date (no refunds after this date)

April 28: Optional Rehearsal #1 in NYC

June 2: Optional Rehearsal #2 in NYC

June 19-24: Yale International Choral Festival



The Yale Alumni Chorus in Istanbul

Many thanks for your consideration. We hope that you will be able to join us for this historic and incredibly exciting program!

Very kind regards,

Matt Ringel '91
Lead Producer, Yale International Choral Festival

Jeff Freeman '57
Al Atherton '59
Lisa Kant '06
Production Team, Yale International Choral Festival