

PURDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB PRESS KIT



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Purdue Musical Organizations

**“ The Purdue Varsity Glee Club is
still the number one glee club**

IN THE COUNTRY!”

Erich Kunzel, Conductor of the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra

PURDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB ABOUT



Purdue Musical Organizations

With integrity, passion, unparalleled showmanship and attention to every detail, the members of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club have proudly served as ambassadors of the University with honor and dignity for more than 125 years.

Founded in 1893, this select ensemble has entertained on behalf of Purdue University for campus, community, state, national and international events, averaging between around 50 appearances each year. Embodying the spirit of service above self, the members of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club represent different backgrounds and hometowns across the country, consistently maintaining a high level of academic excellence with majors ranging from engineering to education to management to biological sciences.

This dynamic musical ensemble employs a versatile repertoire and utilizes small groups and outstanding soloists to further enhance each performance.



PURDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB HISTORY



Purdue Musical Organizations

In 1893, a handful of Purdue students sang in the first Glee Club, directed by Lafayette organist Cyrus Dadswell. At that time, Purdue University was still building its foundation, giving more attention to agriculture and engineering than music appreciation. Despite its environment and numerous changes in leadership, the Glee Club persevered. In 1910, E.J. Wotawa directed the group and later composed the fight song "Hail Purdue." During the 1920s, director Paul Smith brought to the ensemble a strengthened sense of purpose. However, it was largely due to the enthusiasm of the Glee Club's first full-time director, the irrepressible Albert P. Stewart, director from 1932 to 1972, that music found a home at Purdue.

For more than a century, young Purdue students have given their best in performance to audiences at the

University, throughout the nation, and around the world. The spirit and success of the Varsity Glee Club also inspired the birth of Purdue Musical Organizations over 85 years ago. Today, as throughout its memorable history, the Glee Club brings recognition and honor to Purdue University.



PURDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB SPECIALTIES



Purdue Musical Organizations

BA NA NA

Enjoy everything from Elvis to Jerry Lee and Bobby Darin to the Drifters as this fantastic foursome takes you back to the fabulous '50s and sensational '60s with their entertaining vocals and nostalgic look.

FLASHBACKS

Jump onto the dance floor as you listen to this group present an eclectic mix of music from all eras with tight harmonies that will have audience members singing along..

OFF BROADWAY

This talented troupe incorporates small and large group Broadway ensemble tunes and solo works.

ROOTS

The Roots sing contemporary music that incorporates elements of various American roots musical styles including country, folk, bluegrass, and blues.

TOP OF THE CLASS

The newest specialty ensemble sings barbershop classics and vocal jazz standards with influences like “The Four Freshman.”

WILLIAM GRIFFEL

DIRECTOR

William E. Griffel is the Albert P. Stewart Director of Purdue Musical Organizations and the Jack Calhoun Director of the Purdue Varsity Glee Club at Purdue University in West Lafayette, IN.

Griffel has served as a guest conductor and collaborator with Purdue University Bands, the Lafayette Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Men's Chorus, Indianapolis Children's Chorus, the Indiana State FFA Chorus, the Northwest Indiana Symphony Orchestra, the La Port Symphony Orchestra and the Ft. Wayne Symphony Orchestra

William received his bachelor's degree in Music Education and Vocal Performance from Viterbo University in La Crosse, WI. He went on to receive a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance and a Performance Certificate in Vocal Performance from DePaul University in Chicago, IL.



SCOTT HINES

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Scott Hines serves as Assistant Director for the Purdue Varsity Glee Club and as director of the several Glee Club specialty groups, and the Christmas Show Express dancers.

For the past 25 years, Scott has worked as a freelance director, choreographer, accompanist, arranger, and vocalist. The past 16 years have been spent as director/producer of Elite Energy Show Choir in Decatur, Illinois. He has also lived and worked as a freelance musician in Nashville and New York City.

He has been on the staff of Show Choir Camps of America, Rising Stars Show Choir Camp, and Eastern Illinois University Summer Music Camps and has adjudicated and served as a clinician for several contests/festivals throughout the country.

Scott received his education at Eastern Illinois University and Belmont University.



PURDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB MEDIA ASSETS

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PURDUE VARSITY GLEE CLUB CONTACT



Purdue Musical Organizations

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