PMO makes friends around the world. This year: Costa Rica. Next year: Baltic states, Poland.

GO WITH US!
“Our Story is Music,” PMO students proclaimed in a thank-you video to donors this spring. And indeed it is.

During the 2015-16 academic year, more than 275 performers in our six musical groups stepped onto stages to share stories, evoke emotions from audiences and learn—about music, working together and achieving a goal. Read on for highlights of each group.

Equally important, PMO members learned to appreciate those who help them along the way. Those include our supporters who made their musical experiences possible.

Donors Make a Difference
Purdue’s third annual Day of Giving in April set records for overall number of donors, first-time contributors and the amount raised (see article).

Our fundraising continues in the university-wide Ever True Campaign, too, and we invite your support. Through this campaign, PMO plans to expand musical opportunities in three areas:

- Establish a named PMO Directorship with a $1.5 million endowment
- Increase our student travel endowment by $500,000
- Boost funds for equipment, music, instruments, performances and more by $500,000

The campaign’s shared goal is to raise $2.019 billion by Purdue’s 150th anniversary in 2019. PMO is ever grateful for our generous donors’ support in the largest fundraising campaign in Purdue history.

Visit Us Often
Our doors are open—for outstanding performances, rehearsals, drop-in visits, maybe even a venue in your town. It’s our gift to you, and we hope to see you often.

Mrs. Claus Joins PMO Staff
Four years as a Purduette, including a senior year role as Mrs. Claus in the PMO Christmas Show, are giving Chrissy Kvachkoff resonance as PMO’s new marketing and communications coordinator.

“I know PMO like I know my own mind,” she says. “PMO gave me unparalleled leadership opportunities and professional training.” Now she brings her enthusiasm and talents to help today’s students, hoping to “give back to the organization that has given me so much.”

A 2013 education graduate with a theatre minor, Kvachkoff taught 7th grade English and directed the drama club at Colonel Wheeler Middle School in her hometown, Crown Point, Ind., for two years. This spring, she produced Werner Trieschmann’s one-act play, “All I Really Need to Know I Learned by Being in a Bad Play,” with a cast of 35.

After beginning her position with PMO this summer, Kvachkoff is marrying James Crawley, who sang in University Choir. They began dating during the 2012 Christmas Show when she debuted as Mrs. Claus, and he flew in as Santa.
Glee Club to Travel to Poland, Baltics Next May

White bowties, black tuxedos and gold medallions will top the be-sure-to-pack list for the Purdue Varsity Glee Club as the group travels from May 15-27, 2017. On the itinerary: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, with performances in major cities, often with local choirs.

Performances near and far are a long tradition of the Glee Club. From singing the national anthem at this spring’s Purdue University softball opener to six presidential inaugurations and trips to Australia, China, Mexico, South Africa and Europe, these finely tuned ambassadors deliver a message of Boilermaker pride and good will around the world.

Special Guests Invited on Trip
Donors in the PMO Club Directors Circle ($2,500) and Benefactors Circle ($5,000) will be offered the opportunity to travel with the Glee Club next May. Stay tuned for more details and sign-up day this fall.

“Donors help students fulfill their dreams and inspire audiences everywhere,” says senior Trevor Peters, Glee Club manager, who is eager to participate in the May tour. “I can’t wait to share the great things about our university with that part of the world.”

Cultural, Musical Exchange
“Music is one of the best ways to bridge cultural and physical boundaries,” says William Griffel, director of PMO and the Purdue Varsity Glee Club, which boasts 68 members for 2016-17 academic year. Annually, the group performs 45-50 shows.

“This trip is a platform for students to collaborate with other cultures through the vehicle of music,” he says.

Stops in Poland will include Krakow, dating to the 7th century, and Warsaw, the “Capital of Sweets.” Students will see ancient Baroque architecture in Vilnius, Lithuania, and visit Tallinn, Estonia, known for its rich culture.

Academic Credit
The Glee Club will spend the spring semester studying these countries and cultures while earning academic credit as a study-abroad opportunity.

“This trip will help students understand different cultures, serve as ambassadors for Purdue and learn how working together for a common goal can be rewarding and life-changing,” Griffel says.

2018 Marks Glee Club’s 125th Year
The year was 1893. Purdue University was not yet 25 years old; and some 651 students were enrolled. Of those, 11 men formed the Purdue Varsity Glee Club under the direction of organist Cyrus Dadswell. Since then, the Glee Club has served as ambassadors in song for audiences around the world.

Festivities to celebrate the 125th anniversary in 2018 are now being planned, and alumni, supporters and friends are all welcome to attend. More information on this milestone in PMO history is coming soon.

Purdue Varsity Glee Club will travel to the Baltic states and Poland next May.
For spring break this year, 53 Purduettes and 15 guests explored Costa Rica on a tour devoted to “Building Cultural Bridges through Song.”

The ensemble gave three scheduled performances during the trip. “The Purduettes also took advantage of every opportunity for spontaneous performances,” says Director Jeff Vallier. “Those included a women’s support center, Iglesia de la Nuestra Señora de las Mercedes, singing after meals in numerous restaurants, and at a rescue center/zoo with an a cappella men’s group from Yale University.”

Thank You to Our Donors
This was the Purduettes’ first solo international trip in a decade, and it happened because of support from PMO donors.

“Traveling to Costa Rica was the experience of a lifetime,” says Ashley Straut, a student in the College of Health and Human Sciences. “Without support from our donors, the idea of going wouldn’t have been possible.”

Academic Credit for Study, Tour
Their trip was preceded by a semester’s study of Costa Rica and its culture, with academic credit earned as a study-abroad opportunity.

Among the sites they visited were Poás Volcano National Park, Arenal Volcano, Manuel Antonio National Park and Zoo.
Celebrate 75 Years with the Purduettes

Like Rosie the Riveters who staffed factories during World War II years, Purdue women stepped in with music in 1942 when many Glee Club members joined the service. The 13-member group marked the beginning of Purduettes, and in 1944 the Purdue Debris noted, the Purduettes “have carried on and brought fine music to Purdue.”

Last year, 55 Purduettes, along with specialty groups Purduette Trio, Holy Cowgirls and Lonely Hearts, sang with Boilermaker pride in a record 36 shows.

Next spring, on March 24 and 25, 2017, PMO will celebrate the Purduettes’ 75th anniversary with black-tie events in the Purdue Memorial Union ballrooms. Alumni will be asked to perform in an alumni set, and PMO friends and families will be invited to attend. More details will follow.

Building Cultural Bridges through Song

The Purduettes performed at:
- Basílica de Nuestra Señora de los Ángeles, Cartago
- Auditorio Nacional, San Jose, with two local choirs
- San Juan Bosco Church, La Fortuna

“Solamente Una Vez” was the audiences’ favorite tune. “Because it is a familiar tune across all of Latin America, it was the hit song of the tour,” says Jeff Vallier, Purduettes director.

Ave in Alajuela. They also traveled through jungle on a Tároles River cruise.

“Part of the course was writing a journal,” says Vallier. “A common observation was how effectively music and emotion bridge language and cultural barriers.”

“I cannot express how grateful I am for this opportunity,” says Madison VanFossen, elementary education major. “I never thought I’d be able to travel with such an amazing organization.”

See pictures, videos and student spotlights from the trip at www.facebook.com/PurduePMO.

Sing Along with Kristin Beese

Meet Kristin Beese, who begins her third year as a Purduette this fall.

MAJOR: Computer science—“Coding combines my love of logic and creating things through technology.”

DEVELOPED: On the road mobile app

YEAR: Junior

CURRENTLY: Intern, Google Docs Accessibility Team, New York

LAST SUMMER: Teaching assistant, Girls Who Code, California

FROM: Minneapolis, Minn.

PET: Penny, a cocker spaniel

FUN FACT: Her paternal great grandmother Lucille recorded and performed three nights a week during the 1920s on Chicago’s WGN and WBBM radio stations with the a cappella trio Wynken, Blynken and Nod.

WHY PURDUE: “Joining Purduettes was the best decision I’ve ever made. I feel at home. My best friends are through PMO. And PMO has shaped me to be an even more organized, professional person.”

COSTA RICA TRIP: “It was amazing to travel with my sisters in song and experience Costa Rica with my best friends, doing what I love most—singing.”
Concerts Earn Standing Ovations

Take Heart & Soul, Purdue Bells and University Choir on the road, and what do you get? New venues, ambassadorship opportunities and standing ovations.

PMO is ever grateful that the 2015 Purdue Day of Giving campaign brought in enough to sponsor a performance weekend in Indianapolis for the three ensembles. They performed to appreciative audiences at Irvington Presbyterian Church and Old Bethel United Methodist Church on April 8 and 9.

Heart & Soul
"Because of PMO, I have fulfilled my dream of being able to sing in college," says Heart & Soul member Courtney Gulick, an animal sciences major. The trip was an added bonus for her and others performing.

Among the pieces sung by her 27-member group, directed by Rhonda Blacklock, were "The Blood Will Never Lose its Power" by Jay Rouse and "I Sing Because I’m Happy" by Rollo Dilworth. Heart & Soul debuted in 2004 and continues to inspire audiences with soulful performances.

Purdue Bells
Also directed by Blacklock, Purdue Bells’ 17 members rang “Exultate” by Indianapolis Composer Jason Krug and “Ring, Zing, Swing!” by John Behnke, among others. Founded in 1979, the group performs about a dozen concerts each year.

University Choir
Director Jeff Vallier led the University Choir for the well-attended performances. "While the most impressive piece was likely Mozart’s ‘Regina Coeli,’ the audience favored Eric Whitacre’s ‘Sleep’ and Jack Halloran’s ‘Witness,’” Vallier says.

Launched in 1933 and brought back seven years ago after a short hiatus, University Choir draws 65 to 75 members each year, performing several times a year.
Bells Ring at Spring Conference

Imagine performing two numbers with the composers among your audience of some 700. That’s what the members of Purdue Bells experienced in April. The ensemble played the opening program for the Handbell Musicians of America’s 2016 Area 5 Spring Handbell Festival in Dayton, Ohio.

Those two pieces were “Tinikling,” by Lonnie Dorgan, and “Capriccio,” by internationally recognized Kevin McChesney. They also played other selections.

“The group played phenomenally, receiving a standing ovation,” says Director Rhonda Blacklock. Among the kudos earned from the audience: I was “astounded at the high level of musicianship” and “The students truly enjoyed what they were doing.”

“The students loved the performing opportunity,” Blacklock says. “They also enjoyed taking conference classes to better their skills.”

Chorale Tops 50 Members

The All Campus and Community Chorale, nicknamed “AC3,” grew to 53 members this year, including students, professors and local residents.

Directed by Sarah May, the ensemble performed at the fall and spring shows, and 23 members sang in the 2015 Christmas Show.

Our Story is Music

Scher Wins Top Arts Award

A civil engineering diploma, acceptance to the University of California/Berkeley graduate school, memories of time in Purdue Bells and the $1,000 Louis Sudler Prize in the Arts were among Andrew Scher’s keepsakes as he graduated this spring.

“Purdue Bells solidified my love of hand bells,” Scher says. “Bells were my family. They helped me develop as a musician and win that competition,” he says of the contest that included top-performing arts students from across campus.
Thanks to All Who Made Day of Giving a Success

Purdue’s third annual Day of Giving, April 27, 2016, an online, social media event, brought in a record 12,872 gifts totaling $18.3 million in just 24 hours.

Big Day for PMO
PMO enjoyed a record-setting day as well.

At 3 a.m., PMO landed a $5,000 bonus for most international donors that challenge hour, and repeated it by winning the 7 p.m. international donor challenge hour.

PMO won multiple other challenges, too, including most unique photo with the Day of Giving logo, and an impressive second place university-wide for total number of gifts.

Nearly $330,000 in Gifts
In all, PMO received 807 gifts and $329,583. That’s a 60-percent increase in number of gifts and nearly 4.5 times last year’s amount.

“The response was indeed heartwarming,” says Liz Ehrlich, donor relations and recruitment coordinator. “Our donors, alumni and current students let us know that PMO is valued and that the student experience is one to be supported and expanded.”

Ed O’Neil, Purdue Varsity Glee Club, computer and information technology major

A RECORD BREAKING DAY FOR PURDUE AND FOR PMO

BONUS CASH
$26,656
6 CHALLENGES WON
IN DONATIONS
$302,927
WHICH LEADS US TO A TOTAL OF
$329,583
For Carrie, it was a magical time not to be repeated. "PMO spoiled me, because I sang with some of the best ever."

She recalls and appreciates the motivation to excel. "PMO pushed me to be the best I could be. I appreciate the discipline it offered, and its commitment to excellence."

Now, the two eagerly support PMO through donations.

"We realize the quality of the whole person is the focus at PMO, and we want to be part of perpetuating that excellence," Aaron says. Carrie echoes, "We both feel the same way."

Gutweins Treasure PMO Memories, Pay it Forward

Some things stay with you for a lifetime. Aaron Gutwein, Purdue Varsity Glee Club member from 1992 to 1997, and his wife, Carrie (Williams) Gutwein, in the University Choir from 1992 to 1996, will tell you.

They met in 1993 during PMO Christmas Show rehearsals, married 18 years ago, and now live in Fishers, Ind., with two "awesome" dogs—Gilligan, a basset pointer mix, and Ingrid, an English pointer.

Now in Education, Medical Fields

Hailing from Francesville, Ind., Aaron earned a communications degree in 1997, and later completed the transition-to-teaching program at Anderson University. He’s taught five years, bringing language arts and social studies to life for sixth graders at Riverside Intermediate in the Hamilton Southeastern School Corp.

Carrie, from Garrett, Ind., brought a math and science interest to Purdue. "I chose environmental health because I wanted to help people, but not necessarily with direct patient contact."

Today, she’s a pathologist’s assistant, working at AmeriPath in Indianapolis.

PMO Memories Live On

Glee Club was the perfect choice for Aaron. "I was not interested in a fraternity. But with the great music Glee Club made, I instantly became part of a fraternity whose common bond was music."

His most poignant moment came when his father died unexpectedly, and fellow members sang at the funeral. "The support from PMO was very special."

His singing now is limited to mouthing along at Glee Club performances and "inside my house." I miss it," he says. "I still have the full dress uniform. It would take me several months of hard dieting to get into it, but the spirit is still there."

For Carrie, it was a magical time not to be repeated. "PMO spoiled me, because I sang with some of the best ever."

She recalls and appreciates the motivation to excel. "PMO pushed me to be the best I could be. I appreciate the discipline it offered, and its commitment to excellence."

Now, the two eagerly support PMO through donations.

"We realize the quality of the whole person is the focus at PMO, and we want to be part of perpetuating that excellence," Aaron says. Carrie echoes, "We both feel the same way."

Join PMO Club

Since 1969, PMO has recognized donors who make annual gifts of $100 or more with membership in the PMO Club and benefits that include preferential seating at the Christmas Show, invitations to members-only events and more. Donors’ generosity enhances student opportunities, provides equipment and travel funds, and keeps PMO in the limelight. For details and to join: www.purdue.edu/PMO/giving/PMO-club/, or contact Liz Ehrlich, lehrlich@purdue.edu, 765/496-6091.

Do We Know How to Reach You?

We want to stay in touch. If you’ve moved, changed emails or have a new phone number, let us know.

Send your current information to pmoinfo@purdue.edu.
Set design and construction are already under way for the PMO Christmas Show, taking place December 3 and 4, 2016, in Elliott Hall of Music.

83rd Year
In 1933, the first annual Purdue Christmas Show drew an audience of 200 to Fowler Hall. Today, more than 17,000 fill Elliott Hall of Music for a grades 1-12 school matinee and four public performances. A favorite tradition: PMO alumni take to the stage for a carol sing during intermission.

The 2016 show, the 83rd annual, will include all PMO groups: Heart & Soul, Purdue Bells, Purdue Varsity Glee Club, Purduettes and University Choir, along with members of the All Campus and Community Chorale and the PMO Kids Choir.

Ticket Sales Begin August 1
You’ll receive an order form soon; ticket sales begin August 1, 2016. Order early and count on a festive, awe-inspiring event.
Audiences packed Elliott Hall of Music for the 2015 PMO Christmas Show.

Join in the Melody

All PMO performances and details are listed at www.purdue.edu/pmo, and we invite students, their families, donors, alumni and friends to be among our fans in attendance.

To peak your interest, we’ll mention a few dates already on our 2016/2017 calendar:

**AUGUST 19 • 1 P.M.**
Purdue Varsity Glee Club and Purduettes Camp Show
YMCA Camp Tecumseh
River Lodge Creative Arts Center
12635 W Tecumseh Bend Road,
Brookston, Ind. | No tickets needed

**AUGUST 26 • 7:30 P.M.**
Purdue Varsity Glee Club First Nighter
Elliott Hall of Music, Purdue University
No tickets needed

**SEPTEMBER 11 • 6 P.M.**
Picnic with the Purduettes
Slayter Center of Performing Arts,
Slayter Hill | No tickets needed; bring a picnic to enjoy during the concert.

**OCTOBER 14**
PMO Alumni Day
Ralph and Bettye Bailey Hall
PMO rehearsals throughout the day; times to be announced

**OCTOBER 15 • PREGAME**
Homecoming Tailgate
Northeast corner of Ross Ade Stadium

**NOVEMBER 6 • 2 P.M.**
Fall Show
All Campus and Community Chorale, Heart & Soul, Purdue Bells and University Choir
Long Center for the Performing Arts
111 N. Sixth St., Lafayette, Ind.
No tickets needed

**DECEMBER 3 • NOON, 4 & 8 P.M.**
**DECEMBER 4 • 2 P.M.**
Purdue Christmas Show
Elliott Hall of Music

I never thought I would come here and be a singer. It’s my passion. It’s what I love to do. Ryan Gurreri, Purdue Varsity Glee Club, mechanical engineering major

PMO gives students opportunities to express themselves musically.
Your PMO Staff

Serving Students, Alumni and Donors

Beth McCuskey, Ph.D.
Vice Provost for Student Life

Katherine Sermersheim, Ph.D.
Dean of Students

William E. Griffel
Director, Purdue Musical Organizations and Purdue Varsity Glee Club

Rhonda Blacklock
Director, Purdue Bells and Heart & Soul

Liz Ehrlich
Donor Relations and Recruitment Coordinator

Scott Hines
Assistant Director, Purdue Varsity Glee Club

Chrissy Kvachkoff
Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Sarah May
Assistant Director, Purduettes and University Choir | Director, All Campus & Community Chorale and PMO Kids Choir

Rachel Mirkin
Scheduling & Events Coordinator

Andrea Ridge
Account Clerk

Marietta Taylor
Business Manager

Jeff Vallier
Director, Purduettes, University Choir | Recruitment

PMO used gifts received in the 2015 Day of Giving to purchase this new van.