

# THE JOYFUL NOISE

## KINDRED SPIRIT'S NEWSLETTER

### Who We Are

We are Kindred Spirit, Princeton's one and only Christian a cappella group.

### What We Do

Kindred Spirit has been offering inspirational outreach to the Princeton community and to our audiences everywhere through fellowship, arch sings, community service, and shared testimonies.

### Why We Do It

Although we are all sinful people (Romans 3:23), the Lord Jesus Christ, through his mercy, has redeemed us all.

Consequently, we are devoted to spreading the gospel through song, to encouraging one another as brothers and sisters in Christ, and to glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Contact Us

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Youtube :

[pukindredspirit](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCkukindredspirit)



### *Dear Kindred Spirit family,*

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ! Looking back over the semester, I am overwhelmed with gratitude and thanksgiving for the labor that we have been able to do this spring. In the last three months, we accepted three newbies into our aca-family (Sadie, Caris, and Cal), performed for the residents of Acorn Glen (an assisted living facility in Princeton), learned several new and difficult arrangements, and are currently in the process of finishing the first group CD in a decade ("The KS 25th Anniversary Edition"). During the month of April, we sang for audiences in locations from Blair Arch and Richardson Auditorium to the streets of Boston. God has truly done a great work through us and we have been blessed to sing his praises for almost a thousand people this semester.

Looking forward to the fall, KS is poised to build on the momentum of this academic year. We are planning a large tour to Tennessee that will take place during Fall Break, featuring several performances and a KS service project. We are also planning to release our CD, containing popular hits like "I Can Only Imagine" and "Brother", KS oldies like "If I Stand" and "Be Thou My Vision," and several live tracks from our 2016 performance at the Christian a cappella conference, "Break It Down Boston."

Lastly, we dearly hope to see many of you at Reunions later this month. Kindred Spirit will be hosting two events on **Saturday (5/28)** and we would be excited if you would join us. At **10 am in McCosh 28**, the undergraduate officers will be presenting details about the newly proposed alumni association, and we will be **holding elections for the first alumni board**. I'll be sending more information (including bylaws) about the alumni association as we get closer to Reunions. At **8 pm in Blair Arch**, KS will also hold our **alumni arch sing**, a time of fun, fellowship, and praises lifted up to our King.

If you have any questions or comments, feel free to email me at [obs@princeton.edu](mailto:obs@princeton.edu). I pray that God blesses your year, and that you depend on him always.

Sincerely,  
Owen Smitherman '17  
2016 President

## Special Thanks

There are so many people who have helped KS to accomplish all that we have this year. We want to give special thanks to our 2015 KS Officers:

**Kristin Goehl '16,**  
President

**Michelle-Ann Tan '16,**  
Music Director

**Laura Srivichitranond '17,**  
Business Manager

**Owen Smitherman '17,**  
Fellowship Chair

We'd also like to thank **Anna Megill '06** and **Danielle Sallade '94** for assisting us with transportation to nearby performances. In addition, we'd like to express huge thanks to **Daniel Shen '17, Daniel Hwang '15,** and **Katherine Hwang '15** for helping us through the process of recording and producing our CD!

## The Current Officers

Phil Brooks '18,  
*Business Manager*

Jasmeene Burton '19,  
*Publicity Chair*

Jason Manley '17,  
*Music Director*

Owen Smitherman '17,  
*President*

Ming Wilson '18,  
*Fellowship Chair*

## The 2015-16 Year In Review...

To our KS family,

When I joined KS as a freshman this fall, and I found a family of incredible musicians and beautiful brothers and sisters in Christ. Over the course of the year, we've grown and blossomed with regard to faith, friendship, and music. Looking at the change that's happened even since I've been here, such enormous steps forward are a testament to God's hand. It's been such a blessing to recount all that KS has done this year, and I hope you will see how much our adventures have blessed us!



After kicking off our Fall Newbie Arch and touring the fellowships in October, we embarked on our local Fall Tour, where we had bundles of fun singing for (and with) the residents of Acorn Glen, the students of Princeton Young Achievers, and for the kids of the Stone Hill Church AWANA and Sunday School services. In our down time, KS cooked meals together, had sleepovers, and created a music video for the MercyMe favorite, "Shake," to go along with our CD! Shortly following our Fall Break fun, KS held a joint arch-sing with another local Christian a cappella group, Rutgers' First Light.

Moving into the Christmas season, KS had the opportunity to minister to the community at the annual Holiday Jam in Palmer Square, singing alongside many other Princeton a cappella groups. This was followed with a performance at The Alternative's Christmas Party, where we led fellow students in Christmas carols and celebration! The biggest blessing of the season, however, was the opportunity to collaborate with the Princeton University Gospel

Ensemble. After a month or so of joint rehearsals, we held our winter concert, "Rejoice!" We've loved collaborating and fellowshipping with PUGE throughout the course of the year.



## The 2016 Spring Semester

At the turn of the year, we thanked the officer board of 2015 for their dedicated service, and ushered in the 2016 officer board. One of the newer additions to the board was the creation of Publicity Chair, taking responsibility for outreach and advertising from the president, and putting this newsletter together! Special thanks go to our outgoing officer board for their phenomenal service this past year and for the guidance they have given the current board this semester.



Spring auditions marked the return from Intersession and the start of the busiest semester in KS history. Shortly after a successful round of pickups and a wonderful Newbie Arch (complete with fabulous tiger ears and newbie dancing), KS performed at Acorn Glen once more and prepared for our annual Easter Arch. This year's Easter Arch served as one of the main unofficial events during Easter Week; we tried a different format for this arch, with readings between songs and following the arc of Easter Sunday, and a member testimony. We had a wonderful time performing and commemorating Christ's sacrifice with the various Christian communities on campus.



April was our busiest timeframe, in which we performed nearly every weekend in the community. We had the honor of celebrating with the Nassoons at their 75<sup>th</sup> Reunion concert, adding to the joyous fun of Communiversity, and collaborating with Dancing to Christ's Beat at their spring dance show, "Testimony." Amidst all this, KS was blessed with the opportunity to attend Break It Down Boston 2016, hosted by MIT; we were excited to see old friends from other Christian a cappella groups, make new ones, learn how other groups function, and share what we do. Following such a fun and spirit-filled trip, we closed off the year with our last arch sing at our annual Spring Arch. All the while, KS tackled many very difficult and very diverse new arrangements, and in total sang 17 different songs over the spring semester.

As I'm sure you can see, this year has been quite a busy one for KS. We are so thankful to God for allowing us to do so much this year, and for the support of family, friends, and alumni. We'd also love to hear about your year in review! Please feel free to reach out to [kspirit@princeton.edu](mailto:kspirit@princeton.edu), our current president, Owen Smitherman '17, at [obs@princeton.edu](mailto:obs@princeton.edu), or myself at [jmburton@princeton.edu](mailto:jmburton@princeton.edu). We truly would love to hear from you and keep you in our prayers! Likewise, as we embark on many more adventures this year, your prayers are always appreciated.

Blessings,  
Jasmeene Burton '19  
2016 Publicity Chair

## *More from the Officers: Music and Fellowship*

Hello, all!

I am lucky enough to be serving for the second time as Kindred Spirit's Music Director. This past semester, we've performed a wide range of repertoire and learned at least 17 songs – which was quite a feat for our newest members! From MercyMe songs like "Shake" and "I Can Only Imagine" to the spiritual "Deep River" and Duke Ellington's sacred piece "Ain't But the One," we have lifted praise to God, and we have had the pleasure of sharing our songs with a wide and diverse set of audiences. KS has been especially blessed by the great arranging skills of two of our graduating seniors, Matt and Greg '16, whom we are so proud of and thankful for. As we plan for the musical future of KS, please pray that the hearts of our current members are readied to keep up the tradition of arranging meaningful songs and reflecting on worship through music.

One song that has especially spoken to us over the past year is Jimmy Needham's "Clear the Stage." If you haven't heard this song, I really suggest you listen to it – or better yet, check out our version on YouTube! Even as we strive for musical excellence, it is critical that our hearts are humbled and steadied by the love poured out onto us by our savior. This song reminds us that "anything I put before my God is an idol," because despite the fact that we are a Christian a cappella group, "worship is more than a song."

Jason Manley '17  
2016 Music Director



Dearest KS alumni,

God has graciously guided Kindred Spirit! Though I am only a sophomore who joined my first semester at Princeton, I can testify to God's providence these past two years. As our music director Jason notes, we have grown musically; yet, I see our musical growth as a parallel to the spiritual growth we've also experienced as a community. As we strive to hone each harmony or explore richer colors, we also remind each other that a genuine spirit matters even more. As we receive more opportunities to sing, we lift each one up to the Lord, for we do not wish to sing for our own glory. Rather, every note and every word should either point to our need for God or praise Him.

Besides fostering a discipline for prayer every rehearsal, we also set apart a special time for "fellowship" every week. On some days, we pray for one another or for the group as a whole. We may also take a walk to enjoy the beautiful slice of God's creation that is our campus. And as a group that connects singing to faith, we certainly reflect on how music and words can honor God, drawing from church history, contemporary artists, and the Psalms as a model. Within our larger culture, work and even music are tragically viewed as heavy burdens, so we rejoice that God uses these "fellowship times" to renew in us a thankful and pure heart of worship. To quote one of our recent pieces,

Clear the stage, and set the lights ablaze,  
If that's the measure you must take to crush the idols...  
We can sing all we want to but still get it wrong:  
Worship is more than a song.

May God continually allow Kindred Spirit to praise Him with joyful hearts, and may God use this small part of His great kingdom, drawing anyone who hears ever closer to His glorious presence!

Ming Wilson '18  
2016 Fellowship Chair

## Meet This Year's Newbies!

KS has had such a fun time welcoming in this year's newbies, getting to know them, singing with them, and fellowshiping with them! We are excited to continue growing with them over the next few years.



### Calvert

Calvert is a bass and pianist/composer from Oakland, California. If not sleeping on Frist couches, he can be found in the Wilson Music

Room writing instrumentals (or also sleeping). He is an aspiring economics major, but, really, he wants to work for Pixar one day. He is also involved in DTCB and Manna.

"It started with a desire to just learn how to sing. KS showed me how joyful it is to use my voice for God, and now I can't stop praising Jesus whenever I sing a hymn! I hope to get to know my fellow KS members more this year and potentially arrange a piece once I'm more experienced!"



### Caris

Caris is a soprano and native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, currently finishing her freshman year at Princeton. She holds a

deep love for music, and also plays the flute for the Wind Ensemble (PUWE), sings for the Gospel Ensemble (PUGE), and lends a hand to the worship teams of PEF and PFA. In addition, Caris enjoys playing tennis and doing yoga for exercise.

"I relish both the singing and fellowship with members that Kindred Spirit provides. I consider myself blessed to be involved in KS and continually thank the Lord for this a cappella group."



### Jasmeene

Jasmeene is an alto hailing from Los Angeles, California and is a prospective Chemistry major. Jasmeene

loves singing and painting, as well as patrolling campus in her Batman onesie. She is also involved with TigerCall, Big Sibs, PEF, and DTCB, and looks forward to being an OA leader.

"I had never read music and used to be terrified of singing in public, yet I remember being baffled that I had such a deep need to audition for KS. I'm so thankful that God guided my steps to KS, my family and rock in my hardest days this year. With KS, I've found even more joy in song to the Lord, and discovered new ways with which to praise Him."



### Sadie

Sadie is an alto from Denver, Colorado and is a prospective Woodrow Wilson School major. She's

also involved in PEF and plays violin in the Sinfonia Orchestra. On campus, she enjoys sticking her nose in the biggest books she can find, taking photos, walking the tow path, and belting VeggieTales.

"Kindred Spirit is a beautiful iteration of what it means to be in Christian community. I'm excited to spend the next three years singing God's praises with a group united in Christ! My future is unsure, but for my time at Princeton, I want to cherish this community I've been placed in, dig deeper into God's word, and ultimately be a much more attentive student of Christ than of any professor. "

## Senior Spotlight

The class of 2016 has been instrumental in molding Kindred Spirit. They have served as Music Director, Fellowship Chair, and President. They have arranged countless new and interesting songs and pushed KS higher in musicality and further in terms of genre and style. They have fostered a family culture with each incoming class. KS has been blessed by the Class of 2016.

### Kristin Goehl



Here at Princeton, I've been blessed to have been part of the PEF community, which first introduced me to KS. I've also had the (somewhat interesting) experience of being an active Band member, and I've enjoyed seeing God work through all of these relationships in ways I could never have imagined. It was an honor to serve KS as President and to take on the role of "Mom," and these brothers and sisters in Christ mean so much to me!

After graduating with a degree in Operations Research and Financial Engineering, I'll be interning for the summer at the hospital I did my thesis research with until August, when I'll be marrying my best friend and fellow Princetonian, Riley Fitzgerald '16. After that, we'll be moving up to Cambridge, MA where I'll be working for MITRE Corp. doing modeling and data analytics for the U.S. government.

### Greg Loshkajian



My time at Princeton has been a balancing act between statistics/economics/data things (Data Science Club), music (Chapel Choir), and faith (PFA!). However, even with the support of a fellowship, I never felt like I had found a community of fellow believers. That all changed when God (through a persistent music director) called me to join KS, and I'll never regret listening. There's a lot I can say about my KS experience, from our amazing BIDB trips to writing my own arrangements (and performing them), but what sticks out is how KS felt like a second family, complete with all the happiness and insanity that implies. KS holds a special place in my heart.

After graduation, I'll be working as a data scientist in New York. I feel that God's given me an understanding and passion for statistics, and I hope to be able to use that gift to make a difference in people's lives. Hopefully, I'll be able to share my voice with others in some way as well, since I know how important music can be.

## *Michelle-Ann Tan*



Freshman year, I had so many plans, but many completely failed. Still, I could not have asked for a better, more enriching time at Princeton. I never expected to be part of a Christian a cappella group like KS or a fellowship like PEF. I never thought I'd get involved in a dance company like Triple 8.

Through these things, my classes, and lab experiences, I've both fellowshipped with strong Christians who helped to strengthen my faith, and the engaged in conversation with friends who challenged it. Freshman year, I had so many plans that didn't follow through, but God had a better one; and I am incredibly grateful of the beautiful path he carved out for me in my four years here.

Next year, I will be in NYC working on health care management projects for an organization called ArchCare. I will also be applying for medical school for matriculation in Fall 2017.

## *Matthew Wang*



4 years of Princeton and Kindred Spirit, and I'm still shocked either accepted me! But God is so good and so full of surprises. I'm thankful for over 2 decades of Christian singers who prepared this wonderful family of musical \*and\* spiritual brothers and sisters. If I were to stand, to fall, to sing, or to weep, I would always find grace in this community. I hope with all my heart to find this group still singing at my 25th reunion, with 50 generations of saints singing the glories of His Name!

I'll be back in Princeton to intern for PEF and complete my student teaching with the Teacher Prep program next year. After that, only God knows!

### ***We are so blessed by and thankful for our seniors.***

We pray that God guides and blesses your steps after graduation, and we know that you will continue to shine the love of Christ brightly and boldly! As we sing in the Benediction, and we can't wait to sing with you again:

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord lift His countenance upon you and give you peace.

The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

Amen.

## *Looking Forward*

Dear KS family,

As KS celebrates twenty-five years of praising God in music and fellowship, we have several exciting pieces of news for our alumni—a new CD, an upcoming tour to Tennessee, and, perhaps most exciting, plans for a new alumni association.

I'll start with the CD. Ten years ago, KS released "Fill Me With Your Love," a collection of fourteen songs from our repertoire. Well, ten years is a long time, so we've decided to produce a new CD, in honor of the 25th Anniversary of the founding of KS. Our group spent Fall Break this past year rehearsing and recording five songs, and we are right in the middle of recording several more to complete the album. We'll certainly be sending out more information about these CDs once we have finished all of the recording and mixing, sometime before next fall (Special thanks go to Daniel Shen '17 Bass, who is doing all of our mixing).

Speaking of the fall, KS is planning a tour to Johnson City, Tennessee, the home of Ming Wilson '18, over this coming Fall Break. We're excited to bring our music down South, and we are looking forward to good singing and good fellowship. If you are in the area, please let us know! We'd love to connect with you and let you know our more detailed plans. We would appreciate support in prayer from all of you as we plan this summer and then also as we make the trip in the fall. Of course, tours aren't free either, so we would also appreciate financial support from any of you who feel led to support us in that way.

Our last item of news has to do with our alumni family. In the past, as a relatively young group, we have put little effort into keeping contact and connection within our extended family of members and alumni. As we reach our 25th birthday, however, we would love to change that. We want you, our alumni, to know what we are doing, so that you can pray for us, come hear us if you are in the area, and perhaps support us financially. We also want to be able to hear from our alumni, who are no less a part of the family because they have graduated. You all are doing many interesting things, musical or not, and we would love to hear about them!

The officers of KS would like to invite all of you to an **open meeting for KS alumni** of every age during **the Saturday of Reunions, May 28th**. We will be discussing what the alumni association will look like and should come out of the meeting with definite plans for getting the association up and running over the summer into the fall. If you are planning on coming to Reunions, we would love to see you there at **10:00 AM**. Of course, if you can't make it, we would appreciate any input you might have via email. All requests for information about the tour, alumni association, donations, or anything else can be sent to us at [kspirit@princeton.edu](mailto:kspirit@princeton.edu). We'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,  
Phil Brooks '18  
2016 Business Manager