

THE JOYFUL NOISE

KINDRED SPIRIT'S NEWSLETTER

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord"- Psalm 98:4

Who We Are

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

What We Do

Kindred Spirit offers 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

Email: kspirit@princeton.edu

Website:

princetonkindredspirit.com

Facebook: [princeton.ks](https://www.facebook.com/princeton.ks)

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



Dear Kindred Spirit Family,

Greetings in the peace of Christ! This past year has been a whirlwind of activities and blessings for KS and we are excited to be able to share our updates with you all. From the release of our CD "Home Awaits" to a fall tour in Tennessee, singing in Boston, learning countless new arrangements and welcoming three newbies into the group, we've had a packed year!

We are thankful for the Lord's provision in bringing such talented new voices to us, in giving us the wisdom and guidance of our senior members, in blessing us with beautiful arrangements and the perseverance to sing them, and countless other mercies beside.

I also want to invite each of you to our reunions events this year. On **Saturday June 3rd**, we will be holding an alumni meet-and-greet from **10-11am** in **McCosh Hall 28**, with food, music and elections for our alumni board. Later that evening, at **8pm**, we will be holding an arch sing at **Blair Arch**. We look forward to fellowshipping with you there!

In Christ,

Sadie Van Vranken '19
KS President 2017
svranken@princeton.edu



The KS CD: Home Awaits

We are so excited to announce the release of our 25th anniversary CD, Home Awaits. The tracks include:

- If I Stand
- Be Thou My Vision
- Ain't But the One
- I Can Only Imagine
- Deep River
- Oceans
- And many more!

Colossians 3:2 exhorts us to “set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.” Home Awaits is centered around our longing for heaven. We look forward to praising God together forever, to the day when all sorrows are wiped away. Unified in our hope for heaven, we can stand firm in this life, with our eyes looking to Jesus.

If you are interested in purchasing a CD, please contact our business manager, Calvert Chan at calvertc@princeton.edu.

Fall Tour: A Reflection

KS was blessed with the opportunity to fellowship and sing at beautiful Johnson City, Tennessee – hometown of Ming Wilson '18 – for Fall Tour. The week was packed with singing opportunities and a refreshing variety of bonding activities. As for the singing, KS visited several local churches, retirement and veteran homes, and an elementary school. For fun and relaxation, the group competed in a friendly pizza-making contest, ventured into Watauga Lake in sailboats, and hiked the scenic Roan Mountain. We couldn't have picked a better place to unwind and explore!

As fun as the activities were, the most notable part of the trip was rediscovering my reason for singing. I often forget what impact we as a group can have, especially when many of our hours are spent in isolation in Woolworth. It's easy to grow accustomed to our sound or even forget the meaning of the songs we sing. However, each time we sang for a new crowd on tour, I would notice heartfelt smiles and occasional snapping as people responded to our songs. There, I was reminded that God had been and is still working through this group, even when I don't expect it. I'm sure I speak for many of us when I say that the tour was a good time of personal reflection and spiritual rejuvenation!

Calvert Chan '18
2017 Business Manager



Special Thanks To:

The 2016 KS Officers:

Owen Smitherman '17
President

Jason Manley '17
Music Director

Ming Wilson '18
Fellowship Chair

Phil Brooks '18
Business Manger

Jasmeeene Burton '19
Publicity Chair

We would also like to thank Central Baptist Church and our hosts for fall tour, Aliisa Lee '16 for the beautiful art for our CD, and Daniel Shen '17 and Daniel Hwang '15 their work producing the CD.

Current Officers

Sadie Van Vranken '19
President

Samantha Einspahr '20
Music Director

Phil Brooks '18
Fellowship Chair

Calvert Chan '18
Business Manager

Ming Wilson '18
Publicity Chair

KS at Break it Down Boston



What a weekend KS had at Break It Down Boston! On March 31, we piled ourselves into 2 cars for the road trip down to Boston. Upon arriving, we had a bit of a complication in meeting up with our hosts from MIT, as they were just returning from a spring tour in Texas and their flight got delayed. But thankfully, everything ended up working out, and we had a great time getting to know our hosts.

Then April 1st arrived and with it came a whole day of fun fellowship, new friends, and singing! In the morning, we arrived at Harvard and found members of 18 other East Coast a cappella groups also there. We all proceeded to partake in worship together and learn a group song together called "Voice of Truth." It was such a cool experience to worship with almost 200 fellow Christian singers and hear all of this beautiful music lifted up to the Lord.

Then it came time for the concert! Among my favorite performances was a powerful rendition of the "The Prayer" sung by Yale's Living Water and a new jazzy remixed version of "As the Deer" by Columbia's Jubilation.

Kindred Spirit sang two songs. The first, "Breathe" is a song that holds relevance for us college students in reminding us that in times of great excitement, hurriedness, or stress, we need to take the time to cast down all of our cares before the Lord and "just breathe." Our other song, entitled "Shake," talks about being unable to contain the joy of knowing we are saved through Christ and about the enthusiastic attitude we should have as we go about serving others.

Overall, BIDB was a wonderful experience for me because I got to bond with my KS family as well as engage in fellowship and music with students from the other colleges. Before BIDB, I thought Princeton was unique in having a Christian a cappella group - I was amazed to discover that there is such a strong Christian presence on these college campuses, and felt very blessed to enter into a community of people who can't help but celebrate their love for God and music!

Samantha Einspahr '20
2017 Music Director

KS Music: A Reflection on It Is Well

It teaches us eternal satisfaction in Christ when, on earth, we renew our appreciation for a timeless classic. Everyone knows the beloved hymn, and yet, singing the BYU arrangement has yielded fruit beyond our usual expectations. One listener remarked, "I felt the presence of God through that song, and it even brought tears to my eyes." Our very own KS alumni, Matt Wang '16 and Michelle-Ann Tan '16, also agreed that it was edifying spiritually and our best work so far musically. No doubt the credit goes in part to the remarkably pure tone of our dear sister Jade Park '17 as well as the entire group's cohesive blend.

While the music animates the words, it is nevertheless the words that anchor the song. Our particular rendition begins with the tenors holding a single, pure note, which becomes the fountainhead for a successive river of serene harmonies. They flow and swell in waves, and upon each final declaration in the chorus, the stream-like harmonies transform into a sonic ocean of triumph and joy. In the midst of such hopeful pronouncements, however, the individual voices must pass through brief tinges of sorrow - lest one forgets the heartrending events that inspired the powerful words. Indeed, the depth of sorrow experienced only magnifies the incredible faith found within.

In conjunction with the theme of expectations exceeded, God also blessed us, the singers, with the opportunity to intimately know the words. Some familiar and some previously unknown to us, the verses provide immense comfort and strength. One phrase struck me as odd, however, and so I close with my reflection on a seemingly insignificant, thoroughly puzzling phrase in the last verse:

*"Oh Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well, with my soul!"*

Why did Mr. Horatio Spafford write "Even so" in the final statement? Why not write, "Blessed hope, blessed rest of my Soul!" as he did for the previous verse, which also focuses on Christ's return? I do not think he simply means, "Even if the world ends, I will be at peace." Brother Horatio cannot simply be contrasting any fear and trembling that will be felt on that awesome day, for in the previous verse he has already established the Lord's return as a hopeful, glorious event. Thus, I believe Spafford offers the last statement in light of the hope expressed previously.

By stating, "even so, it is well with my soul," he reminds us that peace should nevertheless undergird our response on that greatest of days, even though the day deserves the greatest celebration. On that day of true deliverance, celebration, and fulfillment, our conscious and immediate response of worship must be genuine, and only the peace from Jesus Christ our Redeemer can secure such a sure foundation. If our jubilation or eagerness is not grounded first in peace, we will be hindered in greeting our Lord. We will not be able to fake our jumping or shouting on that day, and nor should we be caught off guard. Instead, we must have wellness or wholeness in our soul beforehand for true worship to spring forth.

So through all trials and sorrows and Satan's buffets, while we anticipate His coming, let us be anxious in nothing. Rather let us lift up our petitions by prayer and thanksgiving and song, trusting that the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Ming Wilson '18
2017 Publicity Chair

Meet the KS Newbies



Sam

Sam is a soprano from Lakewood, CO, but she has always been envious of that #swag alto lyfe.

She is pre-med and a prospective neuroscience major, but wonders whether the grass is greener on the humanities side (she was one of the few people who actually liked writing sem!). When she's not singing with KS or the chapel choir, you can usually find her sleeping or in Frick Laboratory, sometimes sleeping IN Frick Lab.



Kaitlyn

Kaitlyn is a soprano from the small, rural town of Wantage, NJ. Kaitlyn is considering a major in chemistry and is following the premed track.

On campus Kaitlyn is also involved in eXpression Dance company and Princeton Faith in Action. You can usually find Kaitlyn either in Frick stressing about her chem psets and lab reports with her fellow classmate Samantha Einspahr or working on fun tricks in one of the dance studios.



Jay

Jay is a tenor from Coronado, CA. Jay is very excited that KS has finally let him in at the start of junior spring, with only the

stipulation that he sing very quietly. On campus, he's active with the Princeton Evangelical Fellowship and with the Center for International Security Studies. As a Philosophy major, Jay is known for his Gandalf-like mystique and enjoys thinking deep thoughts such as "how will I ever get a job?" and "why did I declare Philosophy?" In his free time, Jay enjoys backpacking, reading clickbait articles from The Gospel Coalition, and writing short blurbs about himself.

Senior Spotlights



Laura Srivichitranond

How pleasant and fitting it is to praise our God, and especially to do so through song! From the first early morning when I awoke to thirteen people singing in my bedroom, Kindred Spirit has been a family to me and a source of so much joy. It meant a lot to me to find a community of people at Princeton who shared both a love for music and a whole-hearted devotion to following Jesus Christ, and I am honored to have been a member of the group for the past three years.

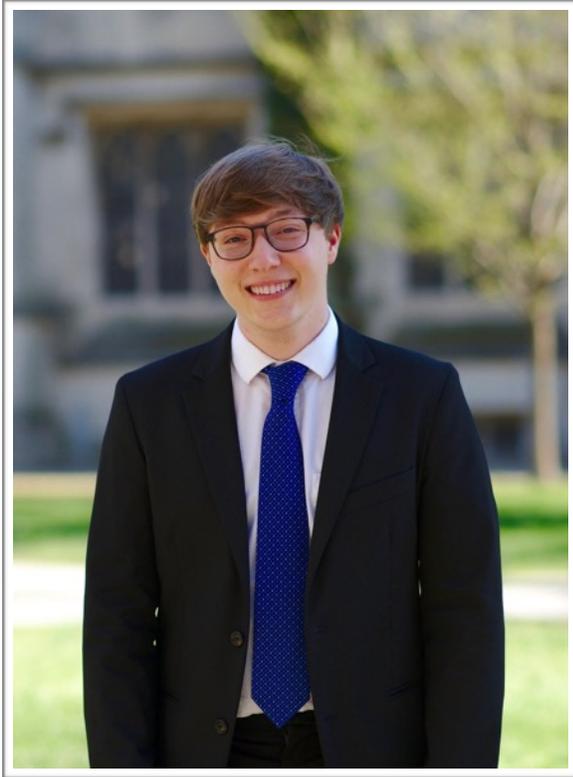
Next year, I will be staying in Princeton to intern with PEF (and to be an audience member at every KS arch)!



Owen Smitherman

Looking back on my four years in Kindred Spirit, I am filled with great joy and gratitude. Joy, because I have had so many amazing experiences and memories in KS. Gratitude, because I owe everything to God and to my KS brothers and sisters for these blessings. Simply put, KS changed my life, encouraged my faith, and became my family. I could never repay that debt.

Next year I will be back on campus as a PEF intern and after that will be heading to Boston to work for BCG.



Jason Manley

I am so blessed to have been a part of such a wonderful community of believers and musicians over the past four years! I've sung with many groups on campus, but no other community has been as much of a home to me, where I can completely be myself. I am also so thankful that this group let me serve as their music director for two years, and it has been an honor to see this group grow and change since 2013. From the mountains of Tennessee to the streets of Boston, I will forever miss singing with these incredible brothers and sisters!

This fall, I will be starting my Ph.D. in neuroscience at Rockefeller University in NYC.



Jade Park

Even after singing at my Senior Arch last night, I am still struggling to comprehend that my time with KS is really coming to a close. Over my seven semesters with the group, KS has grown to be more of a family than a group of friends. KS has changed my understanding of what it means to share the stage while making music, and the group has challenged me to sing purely before God. I will treasure our annual trips to Boston, our Tennessee tour that holds an especially special place in my heart, and even...our late night rehearsals.

I start medical school at Jefferson in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this summer. Though I have greatly enjoyed literature and art history during my time at Princeton, I am excited to switch over to the sciences. I hope to keep singing in Christian community even after I graduate, but I know that KS will always be an irreplaceable part of my life.