

THE JOYFUL NOISE

KINDRED SPIRIT'S NEWSLETTER

“Make a joyful noise to the LORD” - Psalm 98:4



Dear Kindred Spirit Family,

Another year has flown by, and we continue to sing of God's faithfulness and strength! He has provided for us in so many ways, and we offer up this newsletter as a testament of his goodness to us. In everything from giving us wise and thoughtful officers who love the group well to providing for our fall tour to Austin, Texas, God's steadfast love is evident.

We had a full and joyful schedule this year. In the fall, we welcomed Alden and Charlotte to our group, and then flew off to our fall tour in Austin, Texas, where we were graciously hosted by the family of KS Alum and KSAA President Owen Smitherman '17. In the spring, we received newbies Isabel, Joseph and Sean-Wyn into the group, hosted Duke University's Something Borrowed Something Blue in a joint arch, drove to Boston to sing with other Christian groups from around the northeast, and sang for the residents of Acorn Glen, a local nursing home. Finally, we just released our CD, "Home Awaits," on digital platforms.

Looking ahead, we are in the middle of planning next year's fall tour. We ask for your continued prayer as we seek to follow God as a group and to encourage the campus and community with the gospel, and also God's provision for new members next fall.

I'd also like to invite all of you to our Reunions Arch, held on **Saturday, June 2nd at 10AM at 1879 Arch**. Join us after the arch for an informal reception, held at **11AM in McCosh Hall 28**, for fellowship with other KS alumni and current members. We look forward to reuniting with you there!

In Christ,

Sadie Van Vranken '19
KS President 2018
svranken@princeton.edu

Who We Are

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

What We Do

Kindred Spirit offers 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: [princetonkindredspirit](https://www.facebook.com/princetonkindredspirit)

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

Our Time in Austin: Fall Tour 2017

As a first semester freshman newbie in Kindred Spirit this year, I am extremely grateful for the experiences I had over my fall break with KS on tour in Austin, Texas. From the start, KS was an incredibly welcoming group of students that I felt excited to sing with in rehearsals, but it was going on tour that sparked the deeper friendships I have with my fellow members. Between the opportunities we had to spread God's joy to people outside of Princeton's bubble through song and acts of service, to the many road trips and late-night fellowship times we shared, I think I can confidently say that tour allowed us to grow closer to one another through the happy experiences we had serving others in a new setting.

Although the week seemed to fly by quickly, we kept our days packed. Among some of the more memorable experiences were singing in service to others as we visited organizations such as Brookwood in Georgetown (a café and homemade crafts boutique shop employing adults with special needs), the Veterans' Affairs hospital, a downtown Austin early morning soup kitchen, and a retirement community. We also got a chance to experience the local culture, visiting the beautifully constructed Texas state capitol building and performing in the rotunda for the public, as well as learning to throw knives and country western dance. Thanks to Owen Smitherman KS '17 and his family, we had the chance to engage in many local interactions. From running a workshop with a local high school chorus and attending one of their school's gigantic football games to performing for a women's bible study group, a Christian sorority meeting at the University of Texas, and a youth group's Sunday morning worship, we had many opportunities to interact with locals from different ages and backgrounds. In doing so, we were able to better learn how to connect with others through both music and conversation, and witness how similar we all are in Christ. Our spare time spent lounging at the hot springs, playing tag football in the park, strolling along South Congress Avenue, and discussing theology over a board game only further complemented the sense of community we were developing as a group.

This trip could not have been done without the immense generosity of the Smitherman family, who not only hosted us with open arms, but also connected us with opportunities around Austin to serve others, worship, have fun, and sing. I will always remember this past tour as an eye-opening week in which I found my first feeling of family in my new home at Princeton, and I hope to bring that same openness to all KS members, newbies, seniors, and everyone in between, in years to come.

Charlotte Tausche
2018 Fellowship Chair



Above: KS at Brookwood in Georgetown (BiG)

Looking ahead...

This fall, KS will be heading to **DENVER, CO** for our Fall tour! If you live in the area and/or have a connection to a

- Ministry
- Service Organization
- School
- Etc.

we could sing for or serve, contact the current KS President, Sadie Van Vranken: svranken@princeton.edu.

Special Thanks To:

The 2017 KS 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

We would also like to thank the Smitherman family for hosting us during our fall tour.

Current Officers

Sadie Van Vranken '19
President

Daniel Shen '19
Music Director

Kaitlyn MacMillan '20
Fellowship Chair

Charlotte Tausche '21
Business Manager

Alden Hunt '20
Publicity Chair

KS in Boston: BiDB 2018



Break it Down Boston (BiDB), was a blessed weekend of worship, rest, and fellowship for Kindred Spirit. It was wonderful to grow closer as a group and to get to know our newbies better as we bonded over long car rides, good food, and good music.

After a six-hour car ride, we met up with Kristin Goehl, the original KS “Mom”, at Mu Lan Taiwanese restaurant. To our surprise, she treated us to dinner, and we all enjoyed an evening of fellowship together. Students from MIT’s acapella group, Cross Products, were kind enough to host us for the weekend. Several of us enjoyed engaging in the MIT student life, staying up late chatting, playing video games, and laughing together.

KS had the special treat of street singing with an acapella group from Yale University, Living Water. While street singing, we pulled from a lot of our classics, such as If I Stand, Lord Reign in Me, and My Life is in You Lord. It was a lot of fun to share the love of God with those passing by, as well as enjoy the beautiful music that Living Water had to share. This experience reminds us of the unity that we all share in Jesus Christ, as we can even sing praises with brothers and sisters who we have just met.

It was very encouraging to meet and interact with members of Yale’s Living Water, and all the different Christian Acapella groups that attended BiDB. It is amazing to see that Christian acapella is not unique to Princeton, but it is a ministry with which God has blessed many campuses. I hope and pray that God will continue to work through KS and all the other Christian acapella ministries to reach students and grow the Lord’s Kingdom.

On Saturday evening, each acapella group sang one song in the chapel. KS sang Always Good, arranged by Matthew Wang '16. It is a beautiful song about trusting in God and resting in the assurance that God is always good. At the end of the concert, we all enjoyed a special performance by Sam Ock, a Christian hip hop artist. Sam Ock truly has a heart for the Lord and he closed the concert by leading a beautiful time of communal worship.

After the concert, KS celebrated with ice cream to close the weekend. Overall, BiDB served as a much-needed chance to rest together and enjoy extended time of fellowship. Singing together and with other acapella groups is a very life-giving and hopeful experience, as we wait for the day when we will all worship our Heavenly Father and enjoy eternal fellowship in paradise.

Kaitlyn MacMillan '20
2018 Fellowship Chair

MD's Corner: KS' 2018 Repertoire

Hello KS alumni!

For those that I haven't met, my name is Daniel and I have been incredibly blessed to serve as KS's music director for the past spring semester, and I hope to meet some of you during Reunions! For those who are '15 or above, there is a pretty high chance that we are already well-acquainted given that I am somewhat of an old fogey (formerly '17 before my two gap years).

Perhaps due to my age, our group naturally dove into some old and juicy KS rep this semester, like "O For A Thousand Tongues", "If I Stand", and "Happy" (Pharrell Williams released that in 2013!), many of which were new to our members. Yet despite the age of these songs, our group was able to breathe new life and energy into them during rehearsals and subsequent performances, using them to uplift our listeners in much the same way as some of you during your KS tenures, no doubt. Personally, I find this to be an encouraging testimony of the timelessness of worship; though the faces may change, the God that motivates all of our songs and other endeavors remains the same now and forevermore.

In addition to the old classics, we also introduced a plethora of new material, many of which were arranged by our dear brother and departing senior Ming Wilson '18. These include "Flood Waters", a Josh Garrels arrangement which speaks of God's steadfastness; and "Rock Song", an epic mashup of three songs that all describe God as a rock and firm foundation. Perhaps the highlight of our new rep for me personally, however, was "Always Good", an arrangement of a brand-new song released just this past Easter by Andrew Peterson and arranged by veteran KS music arranger Matt Wang '16. If you guys get the chance, you should check out our performance on YouTube; Andrew Peterson certainly did, and even posted it on his personal FB page with thousands of followers to give KS a shout-out!

Warmly,

Daniel Shen '19

2018 KS Music Director

KS Goes Digital: "Home Awaits" is on iTunes, Spotify and More!



Many of you may remember our latest album, Home Awaits, which we released in the fall of 2016. That album was initially only available on CD, but we're happy to say that it's now available for streaming and download wherever you like to get your digital music fix: iTunes, Google Play, Amazon Music, Spotify, and Pandora, among others.

Just search "Home Awaits", and download or listen to KS arrangements of "If I Stand," "Brother," "Clear the Stage," and more!



Meet the Newbies!



Charlotte

Charlotte is a freshman from Atlanta, GA majoring in Chemical and Biological Engineering. In addition having a wonderful alto voice, Charlotte has a knack for asking deep questions

and encouraging others. She's involved in Princeton Christian Fellowship and Trego, and she's also our current business manager!



Alden

Alden is a sophomore Electrical Engineering student from Green Bay, WI who sings bass. He's a student officer in Princeton Christian Fellowship and a writer for the campus science magazine *Innovation*. He's also the current publicity officer for KS, but asks you to direct all complaints about the newsletter to his editor, President Van Vranken.



Isabelle

Isabel is a freshman from South Carolina majoring in electrical engineering. A proud Forbesian, she still manages to make it to Kindred Spirit's late night rehearsals with a smile! Outside of KS, where she sings soprano, she's a part of Princeton Christian Fellowship and sings in Chapel Choir.

rehearsals with a smile! Outside of KS, where she sings soprano, she's a part of Princeton Christian Fellowship and sings in Chapel Choir.



Sean-Wyn

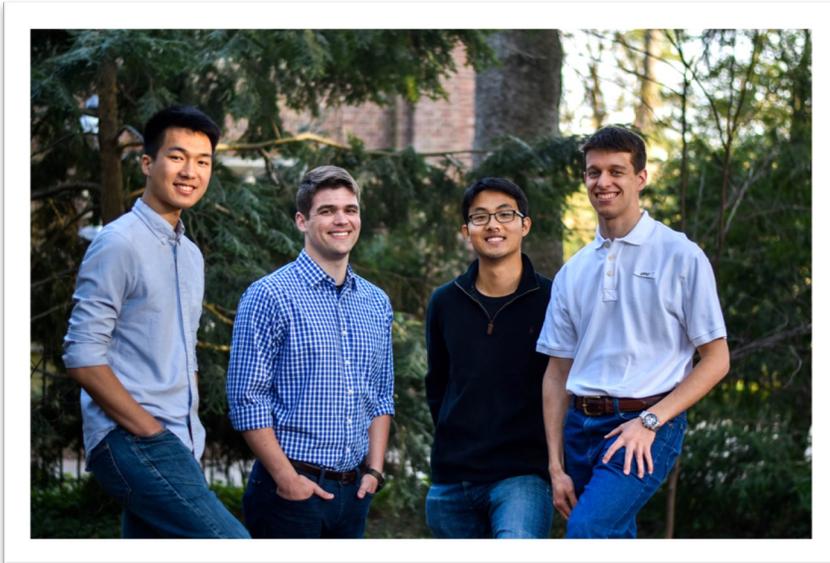
Sean-Wyn Ng is a freshman computer science major from Mesa, Arizona who sings alto. She has a six-year old sister whom she uses as an excuse to go trick-or-treating. In her free time, Sean-Wyn enjoys having deep philosophical conversations with herself and snacking on her sister's GoGoSqueez applesauce pouches when she thinks no one is looking.

Joseph

Joseph is a freshman pre-law prospective History major from Texas. In addition to singing powerful tenor lines, he is involved in Manna Christian Fellowship and loves to cook and eat. You can usually find him sleeping in libraries or lounging near Frist.



Senior Spotlights



Ming Wilson

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During my involvement in KS, I've come to appreciate and wonder at the intersection between faith and music. God is so gracious to help us praise Him, and when we do so well, we also feel so alive. As such, I will be hoping adopt the same posture when I serve through the music ministry of my home church next year in Johnson City, TN, as I take a rest year before deciding on future plans.



Calvert Chan

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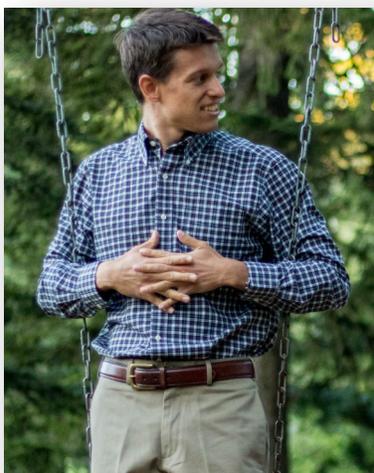
Having no previous encounter with a cappella, it amazes me that a group people from different walks, experiences, and musical backgrounds can come together, voices completely locked in, harmonies seamless, to create little moments of joy. Being able to dwell in these brief but blissful moments with KS has been one of the loveliest things I've experienced on campus. While it pains me to depart from that, I'm glad God has blessed me with an opportunity to create music with my friends in KS, and I am hopeful He will continue to use the group to minister to the university, just as it has to me.



I will be working for a fintech startup in San Francisco after traveling in Asia.

Senior Spotlights

Phil Brooks



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Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God” (Col. 3:16). I joined KS expecting to find a fun set of people with whom to sing and was not disappointed, but the fellowship I found was built upon so much more than just mutual love of singing. May KS continue to live out this picture of what it means to be a Christian family!

This Summer, I will be getting married to Paula Pacheco, KS '15. We will be in Princeton next year, where she will continue her PhD work in neuroscience, and I will work as a PCF intern. After that, we will move to Boston, where I will start my PhD in Chemistry at Harvard.

Jay Sourbeer



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KS is such a beloved group to me. It's been a great honor to sing among such beautiful voices, but more than that, I have been so blessed by God by the closeness of our fellowship. Rehearsals, tour, and praising God together with the KS crew has brought me so much joy over the last year and a half. More than that, KS has unexpectedly turned out to be a place of great spiritual growth and development. Learning to sing to God even when I didn't want to, and singing for hospice units, a special-needs group home, and nursing homes have been some of my most profound and challenging experiences at Princeton. I thank God for giving me these dear companions, and I pray that God would continue to bring praise to His name through KS for many years to come.

I'm thrilled to be joining PCF staff next year as an intern (with Phil!!).

Joyful Noise is an annual publication for alumni, family, and friends of Princeton Kindred Spirit.
Thank you for your support!

For any business enquiries, please reach out to Charlotte Tausche, ctausche@princeton.edu
For media enquiries, contact Alden Hunt at achunt@princeton.edu

