

THE JOYFUL NOISE

PRINCETON KINDRED SPIRIT'S NEWSLETTER

Dear Kindred Spirit Family,

As we look back on the year we've had, it's safe to say it was far from the average experience. With the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in a completely virtual first and second semester at Princeton, we learned as a group how to adapt and continue with our mission to share God's love with our campus and surrounding community through collective song. God has really proven to be our provider in every respect, and through His leading has brought us together in many cherished moments.

This year our schedule looked a little different than our usual on campus experience. Due to social distancing guidelines and virtual format, we chose to focus on both fellowship and music production, and thus our time together has been filled with many fun activities and virtual group singing. During the fall semester, we held our first virtual arch sing and celebrated Christmas with a virtual jam led by our musical director, Paul Kim. This year we also welcomed our newbies Tiffany Deane and Paul Fletcher who joined our group through our first virtual auditions process! In the spring we were honored to work on a collaboration with Six14, Princeton's Christian dance company, and held a virtual premiere in celebration of what we created together. Finally, we said goodbye to our graduating members Joseph, Charlotte, Kyle, and Isabel as our virtual semester came to a close.

Looking ahead, we are hopeful that circumstances will allow for a KS mini-retreat in the fall. We ask for your continued prayers as we await further guidance on group activity; we would love the opportunity to grow closer to each other as we share God's love with our community and our campus! We are also looking forward to the resumption of in-person rehearsals and group activity this fall as Princeton prepares to welcome students for an in-person semester.

Lastly, thank you to everyone who was able to make our Virtual Reunions gathering this May! It was such a joy to see some familiar faces and meet so many of our former members as we worshipped, talked, and showcased some of what our year has been like. We look forward to meeting you all in person in the future!

In Christ,

Kaylan Fomby '22
KS President 2021
kfomby@princeton.edu



Who We Are

We are Kindred Spirit, Princeton's first 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, online presence, 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:
<https://www.facebook.com/princetonkindredspirit>

YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/user/pukindredspirit>

Kindred Spirit Online: Virtualizing Fall 2020

This fall was one like no other for Kindred Spirit as we created music and sought fellowship across thousands of miles due to COVID-19, but God brought us together in new and mighty ways.

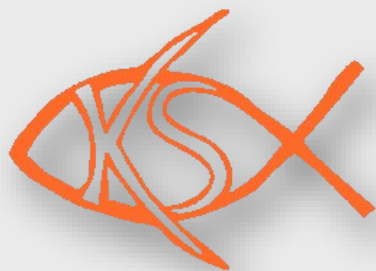
With Princeton experiencing its first fully remote semester, KS met over Zoom to continue making music, reaching out, enjoying one another's company, and praising the Lord. To connect with the Princeton community in the beginning of the semester, we participated in Tiger's Roar, which introduced acapella groups to new students during freshman orientation, and we got to meet more students during our virtual open house.

KS put together its first ever performance of Pat Barrett's "The Way," which was arranged by former KS president Owen Smitherman '17 after the start of the pandemic. This song reminds us that our Father is our rock and our comfort in all circumstances. One of the most exciting experiences for us this fall was being able to record and create personal music videos to accompany our songs. After recording each of our parts and mashing them together, we made short clips to help make our music video, with some of the themes for our first video being ways, truths, lights, family, pets, the outdoors, and "general cuteness." This recorded performance was presented in KS's first ever virtual song premiere over Zoom, during which we sought to praise God together and experience the fellowship we have missed having at every arch sing. We held another premiere to showcase our second song of the semester, Pentatonix and Ben Bram's arrangement of "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" just in time for Christmas. Along with premiering our Christmas song, we were able to speak with all those attending about our experiences in KS and enjoy a night of worship and caroling together, led by our current music director Paul Kim '23.

Another one of the ways in which God blessed us this fall semester was through fellowship meetings. Whether it was Bible studies, worship jam sessions, game nights, or just talking, this time spent praising God and resting with brothers and sisters in KS was always one of my favorite parts of the week. We also were reminded of the great comfort we have being a family in KS through cozy sweatshirts designed by previous business manager and newly graduated Isabel Green '21, and many of us were excited to feature this amazing gear in our spring videos.

Like others all around the world, there have been many ways in which KS has had to walk by faith and trust in God in the midst of grief and uncertainty, but like He has always done and always will do, God has proven He is faithful and worthy of our trust. I am so thankful for this family I have in Christ and for how the Father has worked in us this fall.

Andra Constantin '23
2021 Business Manager



Looking ahead to Fall 2021:

If the COVID-19 restrictions ease up, KS hopes to go to an off campus location in **Princeton, NJ** for a Fall break retreat, with the intention to rest, engage in fellowship, community service, and to share Lord's message in song. 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, Kaylan Fomby: kfomby@princeton.edu

Special Thanks To:

The 2020 KS Officers

Joseph Kim '21
President

Charlotte Tausche '21
Music Director

Kaylan Fomby '22
Fellowship Chair

Isabel Greene '21
Business Manager

Moreen Rezkalla '23
Publicity Chair

Current Officers

Kaylan Fomby '22
President

Paul Kim '23
Music Director

Moreen Rezkalla '23
Fellowship Chair

Andra Constantin '23
Business Manager

Oleg Golev '22
Publicity Chair

Dance and Sing for the Lord: Spring 2021

This spring semester brought with it its own set of unique circumstances. Beginning to get acclimated to a virtual community setting, our biggest goal for the semester was to continue to make music, as well as form a community with the new members who joined us! We were also able to participate in a very cool opportunity to collaborate with the Six14 Christian Dance Company! Last year, our attempt at a collaboration was cut short due to the pandemic, but we had the honor to coordinate and work with members of Six14 to create a video of an arrangement by Samantha Einspar '20 of a mashup of three songs by Hillsong/Phil Wickham. This 'Majesty Mashup' provided a great way for KS to showcase the beautiful voices of our two newbies and the dancing of Six14!

One of my favorite things about Majesty Mashup is how all of the lyrics point to a God who is present in every situation, and in every aspect of creation. This past year provided unexpected surprises and forced adaptations onto everyone, and I really resonated with the choice of singing Majesty Mashup this semester because it really reminded me not to forget that in the midst of the most beautiful and the most difficult moments, that God is present and working out circumstances for good. The choreographers of Six14 did an amazing job showcasing the power behind the arrangement, and the voices of our new members singing the solos in the piece took my breath away.

As before, we placed a much heavier emphasis on fellowship. There is only so much music you can learn with one another over zoom, and one of the most important characteristics of KS is our community and family, to be a place where its members can be vulnerable and build relationships with one another. The idea of creating a safe and comfortable space virtually seems to be nearly impossible. However, our officer core was determined to find a way to welcome our new members, and make our existing community unified and connected, even if we were miles apart. We continued to have weekly fellowship meetings, and through that we were able to keep connected with one another, and truly see how God was working in each of our lives, whether we were at home or on campus.

My hope and prayer going into the fall semester is to continue building our community and rich fellowship with one another, even as we adapt to the new circumstances that may arise. Kindred Spirit is an acapella group, but as you all know we are first and foremost a group of believers in Christ, and this spring semester has been essential in building a group that is more than just music, but one that is a family!

Moreen Rezkalla '23
2021 Fellowship Chair

MD's Corner: KS' 2021 Repertoire

Hello KS alumni!

My name is Yejoong (Paul) Kim, and I am Kindred Spirit's current music director. I am a Class of 2023 Computer Science major, and I believe I'm one of the few musical directors, if at all, to be elected while technically still in a gap year!

Although I've had experience leading vocal rehearsals and virtual sessions, I still felt a bit out of my element, as this was the first time I had officially led a group. There were many different responsibilities and skills needed for the position of music director, and I am grateful to have received guidance and encouragement from the previous MD, Charlotte Tausche ('21). In addition to providing a powerful alto voice, she has given many useful tips on our previous pieces and on leading rehearsals during the virtual semester, which have helped tremendously in my experience starting out as the music director.

With the help of our previous officer corps, the current officer corps worked with Six14 to create a collaboration video, combining Six14's choreography with one of Kindred Spirit's arrangements. We ultimately decided to record "Majesty Mashup" arranged by one of our previous musical directors Samantha Einspahr ('20). For many of us, including myself, this was a unique opportunity to perform with another Christian group, and it was exciting to see two different groups working toward a single act of worship toward God. In addition to "Majesty Mashup," we also recorded the Benediction. Since the last time KS sang the Benediction was over a year ago, we decided it would be fitting to take part once again in a beloved KS tradition.

In spite of the many limitations of the virtual semester, Kindred Spirit has found ways to adapt to its circumstances with its existing resources and knowledge. Having come out of recording and editing audio and video for my local church, I had an audio setup consisting of a digital piano, microphone, and small mixer. After passing back and forth many different ideas, we were able to devise a system that mostly reflected our in-person activities before the pandemic hit. Despite being limited by the shortcomings of Zoom, we were able to incorporate part sectionals, run-throughs of our songs, and live auditions in our virtual semester. It was a rewarding experience to, at least in some capacity, experience the joys of singing together and bearing witness to the new voices who have joined us this semester: Tiffany Deane ('24) and Paul Fletcher ('24).

Although the pace of the spring semester and the looming yearly deadlines (senior thesis, junior independent work, etc.) posed some problems, we have pushed on, finalizing our recordings in tandem with Six14. Our work ultimately culminated in the KS-Six14 watch party. Inviting members from both groups, as well as more people from other Christian groups, we watched a selection of past performances, leading up to the unveiling of the Majesty Mashup collaboration video. It was amazing to see the culmination of the efforts of Kindred Spirit and Six14, song and dance combined into majestic jubilation toward God. Having led the recording and editing processes, I am deeply touched by the fruits of our labor, and I am grateful to have worked with so many amazing people.

Going forward, we will have to readjust to whatever happens during the fall semester. However, whatever the circumstances, I pray that God may continue to strengthen our bonds with each other and show us new revelations as we continue to lift Him up in our song and words.

Sincerely,
Yejoong (Paul) Kim '23
2021 Music Director



Our latest album, Home Awaits, which we released in the fall of 2016, is available on CD and several streaming platforms: Apple Music, Amazon Music, Spotify, Pandora, among others. Search "Home Awaits" and download or listen to KS arrangements of "If I Stand," "Brother," "Clear the Stage," and more!

If you wish to purchase the CD, reach out to our current Business Manager Andra Constantin: andrac@princeton.edu



Meet the Newbies!



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Paul Fletcher

Paul is a freshman prospective History or Politics major from Chicago, Illinois. Aside from having a wonderful tenor voice, Paul is involved in a plethora of activities, including leading Bible study, taking part in the ultimate frisbee team, and playing piano. You may also find him delving into acting and literature or partaking in extreme whitewater canoeing!

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Tiffany Deane

Tiffany is a Computer Science freshman from Queens, New York who has a beautiful soprano voice! In addition to Kindred Spirit, she is a part of Princeton Christian Fellowship and Princeton Women in Computer Science. She also loves to draw and paint or watch Marvel movies and crime documentaries.

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Senior Spotlights



Kyle Johnson

I majored in Electrical Engineering with certificates in Applications of Computing and Robotics and Intelligent Systems. During the lockdowns over the past year, I realized I really enjoy cooking! French pastries, Chinese baozi, you name it, I made it, haha. Looking back on my time in KS, I realize how blessed I was to be part of the KS family. I'm really going to miss our fellowship times, our trips to BIDB, fall tours, and just being together.

This fall, I'll begin work as a software engineer at Facebook AR/VR in San Francisco.

Isabel Greene

I joined KS my freshman spring and this group has been one of my biggest blessings at Princeton. KS truly is family, and the way we have pulled together through this season really shows me God's perfect grace and timing. This group has introduced me to the strongest Christians I know, and has helped me grow stronger because of them. I am so excited for the future of KS and all the things God has in store for the coming year.

Next year I'll be moving to Seattle to work for Microsoft.



Senior Spotlights



Joseph Kim

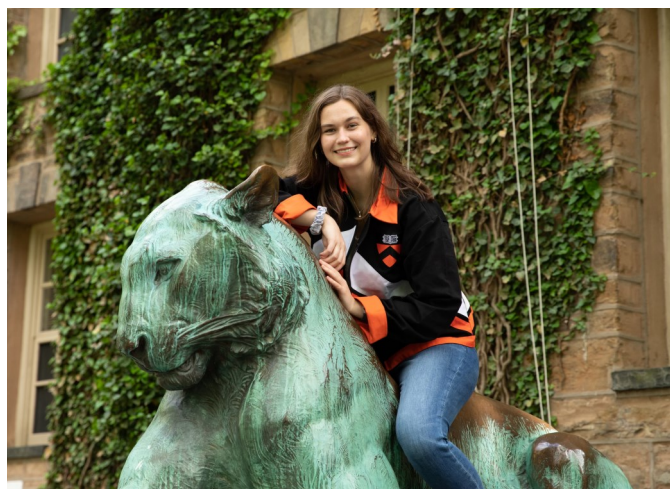
I am so grateful for KS and to God for leading me to this wonderful and faithful group. As everyone may know, Princeton fosters a challenging academic environment that always manages to keep us busy and stressed. However, it was in times of rehearsals, fellowship time, and arches, among others, where I found peace and joy and discovered a second family: a family with a shared passion for music and devotion to God. KS means so much to me and it was an honor to serve KS as President. Although this last year has been virtual singing, I will miss singing with these incredible brothers and sisters and hope to sing together in person in the near future!

This fall I will be heading to Philadelphia to work for Archetype Solutions Group.

Charlotte Tausche

I have learned so much in my time at Princeton, and with God's guidance, have become someone more compassionate and able to tend to the needs of others. I would not be this way had it not been for the role models and generous behavior of those around me in KS, my only consistent home at Princeton. While I meandered my way through other extracurricular groups, fellowships, eating clubs, and other physical places of study, KS was the first to welcome me freshman fall and the only group where I continually wanted to actively participate, partially for the music and worship but mainly for the community. I know I will miss having such a rare assembly of diverse perspectives seeking God moving beyond graduation.

I look forward to joining a growing cohort of KS alumni in the Boston area later this summer, working at a biotech startup conducting research into new gene therapies.



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 Andra Constantin, andrac@princeton.edu

For media enquiries, contact Kaylan Fomby at kfomby@princeton.edu

