

# THE JOYFUL NOISE

## KINDRED SPIRIT'S NEWSLETTER

"MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE LORD" - PSALM 98:4



### Dear Kindred Spirit Family,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! What a whirlwind of a year it has been, we started the year with six members and ended it with fourteen members, we went on tour for the first time since COVID, and made so many more memories. We hope that as you read this newsletter you can smile, grimace, and laugh with us as we walk through another wonderful year of God's provision.

Though we started with six members, this fall we immediately welcomed in five newbies: David, Noelle, Matthew, Warren, and myself. Throughout our Newbie Arch, Fall Arch, and Christmas Jam rehearsals and performances God grew the eleven of us in our singing and fellowship. We closed the semester with elections that resulted in three freshman officers!

As we moved into spring, we knew we wanted to give our seniors the tour experience that they had missed out on in three years of the pandemic. We were so blessed to be able to travel to Calvin's hometown of Green Bay, WI where we served, sang, and fellowshiped. We also welcomed four more newbies: Roger, Drew, Sarah, and Ellie (a twice newbie!!)!! Between Newbie Arch, Tour, Easter Arch, BIDNY, singing for SIX14's spring show, singing with First Light (Rutgers' Christian Acapella group) at their Spring Concert, and Senior Arch we were busy bees this spring semester. Talking to each one of our members though, we all agreed that though there were always songs to learn and performances to prepare for, something about being in community with fellow believers and directing our efforts for the glory of God made Kindred Spirit a place of rest, rejuvenation, and encouragement for all of us.

God has been so faithful to KS this past year and I hope that the reflections, testimonies, and recounts in the next few pages are encouraging, exciting, and remind each of y'all of your own memories in KS and the incredible faithfulness of God in your own life since those memories were made. Though you may be distant, temporally and physically, through Christ, you will always be a part of the Kindred Spirit family.

In Christ,  
Heyu Li  
Kindred Spirit President 2024

### WHO WE ARE

We are Kindred Spirit, Princeton's only Christian acapella 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](mailto:kspirit@princeton.edu)

Website:  
[princetonkindredspirit.com](http://princetonkindredspirit.com)

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

Instagram:  
[pukindredspirit](https://www.instagram.com/pukindredspirit)

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

## Special Thanks To:

*The 2023 KS Officers:*

Calvin Hunt '24  
*President*

Tiffany Deane '25  
*Music Director*

Eric Ahn '24  
*Business Manager*

## Current Officers:

Heyu Li '27  
*President*

David Lee '27  
*Music Director*

Warren Shepherd '27  
*Business Manager*

# Green Bay Spring Tour

Over spring break, the group was blessed with the opportunity to go on tour to my hometown of Green Bay, WI. It was a joy to give many of our members their first taste of the good 'ol Midwest!

In Green Bay we got to share our singing with the congregation of Jacob's Well (my home church), the residents of Rennes Health & Rehabilitation Center, and the students of Providence Academy. We also were able to spread Christ's love through serving at a local food pantry, a domestic abuse program, and at Providence Academy where we led sectionals for their choirs. We also explored the beautiful natural scenery of Wisconsin and enjoyed several sunsets that reminded us of God's majesty and creativity.

Given our state's blend of Native American, French and German roots, Wisconsin has a plethora of difficult-to-pronounce city names. One of my favorite parts of the tour was creating a trivia game to our member's pronunciation abilities (or lack thereof, which led to some good group laughter). Mukwonago, Oconomowoc, Fond du Lac, Weyauwega...I mean I'd like to see you try to pronounce those!

Beyond our singing and fun, we made sure to center our trip on Christ. We did group worship and Bible devotionals every night and prayed over each other. I was reminded and encouraged that we each have a vital part to play in the body of Christ's church.

To each of you, who supported this trip through prayer, encouragement, or financial giving, thank you for your constant faithfulness. These opportunities for KS to continue sharing the Gospel at and beyond Princeton's campus are not possible without your support.

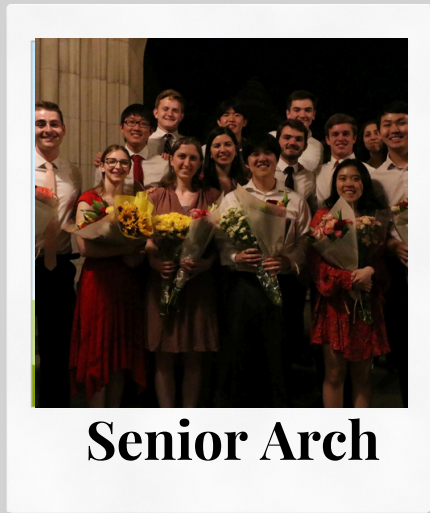
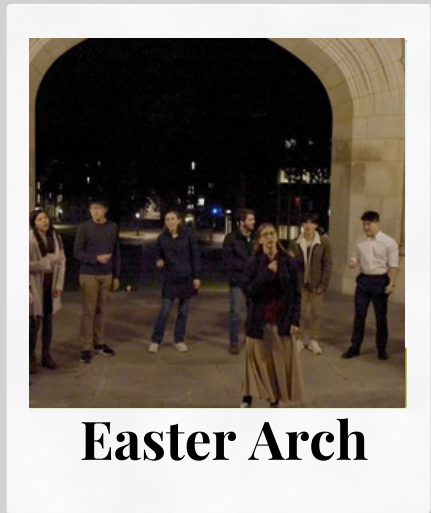
In Christ,  
Calvin Hunt  
Kindred Spirit President Emeritus



Photo Dump!



ARCHIES





BIDNY



TOUR







*Kindred  
Spirit '24*

PHOTOSHOOT



# MD's Corner

Hello Kindred Spirit Family!

If we haven't met yet, my name is David Lee, and I am currently serving as KS's music director this year. As a rising sophomore, I wouldn't have believed it if someone told me I would join an a cappella group in college. I had never formally sung before coming to Princeton and only signed up to audition through the continuous encouragement of a now graduating senior. I would have also never imagined being placed in this role right after my first semester. While this role is certainly not an easy task, I am grateful for everyone in this group who has helped me grow and learn these past two semesters. I experienced a true Christ-like love in this ensemble and learned the joy of worshipping our Wonderful Father through our unified, and harmonious voices.

This past semester, as I was put in charge of choosing the repertoire, I sought to mix the old and new for us to sing. Digging through KS archives and our YouTube channel, I found pieces we haven't sung in quite a while such as I Live For You and Shackles. And then there were new ones that KS premiered for the first time like Highly Exalted and Written On My Heart. If you haven't listened to them yet, check them out on our YouTube Channel!

Additionally, we were also able to go on tour for the first time in a while! Although it was tough reviewing all the repertoire, it was truly a blessing to be able to sing for various audiences from kindergarteners to the elderly and share the gospel to them.

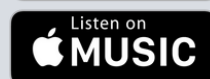
One of the biggest takeaways I learned being MD this past semester is a simple fact I forget: God does not look at our outward appearances but at our heart. Oftentimes, I get so caught up being worried about how we sound in comparison to other groups or whether the audience will like/dislike a piece. But while we do perform for our friends and the people on campus, our most important audience is God and that is where our genuine heart of worship should come from. It is out of God's abundant love for us that we are able to pour out our songs to Him as He deserves all praise and glory. As KS enters a new season, I pray that God will continue to sustain this group and let His light shine across Princeton's campus. I am excited for the year to come and looking forward to all the memories I'll make with this group.

In Christ,  
David Lee '27  
Music Director 2024



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 Warren Shepherd: [warren.shepherd@princeton.edu](mailto:warren.shepherd@princeton.edu)





# Meet The Newbies!



## Ellie Bae

Ellie Bae is a COS major who joined KS to sing with the lovely sopranos. She is an international student from Korea with an infectious smile and a constantly friendly, open attitude. Outside of KS, Ellie is involved in Manna Christian Fellowship and lives in Mathey College!

## Matthew Benton

Matthew is a physics major from Jasper, GA. He is active in Princeton Christian Fellowship, and plays banjo in his bluegrass band, "Princeton Bluegrass 'n Jammin." When he's not studying 'Stone, you'll catch him fishing at Lake Carnegie or eating "the Sanchez" at Hoagie Haven



## Roger Brooks

Roger is a freshman from Durham, North Carolina, and has yet to decide on a major. Prompted by his love of worshipping the Lord through singing, he decided to audition for KS, following in the footsteps of his older brother (Phil Brooks '18) and sister-in-law (Paula Pacheco Brooks '15)! Roger also plays the cello and the trombone, and if you are in the right place at the right time, you may find Roger making music with the PB&J bluegrass band!



## Drew Comstock

Drew is a prospective math major from Aberdeen, South Dakota, the finest town that side of the Mississippi. In addition to Kindred Spirit, he is involved with Playhouse Choir and PCF, and besides math enjoys linguistics and classics.

## Sarah Geerges

Sarah is an EEB major from Jersey City, NJ. She's involved with the Late Night Fund and a member of the Princeton Coptic Society. She loves watching Kdramas, singing along to Arabic music and Kpop, and painting in her free time. She also enjoys a good movie night and a spontaneous boba run to Junbi.



## David Lee

David is a freshman from Ann Arbor, MI intending to study ECE. He is a member of Manna Christian Fellowship, a cellist for Sinfonia, and volunteers as a cello coach for the Trenton Arts at Princeton. He also enjoys playing piano and guitar in his free time.

## Heyu Li

Heyu is a prospective math major from College Station, TX. He loves singing, reading, and going for runs.







## Noelle McDowell

Noelle is a proud Philosophy major hailing from Annapolis, MD. She has always loved singing to the Lord, whether in church, in musical theater productions, or in the kitchen with her goofy family. Outside of KS, Noelle can be found restocking her tea corner, scheming up a social event for Princeton Christian Fellowship, or testing which dhal meals are improved with Old Bay seasoning. (pro tip: it's all of them)

## Warren Shepherd

Warren is a prospective economics major from Augusta, Georgia. In addition to KS, he is involved in PCF and running club. He can be found on any given day running around campus, scrambling for a squat rack in Dillon, falling asleep in Firestone, or tossing the football at Cannon Green.





# Senior Spotlights



## Eric Ahn

Joining Kindred Spirit has been one of the best decisions I've made at Princeton. I was blessed with a community of believers united by our love for praising the Lord. I'm so grateful to God for leading me to this group, where I've had the opportunity to grow and worship Him.

This summer, I will be working in Chicago. Afterward, I will return to Princeton University to pursue a Master's degree.

## Katie Baldwin

I am so glad that after many semesters of wishing to, I finally made the space in my schedule to join KS my junior spring. Singing with peers, especially singing Christian music in harmony, has always been one of the things which brings me the greatest joy. I have been so grateful for my sisters and brothers in KS, and the music and laughter and community and memories that it has brought into my life.

This summer I'm excited to be moving to Boston, and starting work as a software engineer at a small software contracting company.







## Ellie Bae

Kindred Spirit was the first singing group I'd ever joined in my life. I first decided to audition because I enjoyed singing Christian songs, but as I sang with other believers, I was moved by the heart of joy and love for God that the members showed as they praised the Lord. I unfortunately had to take a break after the outbreak of the pandemic and a gap year, but rejoining KS my senior year is one of my best decisions at Princeton. I was reminded of how faithful God has been during my time here, and also was grateful for the privilege to wrap up my Princeton life lifting all the praise to God.

Next year, I will be working in New York City as a quantitative strategist. I'm excited to see how God's new promises unfold in my next stage of life!

## Calvin Hunt

For the last 5 semesters, Kindred Spirit has been a cherished home. Frankly, I joined the group unsure of whether I could fit the three weekly rehearsals into my tight schedule. But I quickly found that KS was a source of renewal and encouragement for my faith. Something about singing for the Lord can wash away stress about pending deadlines :) I've made so many lasting friendships and memories within KS. Without a doubt, my most fond memory was bringing the group on tour to my hometown in Green Bay, WI! A trip that had been in the works for two years, we had the privilege of singing and serving at several venues across the city. Moreover, we escaped the Princeton bubble and were able to grow closer to God and each other.

The next stop for me is D.C. where I'll be working in the policy world! Though I'm sad to leave KS behind, I am confident that the group is in the hands of good leadership, and most importantly, a sovereign and good God. Please pray that God continues to provide for our group to allow us to spread the love and gospel of Jesus Christ on this campus!







## Peter Ng

Kindred Spirit was one of my first experiences of singing and acapella. I learned so much musically and spiritually from the group, and I have grown so much from being in the group. I enjoyed every moment from rehearsals to performances and the sincere commitment and love from each member to the group. God does work in mysterious ways, and it was great to see how KS has evolved into a blossoming group. I'm very thankful to be a part of KS, and I pray that the group can continue to nurture and inspire people the way it has for me.

Next year, I will be working at Mc-Master Carr in New Jersey.

## Katie Shirk Snyder

Hi everyone! I'm Katie, I'm from Goshen, Indiana, and I'm about to graduate from the CEE department. I only joined Kindred Spirit my junior year, and only after 2 COVID-dominated years in Six14 - during which time I never danced a single piece. I guess it took the confirmation that I'm not a dancer for me to remember that I am a singer! Being in a very small campus ministry, I've been so grateful for the Christian community in KS and the chance to make such beautiful music together. KS was especially important to me this year, returning from a late gap year as a senior living off campus; with my matriculated class having graduated, it was really the only place that I felt truly known and loved from the moment I came back.

This summer I'll be heading home to rest and reconnect with family before starting a year-long volunteer position with Mennonite Disaster Service, where I'll learn how to build/repair homes damaged in natural disasters - and wrangle week-long volunteers to do the same! I'm excited to see where God's paths might lead next, and I really hope they don't involve any more school for a while!





Joyful Noise is an annual publication for alumni, family, and friends of  
Princeton Kindred Spirit.

Thank you for your support!

For any business or media enquiries, please reach out to Warren Shepherd,  
[warren.shepherd@princeton.edu](mailto:warren.shepherd@princeton.edu)

