

# Glee Club swings open Schwab

By KATHY KIMBER  
Daily Collegian Staff Writer

In celebrating its 90th anniversary, the Penn State Glee Club, one of the oldest organizations on campus, will participate in the re-dedication of Schwab with a Homecoming Concert tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. Schwab was closed for several months for extensive renovations.

The Glee Club, under the direction of W. Bruce Trinkley, associate professor of music, will perform pieces ranging from the cantatas of Bach and Mozart to folk songs and popular Glee Club numbers.

In addition, there will be a display of photographs, posters and memorabilia from past performances on exhibit in Schwab's lobby.

The auditorium was the gift of Charles M. Schwab, chairman of Bethlehem Steel Corp. and a University trustee from 1902 to 1932. The building was completed in 1903 and has been the site of University programs, concerts, class lectures and activities.

Renovations were made in the auditorium's heating and ventilating systems to comply with the state Department of Labor and Industry's guidelines, said Ralph E. Zilly, vice president for business. The building now is more accessible to handicapped persons, and some interior refurbishing was undertaken in consultation with interior designer Barbara Dorn.

At the ceremony, Walter H. Walters, dean of the College of Arts and Architecture and director of arts services, will make the dedicatory remarks.

## homecoming

The Glee Club Homecoming Concert celebrates 90 years of traditional Penn State music, including fight songs and the University's most famous singing alumnus, Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians.

The Glee Club began in 1887 as a suggestion by the editorial board of "Free Lance," the University's first newspaper. Under the direction of George C. Butz, an instructor in horticulture, the 11 members of the club left for their first concert tour in 1889.

From then until October 1912, the club planned several concerts, but there were no major changes in the organization. In 1912, when Clarence Robinson took over direction of the club, the membership climbed to 100 and the club sang at a fall concert at the University as well as a concert in Pittsburgh during a Pitt football game weekend.

Under Robinson's direction, the

Varsity Quartet was formed. A member of the quartet, Jimmy Leyden, wrote one of the most frequently heard football songs, "The Nittany Lion."

Robinson and his wife headed the club until 1922, when Richard W. Grant took over. Under Grant's direction, the Glee Club entered and dominated singing competitions throughout the state. In 1927, when Grant arranged the first statewide glee club competition in Pittsburgh, the University placed first. When Penn State received the honor for the next two years, it was granted permanent possession of the trophy. Finally, in 1934, the club had won the contest so many times that it was asked not to compete in the state contest. Instead, the Glee Club was sent to a New York competition as defending champions.

Also in 1934, the Hi-Los, a special singing group was formed. In addition, the Glee Club performed with the Penn State Thespians in several productions.

When Frank Gullo took over as director of the club in 1942, he was aware of the club's importance in developing spirit at the University. The club expanded even more under his direction. As a result, the Glee Club became known as a professional and progressive group.

When Trinkley took over the musical organization in 1970, the club began trying even more innovative and patriotic songs, some of which will be performed tomorrow night.

The concert will also include several guest artists, some of whom are Glee Club alumni. Among them will be Philip Dettre, assistant professor of music, who will serve as a piano accompanist for Mozart's "Eine Kleine Freimaurekantate," a cantata for male voices.

Baritone Douglas Smith, class of '74 and former Glee Club president, will be one of the featured soloists on this peice. Another Glee Club alumnus, former piano accompanist Dean Hess, class of '75, will join the Glee Club on Bach's "Good Fellows Be Merry" from "The Peasant Cantata."

The Hi-Los, 14 singers from the Glee Club, will be featured singing a group of folk songs and glee club songs popular in the 1920s and '30s. In addition, Trinkley arranged two Pennsylvania mining songs, "Union Man" and "Blue Monday," for the concert.

Assistant director David Hudson will be featured on two spiritual numbers. He will be assisted by pianist Tony Leach, a graduate student in music.

The program will conclude with a group of popular songs and traditional University favorites. All alumni will be invited to join the Glee Club on stage to sing the final numbers.



Photo by Melody Davis

Schwab will be the site of two celebrations tomorrow night — the auditorium's re-dedication and the 90th anniversary concert of the Penn State Glee Club. Extensive renovations to the building were completed in time for this weekend's Homecoming activities.

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