

## DA DOOX 60<sup>TH</sup> REUNION: OVERVIEW

The Duke's Men of Yale Alumni Association  
60<sup>th</sup> Reunion  
October 18-20, 2013  
New Haven, CT

SO YOU SAY YOU WANT A REVOLUTION?  
60 Years of Innovation and Reinvention from the Duke's Men of Yale

Nearly sixty years ago, a group of young men twisted the arm of one Basil Duke Henning to help them change the face of *a cappella* singing (to, among other things, noticeably more handsome), and unknowingly changed the lives of generations of men who became proud to call themselves members of The Duke's Men of Yale. Six decades of singers have left their unique mark, bringing their music to audiences young, old and (preferably) hot, and in the process building relationships to last a lifetime.

At our last reunion five years ago, we celebrated the group's history and continuity with a tribute to our Founders and First Followers. At this our 60<sup>th</sup> reunion, we will celebrate in particular the flip side of that coin: the revolutionary spirit that has kept da doox a fresh and vibrant force through 60 years of innovation and reinvention. In the weekend's activities we'll try to mix fun with an emphasis on the people and songs that changed the group, sometimes incrementally, sometimes dramatically. A short essay on this history of some of our musical reinventions is included at the end of this program.

The musical contrasts and achievements of these years deserve recognition. At this reunion we will celebrate the songs of revolution and the songs of reaction. [In special recognition of our first major musical reinvention – the revolutionary if short-lived popularity of the peace, love and guitar focus of the Duke's Men of the late '60s early '70s – we'll also try to emphasize lost songs of all generations: treasures that were right for their generation, but because of changing tastes were recorded only once (or, even more mysteriously, not at all).

### Proposed Reunion Calendar

#### **Friday, October 18:**

- 12 PM -6 PM: Registration (Rose Alumni House)
- 3-6 PM: Cohort Rehearsals (various locations TBA)
- 6 PM-10 PM: Cocktails and Dinner (Mory's / TBA)
- 10 PM ~: unscheduled carousing

#### **Saturday, October 19:**

- 8:30-4 PM Registration (Location TBA)
- 8:30-9:30 AM: Continental Breakfast (Location TBA)
- 9:30-11 AM: Chorus of the Willing Rehearsal (Location TBA)
- 11 AM-12:30 PM: Cohort Rehearsals (Location TBA)
- 12:30-2: Lunch (on your own)
- 2-4:30 PM (panel discussions, other activities TBA)
- 5-6:30 PM: Gala Alumni Concert (Location TBA)
- 7-10 PM: Gala Dinner (Graduate Club / TBA)
- 10 PM ~: unscheduled carousing

#### **Sunday October 20**

- 9:30-10 AM: some / any kind of worship service in ... Branford chapel? Do we have a clergy person?
- 10-12 AM: Annual Meeting, Continental Breakfast and Farewell

### **Hospitality, Lodging and Space:**

Co-Chairs: **Michael Hrycelak '97** [michael.hrycelak@aya.yale.edu](mailto:michael.hrycelak@aya.yale.edu);  
**Jeff Freeman '57** [jeffreeman77@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreeman77@gmail.com)

- **Arrange food and drink for appropriate events.** Saturday night dinner is top priority. Graduates Club worked nicely last time, but could consider alternatives like local restaurant. Probably want to arrange a Friday dinner (Mory's was good and is now much nicer than it was) and consider breakfasts for Saturday (likely to be rehearsal time Saturday AM) and Sunday (should be annual meeting). Dr. Hrycelak, New Haven resident, offers his expertise.
- **Make arrangements with New Haven hotels for space.** It is increasingly common to be required to make a commitment to #s of attendees to reserve space, but usually one can stage this, i.e., the closer to the date of the event, the more space has to be committed. Last time the New Haven Hotel did NOT have such a requirement and we reached a deal with them; the Omni didn't, but I think we got the AYA rate via communication with AYA. Whoever takes this on has to coordinate closely with AYA and Lefty to make sure we don't overextend ourselves financially. Dr. Hrycelak, New Haven resident, offers his expertise.
- **Rehearsal / concert space.** Groups singing to each other and a chorus of the willing ought to be part of the weekend, so concert venue and rehearsal space are needed. Hendrie Hall is due for renovation beginning May, 2014 so HH should be available. This involves coordination with AYA (Nicholas Lewis—Senior Director for Shared Interest Groups—SIGs) and with Glee Club (Business Manager, Sean Maher).

### **Swag**

Co-Chairs: **Elliot Watts '09** [elliott.j.watts@gmail.com](mailto:elliott.j.watts@gmail.com)  
**David Lefkowitz '78** [lefty@canyongrp.com](mailto:lefty@canyongrp.com)

- **Ties** are being processed.
- **Programs** will be created/printed. Potentially to include songbook of classics, and / or book of anecdotes/expansion of history from various eras.
- CD/DVD of concert and **highlights from the 55th** already in progress.
- **T-shirts** (and other items – hats?) to be created, hopefully designed by Yoshi or Erich Matthes '07 as a back-up.
- Potentially re-start the **junior pin** tradition.

### **Communications, and Registration**

Co-Chairs: **Lindsay Elliott '04** [lindsay.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:lindsay.elliott@gmail.com)  
**Tom Bulleit '79** [tom.bulleit@hoganlovells.com](mailto:tom.bulleit@hoganlovells.com)

- **Attendance:** primary business will be recruiting and getting people to attend / know about reunion.
- PR Strategy: announcements should trickle out over 2013; we should have the date posted on our website and on the undergrads'. Take over the undergrad twitter account during reunion to coordinate events.
- We should make sure it's on AYA's calendar and that we have a contact person to liaise with AYA. Recruit cohort leaders to contact their friends and put together cohort groups to attend. Coordinate with AYA re: registration.

### **Activities**

Co-Chairs: **Lindsay Elliott '04** [lindsay.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:lindsay.elliott@gmail.com)  
**Tom Metzloff '76** [metzloff@law.duke.edu](mailto:metzloff@law.duke.edu)

- Panel discussions and alternatives for Saturday PM at the 55th were well-received, and at least one such panel ought to be offered along the revolution theme, but we need to consider whether other alternatives should be offered. How much free time do we want to build in on Saturday? Do we want to schedule some events other than rehearsals for Friday afternoon? Keep in mind that there are spouses and sometimes children who attend these things and it has to be boring for them to sit around while the dads rehearse. Some possibilities:
  - Panel Discussion #1: Yale and Da Doox 1968-1977: From Revolution to Reaction (including e.g., Richard (Chip) Hays '70, Phip Stevens '72, Win Davis '74, Rick Brookhiser '77)
  - Panel Discussion #2: The Most Recent Revolution: Of individual microphones, digital recording, vocal percussion and world travels [including Nathan Reiff, Jesse Obbink, others?]
  - Alternatives
    - Football game?
    - Self-guided Tours?
    - Singing / improve workshop with family/children?

## **Music**

Co-Chairs: **Tom Bulleit '79** [tom.bulleit@hoganlovells.com](mailto:tom.bulleit@hoganlovells.com)  
**Nathan Reiff '07** [nathan.reiff@gmail.com](mailto:nathan.reiff@gmail.com)

- **Choosing songs for the concert.** Songs and directors for chorus of the willing need to be chosen, and cohort groups and directors likewise should be engaged to make a commitment in advance about what to sing.
- Committee to recruit directors and sufficient singers. The theme is nominally “one hit wonders” or songs during transitional periods honoring revolution and reaction. Potentially recruit current group / other volunteers to fill out the song cohorts.
- **Sheet music.** Provide digital copies / MP3s of music to all interested pitchpipes, and have online music repository up and running.
- **Undergrad concert.** Alums have expressed a desire to hear the undergrads; potentially encourage a way for the undergrads to sing for the alums on Friday night?

## **Finance (aka Organizing and Confirming Committee)**

Co-Chairs: **David Lefkowitz '78** [lefty@canyongrp.com](mailto:lefty@canyongrp.com)  
**Ken Goldman '86** [kennethsgoldman@yahoo.com](mailto:kennethsgoldman@yahoo.com)

- **Coordination:** setting budget with other committees and coordinating spending.
- Making sure the event is affordable, good value, and we don't lose money. Setting the reunion fee accordingly.
- **Main items:**
  - Venue deposits (definite expense)
  - Program printing (definite expense)
  - Food (definite expense)
  - Reunion Merchandise (potentially neutral cost item)
  - DVD (potentially neutral cost item)
  - Sound / video services (potentially free if undergrads / volunteers handle)