



NASSOON NOTES

The Newsletter of the Princeton Nassoons Alumni Association
Volume 63, Winter 2018
Semper Fraternitas Cantusque

Letter from the Editor

By John Whelchel '15

Dear Nassoons,

It is a time of transition with respect to the Nassoon Notes. The prior editor is stepping down, and I've taken on the task of filling his large shoes, and more importantly, scrupulous eye and voluminous pen. With any transition comes the prospect of upheaval and change as opportunities arise to take a fresh look at foundations laid, keeping the great many things that work, while tweaking and adjusting the other elements that would benefit a new set of readers and the growing cohort of Nassoons. For now, I plan to keep the newsletter predominantly as is for this current issue and likely the one following, which is a testament to the great format and approach of the editor before me.

It is in some ways a challenge for me to write with justice about the immense work Roger Bates ('67) has done for this group. He has given generously of his time to the Nassoons as editor of the Nassoon Notes for over two decades. I joined the group only in 2011. Even still, the consistently exemplary issues that I've had the pleasure of reading are no

doubt representative of the legacy of his entire term. Be sure to give Roger thanks and appreciation for his hard work and dedication in an often unnoticed job. Perhaps at the upcoming PNAA dinner, as announced below in this issue!

And last, I'd like to take this opportunity to make a request. A large portion of this role is soliciting material from fellow Nassoons. I have not had the pleasure of meeting each and every one of you, and there are stories lurking among us, unnoticed and thus untold. If you have ideas for gripping pieces, about either Nassoons in all ventures and areas of life, or singing/harmony/music more generally, do reach out. The Nassoon Notes is ultimately a chronicle of our group, and thus lives and breathes the stories of our members. Beyond articles, I'm also soliciting feedback and suggestions on how the Nassoon Notes can continue to improve and where it should go. The proverbial door is always open.

SFC.

PNAA Dinner Notice Courtesy Scott Watson '74

The Princeton Nassoons Alumni Association (PNAA) Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held at the **Nassau Club, 6 Mercer Street, Princeton, NJ, on Saturday, April 21. Cocktails beginning at 6:30 p.m., and dinner at approximately 7:30.** Attire is coat and tie. The association will conduct such business as shall come before it - at a minimum the election of up to six alumni to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors and the presentation of PNAA ties to the Nassoons' graduating Seniors.

After dinner, the undergraduate Nassoons will present a performance that includes some of their newest and also their most enduring songs. Following the Nassoons' performance, impromptu general group singing will take

place. This is often the most fun part of the evening.

Sign up on the website:

<https://www.perfids.com/upcoming-events>.

For those who prefer to register by snail mail, please send RSVP and checks to Marlo McGriff II, 171 Liberty St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

There is free parking at the Nassau Club and very reasonable overnight accommodations there as well through Mac McMorris (howardmcm@aol.com).

Remembering...

DAVID HOWELL '55

The Nassoons experienced a profound loss with the passing of David Howell '55 on October 8, 2017 in Washington, DC. Born on July 30, 1933 in Erie, PA, David graduated from The Hill School in Pottstown, PA before matriculating at Princeton in the fall of 1951. David joined the Nassoons his freshman year and served as President of the group his senior year. At Princeton, he dined at Cap & Gown and participated in Naval ROTC. After Princeton, David joined the Navy and served as a naval aviator for five years, including as a pilot of carrier-based aircraft on the USS Saratoga. David flew a bomber that was known as the A4D; its nickname was "All four Dead" because it was such a difficult plane to land! After the Navy, David completed a doctorate at Penn State. He then had a long and distinguished career at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, MD. Though unconfirmed, it is said he took advantage of the facilities offered by his lab to

remarks in this issue in his honor. Always the gentleman's gentleman, David pursued a variety of interests including photography, apiculture, agronomy (i.e., marijuana cultivation!) and seeing the elusive "green flash." Many say the bees' ancillary purpose was to guard his horticultural "pursuits" from the curious.

David's rendition of "Tigertown Blues" is thought by many Nassoons to be the finest ever recorded. At the last reunion he attended, he left a lasting impression performing the song in large oversized orange sunglasses, right in tune, with a twinkle in his eye.

Very importantly, almost exactly 50 years ago, David met Carolyn Davis at a cocktail party in Washington, a meeting that led to a love affair that lasted until his death. Carolyn remains a treasured member of the 50s/60s-era Nassoon mini-reunion family.

(cont. with some words of David's on page 4)

The Song Goes On
Alan Southworth '14

While we all know that the friendships formed during our time as undergrads in the group extend far beyond FitzRandolph Gate, it is always welcome to have a formal excuse to get back together and sing a set as the Nassoons once again. On November 2nd, 2017, a group of eight recent alums (Alex Ulyett ('11), Kevin Zhu, Matt Walsh ('12), Chris Brownell, Chris Palermo, David Simins ('13), Yacob Yonas ('15), and myself) did just that. With an invitation from Christina Bott (a 2012 Roaring 20 alumna) to perform at the Princeton Club of NYC's annual Orange and Black Ball that included the line "Nassoons welcome to open bar all evening," how could we decline? Dressed to the nines, we gathered at the ritzy Manhattan Club for the event. A special shoutout goes to David, tax lawyer extraordinaire, for making it to the gig on the night the new tax bill was released. We sang two short sets, including "Shenandoah" with the bassiest of all basses, Kevin Zhu on the solo (a personal favorite), "I Cover The Waterfront", "Tigertown Blues", and of course "Old Nassau". Following our second set, Alex Donner (Nassoons '75) took the stage with his big band.

In addition to one-off performances with the Nassoons, I've also kept busy musically in various other ways since graduating in 2014. Most notably, I've become plugged in to the singer-songwriter scene in NYC, regularly playing sets of covers and original songs at venues including the Sidewalk Cafe, Silvana, Mercury Lounge, West End Lounge (with my parents), and The Bitter End. Outside of New York, I've also become the go-to crooner for cocktail hour



David Howell in Bermuda singing behind Hugh Madden '57 (circa 2005)

create a very drinkable vodka variation. As an adult he continued to sing for 40 years as a member of the National Cathedral Choir, an organization in which he also served in leadership positions.

David's prodigious intellect underpinned his remarkable wit and astonishing memory. At a reunion some years ago, he recited from memory the remarkable and poignant poem, "The Young Man That Was" which is reprinted with his

at the Patterson Club's annual holiday party in Fairfield, Connecticut, where I sing Sinatra and holiday classics accompanied on the piano by my fellow tiger and current roommate, Zach Huffman '14.

Besides performing live, I've also had the pleasure of working in the studio on a number of projects. I'm currently in the process of recording my debut EP, which will contain six original tracks produced by my dad, Jeff Southworth, who also recorded and produced Nassoons 2014. I am putting in writing, right here, that the EP will be out later this year. Otherwise, I'll be personally responsible for making this edition of Nassoon Notes "fake news." My dad also put me to work as the singer on an ad for Pittsburgh-based healthcare provider Gateway Health Plan. For all the yinzers out there, if you hear the tagline "I'm good with Gateway," on your TV or

radio, it's probably me singing. Finally, my most recent and definitely most random musical side project came to me when an old friend from middle school got in touch with me about creating the music for a social media campaign of a fly-fishing company. How could one possibly pass up such a unique experience? I put on my waders and hopped into the studio to create a 60-second spot that was meant to evoke "good times and a campfire feel." Apparently, I succeeded since the client has kept me on retainer for the remainder of the ad campaign.

Nassoons can stay up to date with Alan's musical comings and goings through Facebook or by subscribing to his mailing list at <https://www.alansouthworthmusic.com/>

Remembering...

Scott Reynolds '78

Our brother Scott Reynolds '78 died on October 24, 2017, after a brief struggle with pancreatic cancer. Known to the Nassoons of his era as Disco B., an honorific earned during a memorable 'Soon travel weekend in the fall of 1975, he came to Princeton from Cedar Cliff High School in New Cumberland, PA. With his mellow baritone voice and superlative Touch Football quarterback skills, Disco was elected Nassoon president during



Scott and his daughter Helen

It was in Shanghai that he met his future wife, Eve, who was working as a translator at the embassy. Together they raised

his junior year. After a stint in the Peace Corps and a graduate degree in agricultural economics, he went to work for the US Department of Agriculture, spending time as an agricultural attaché at US embassies in Johannesburg, Moscow, Ottawa, and Shanghai.

two daughters, Helen and Melody. Throughout his years at the USDA, both at home and abroad, he always made time for music: singing in local choirs, playing the accordion or piano as the occasion presented itself. Following his retirement from government service in 2014, Disco and his family moved to Mt. Lebanon, PA. In just a few years there, he developed strong connections to the community and the local Episcopal church, where a full sanctuary of parishioners, family members, and friends attended his funeral.

More than 20 Nassoons came from all over the country and the world to sing at the service and at the Reynolds home afterwards. Disco's quiet leadership and joyous presence were at the heart of the '70s and '80s Nassoon alumni cohort: whenever we gathered, he was in the middle of it all. He leaves Eve, Helen, and Melody, and a legacy of brotherhood with his fellow Nassoons, who cherish the memory of this extraordinary man.

N.B. A remembrance for Hud Studdard '44 will be in the subsequent issue of Nassoon Notes. Those with thoughts and remembrances are encouraged to send them in to John Whelchel '15 at johnwhelchel@gmail.com.

Philly Phollies II

Mac McMorris ('66) Rich McClynn('60)

As has been the case every year since the first "Frostbite Follies" in Chicago in 1997, 26 Nassoons from the mid '50s to the mid '60s, accompanied by 17 ladies, gathered in Philadelphia this November. It was a near repeat of the 2015 Philly Phollies enjoyed by the next younger group. However, it can get confusing as we added former and current presidents McAdoo and Watson, so we ourselves are getting younger!

We arrived on Tuesday, October 31st, staying at the posh French Sofitel Hotel in the center of the city. The next three mornings we rehearsed in the Orpheus Club, the oldest singing organization in the country celebrating its 146th season (this is Philadelphia after all!). Orpheus is worth a Google, with six Nassoons currently active, including the local organizers McMorris, McAdoo, and Watson.

Philly Phollis II (cont.)

On Friday we sang our concert. Of prime importance was the cast of characters. We had a great turnout of faithful Nassoon Seniors. By Class, they were Jerry Ford ('54), Bob Brodsky, Steve Blakeslee, Erich Everbach, Lew Ross ('58), Dunc Dempster (all the way from Hawaii), J.D. Helms ('59), Peter Graff, Rich McGlynn, Richard Peterson ('60), Don LeWin, Jim Crawford ('61), Buzz Kelsey, Dave Watts ('62), Tim Callard, Barry Schuman, Chuck Sethness ('63), Paul Saurel ('64), Rick Eisenhart, Mac McMorris and Tom Wickenden ('66), Roger Bates ('67), Jim Schenkel ('68) Chuck Goldberg, Sandy MacAddo ('71), and Scott Watson ('74). What a group! We added our voices to the echos of so much past music in St. Mark's Church which has graced that beautiful building since the mid 1800s. We dedicated the concert to Dave Howell '55, our former senior president, whom we lost after a long illness

shortly before our gathering. It was, as always, a great joy to be together to share the gift of great music, to have so many of our ladies with us and to celebrate the deep bonds of fellowship which bind us together. Thank you to the Princeton Club of Philadelphia who helped in producing an audience adequate to the event and the space.

Afterward, we moved two blocks to the elegant Racquet Club of Philadelphia, where we were joined by many friends for a thoroughly enjoyable and somewhat noisy dinner! On Saturday most of us attended the Penn-Princeton football game at Franklin Field, suffering through an agonizing last minute defeat, 38-34. We recovered that evening with a wonderful farewell dinner at Orpheus Club, often described as the Nassoon Room on steroids!

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Transcribed words of David Howell (cont. from page 2)

In the spring of 1955, the Nassoons were invited to sing at the 50th reunion of the Class of 1905 after the Class's dinner in Procter Hall. The elderly members of 1905 sat at long oak tables in dim candlelight, listening intently as we sang from a raised platform at the end of the hall. We concluded by singing "Steps Song", many of these fine old men sang quietly with us and tapped their canes on the floor in time to the music. After the applause died, the President of the Class of 1905, an elegant, eloquent man with the splendid name of Dr. Fordyce B. St. John, rose from his table and faced his classmates. Then he addressed them: "Gentlemen, I would like to propose a toast..to the Nassoons. Although it is dedicated to them, it is addressed tonight to you; but as the years pass, it will increasingly be addressed to them, until they are ready to dedicate it to Princetonians yet unborn. It is called 'The Young Man That Was'..."

You who were young, and are old; who were foolish, and are sensible; who gutted the years recklessly and now number the days in wisdom; who desperately clasped girls and now fondly pat wives; let us open the closed books, awaken the dim memories, and sniff the dried roses of regret. And then let us fill a cup and drink with love to that most noble, ridiculous, laughable, sublime, departed figure in all our lives: The Young Man That Was.

Let us drink to his dreams, for they were rainbow-hued; to his appetites, for they were strong; to his blunders, for they were huge; to his beloved, for she was sweet; to his pain, for it was sharp; to his time, for it was brief; and to his end, for it was to become one of us.

And in that far-off land when the sunlight never fades, where the flowers are all spring flowers, and the grass is an April green forever, he still walks his jaunty, infinitely mistaken way.

God pity us all; with what precious coins have we bought our philosophy.

Parenthetically, when we were about to leave Procter Hall that night, one of those wonderful old men from the Class of 1905 stopped me, took my arm, and removed his 50th Reunion straw hat. Then he removed the hatband with "1905" emblazoned in black on an orange background and gave it to me. I have it to this day.

The "1905" hatband—a direct link back to the Class whose song we Nassoons all sing so reverently—has now been framed and sent to the undergraduate group for safekeeping in the Nassoon Room.