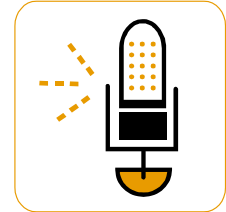


Platt Student Performing Arts House

Performing Arts!

If you've received this before, skip to page 2!



Welcome to PAC!

Hello, and welcome! This is the Performing Arts Council (PAC) Newsletter for incoming members of the Class of 2012 and other newcomers to student performing arts!

Here, you will find information about people in PAC you'll meet or want to meet during the coming year, people who've graduated and carry the life lessons learned as a student at Penn participating in Performing Arts, and everything from the beginning of auditions to final performances.

PAC is a kind of association of approximately 45 different student performing groups, and PAC groups get priority performance and rehearsal spaces among other benefits. If you're interested in acting, there are plenty of groups for you. If sketch or stand-up comedy is more your forte, you've got a home. Dance, A Cappella, and

Instrumental and Vocal music span genres and styles from Jazz to Hip-Hop to Classical and back again. Finally, if you prefer to stay behind the scenes, nearly *every group* needs someone like you to handle the technical aspects of their show.

Most groups perform one Solo performance and one collaboration every year, though some groups choose to do only a single show per year or two collaborative shows depending on their needs and requirements.

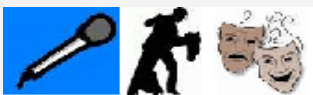
Each type of group is collected into a subcommittee with similar groups and each subcommittee elects a chair to serve on the PAC Executive Board, along with a Community Service Chair elected from the general body. These five student leaders manage inter-group communications, scheduling, recruitment, finances, and organize Performing Arts Nights

for Freshmen just after NSO and for families during Family Weekend. The Executive Board also manages PACster, an announcement e-mail list which includes information about auditions and technical interviews, upcoming PAC performances, internships in the arts, and much, much more!

This newsletter, to which you subscribed by indicating interest in the performing arts via Campus Express, represents the pre-freshman version of PACster. Older versions will be available on our website in case you sign up late! Enjoy, and welcome to Penn!

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PACstArs: Erik Nordgren, PhD

Erik Nordgren GAS '01 directs one of Penn's most prestigious and long-standing student groups.

While a graduate student at the University of Pennsylvania in the 1990s, Erik had the good fortune to perform with the **Penn Singers** and the **Penn Glee Club** for many years, both of which were then

directed by Bruce Montgomery, who introduced Erik to the wonders of Gilbert & Sullivan. While a student, Erik did a great deal of performing, and after completing his PhD (in computational physical chemistry), he has continued his musical endeavors. In fact, he now directs the very **Penn Glee Club** in which he once sang. Besides

theatrical roles, Erik has had various professional singing engagements in Philadelphia, including the Choral Arts Society, Beth Zion Beth Israel Synagogue, St. Mark's Church and St. Peter's Church. He also has sung for many years with Penn's acclaimed early music vocal ensemble, **Ancient Voices**.

Academic Opportunities

Pursuing the Arts does not stop with student groups. Several departments offer degrees in the arts, and opportunities for theory and performance.

Whether your interest is in Music, Theatre, Cinema, or the Visual Arts, academic departments exist for students to learn more about their craft from professors here at Penn.

The Music Department offers courses in music theory and history, as well as Chamber Music, University Choral Society, University Orchestra, and individual performance

opportunities. Many of these performances are free to students, and are held around campus throughout the year.

The Theatre Arts Program also offers courses in theory, history, and applied practice. Theory courses include topics in contemporary and ancient drama. History courses discuss the evolution of the medium of theatre, from Greek tragedy to absurdism to contemporary realism. Practical courses offered include introductory and advanced courses in acting, directing, playwriting, and design, as well as Rehearsal and Performance, a graded

production course for actors, dramaturgs, and technical positions.

The Cinema Studies Program offers courses in film theory, production, and screen-writing, and offers opportunities for student actors to appear in film class projects.

Finally, the Fine Arts and Visual Studies Departments offer excellent academic backgrounds for student lighting and scenic designers, as well as courses in drawing, sculpture, digital design, and photography.

imPACT How did joining PAC shape your college experience?

Kristin Myers '10

PAC is one of the most important student organizations on campus. Without the support structure of the Performing Arts Council, many of our groups would be hard-pressed to find adequate rehearsal and performance space and still function autonomously. Additionally, PAC provides a network of students also interested in the performing arts, specifically theatre in my experience.

I know that my group - the African American Arts Alliance (4A) would be lost without the administrative and technical support provided by PAC. PAC not only supports us financially by permitting us to gain recognition with SAC,

but helps us with many different aspects of our theatre production. Most importantly, PAC and its subcommittees (TAC-e in my experience) are like a family that encourages its members and supports their endeavors.

Kristin Myers, a junior in the College with an English Major and Journalism Concentration, has worked with 4A for one year. She is also a member of the International Community Service group Circle K.



Alumni of the Week

Ray Evans, 1915-2007: Academy Award winning songwriter and Ray Evans '37

Ray Evans, an American songwriter, was a partner in a composing and songwriting duo with Jay Livingston best known for the songs they composed for films. Evans wrote the lyrics and Livingston the music for the songs.

Evans was valedictorian of his high school class, where he played clarinet in the band, and received a bachelor's

degree in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School in 1937. He was elected that same year to Pi Gamma Mu, the honor society in the social sciences for his outstanding academic performance at the Wharton School.

Livingston and Evans won three Academy Awards: in 1948 for the song "Buttons and Bows", written for the movie *The Paleface*; in 1950 for the song "Mona Lisa", written for the movie *Captain Carey, U.S.A.*; and in 1956 for the song "Que Sera Sera", featured in the Alfred Hitchcock movie *The Man Who Knew Too Much* and sung by Doris Day. The

duo was also nominated four additional times, including the immensely popular song "Tammy", written for the 1957 movie *Tammy And The Bachelor*.

Livingston and Evans wrote for many mediums, including popular TV themes (*Bonanza* and *Mr. Ed*), Broadway musicals (*Oh, Captain!*), and Christmas songs, namely the Christmas standard *Silver Bells*, originally composed for the Bob Hope film *The Lemon Drop Kid*.

"A rose must remain with the sun and the rain or its lovely promise won't come true."

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"Art should never try to be popular. The public should try to make itself artistic."
Oscar Wilde

sPACe *Where do you perform your shows?*

Annenberg Center for Performing Arts

37th and Walnut Streets

Home to three theatres and two rehearsal spaces, the Annenberg Center is one of

the richest resources available to Student Performing Arts, not to mention its support of professional touring companies through its Penn Presents series.

The Prince Theatre, named for noted alumnus Harold

Prince (see PACster I.8), serves as one of the most popular venues for student groups. The Zellerbach theatre is generally reserved for professional and touring companies but several groups do perform there during the Spring.

Next time...

Next time, PACster 2012 introduces.

We'll meet the president of Penn's all-female a cappella group, and introduce

Our Alumni of the Week section will introduce the administrative team of Roundabout Theatre Company, managed by two Penn alumni, Hal Wolpert and Todd Haines.

You'll also learn about Freshman Performing Arts Night (FPAN), PAC's showcase of all member groups.

Feedback!

Have a great idea for an article that you'd like to see or a topic YOU want to learn more about? Let us know!

We'd love to hear what you have to say! Contact us at pacexec@gmail.com and let us know how you feel about the PACster 2012 Newsletter!

We're on the Web!

See us at:
<http://www.dolphin.upenn.edu/pac/>