

>> Rehearsing a song for the first performance of the year, Women's Chorus practice their different parts as a group. Their first performance was held during Parents' Weekend.

> Emma Tuohy, senior, smiles after hitting a high note. Tuohy met with a chamber group to rehearse for their well-attended performance at Burton Parish Church.



changing tunes

New members and changes welcomed into Women's Chorus

Many new changes hit the William and Mary Women's Chorus during the 2008 and 2009 school year. The all-women chorus welcomed a new temporary directory, Dr. Brian Bailey, to fill in for Dr. Jamie Bartlett (who was on sabbatical in Austria). The chorus also welcomed 36 new members to the group. Having a system of big and little sisters helped the group remain stable and continue carrying on traditions despite the new adjustments.

One of the biggest changes to Women's Chorus was the addition of the 36 new members. "It's definitely a change to have so many new members in the group," Lauren Estes said. With the additional voices, the overall sound of Women's Chorus transformed. Katie Frye was proud of the new members and the sound that accompanied their joining. "The larger group has a nice, full sound," Frye said. Frye was sometimes overwhelmed by the size of the group but enjoyed the opportunity to meet new friends. "I feel like there is an entire second alto section I've yet to meet!" Frye said.

The choral officers made sure each new member felt like a special addition to the group. Each new member was paired with a "big sister." The little sisters got small presents and clues about the identity of their "Big" over the course of three days, or "clue week". "My big, president Sarah Lifka, gave me a small picture frame," sophomore Erica Wickman said. Other chorus members were able to guess the identity of their Big by the gifts they were given. "I guessed who my big was because one of her clues said she was a sophomore, and I'd only met one of the sophomores at that point," Frye said about

her Big Rachel Jones. Traditions like clue week helped instill camaraderie between new and old members and ensured that everyone felt welcome.

Estes, like many seniors in chorus, had been a member for all of her four years at the College. Estes enjoyed helping new members develop musically and socially, both in the group and as individuals. "The club has gone through a cycle over the four years I've been a member. They [the new members] can take the club in their own direction now," Estes said.

The chorus' repertoire included various types of music to showcase their singing ability. During a show at Bruton Parish Church in November, members sang pieces such as *The Nightingale* (Weelkes) and *Lift Thine Eyes* (from *Elijah*, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy). Included in the performance were also several songs sung in different languages. The chorus performed a Yiddish folksong, *Vuz Vet Zayn* (arranged by Hatfield), *Vier Lieder as dem Jungbrunnen* (a collection of German songs by Johannes Brahms), and the Latin prayer *Tota Pulchra Es* (Maurice Durulfe). The women's chorus also appeared at Phi Beta Kappa Hall for a holiday concert.

Despite changes, the chorus was able to continue their tradition of excellence. Whether singing in English, German or Yiddish, beneath the stage lights of Phi Beta Kappa or in the candlelight of Burton Parish Church, or under new direction, William and Mary's Women's Chorus kept the old traditions and new changes in balance.

>Kelly Harmon



> Performing a song in Phi Beta Kappa Hall, the Women's Chorus enjoys spreading the Christmas spirit during the holidays. Many singers donned Santa hats and other accessories to help celebrate the season.

officers

Sarah Lifka	President
Christine Liow	Vice-President
Caroline Tarnawski	
Mary Beth Kensinger	Treasurer
Emily Wilson	Recording Secretary
Emma Tuohy	Historian
Katie Frye	Corresponding Secretary
	Librarian
Sophia Gayek	Librarian
Lauren White	Wardrobe Chair
Abigail Stokley	Wardrobe Chair
Piper Wright	Social Chair
Kate Hughes	Social Chair
Jenny Essig	Concert Manager
Rhea Wright	Concert Manager
Hannah Clouse	Webmistress
Virginia Forstall	