



# THE YALE SPIZZWINKS(?)

The oldest underclassmen a cappella singing group in the nation. Since 1914, we've charmed audiences around the world with our unique blend of sweet harmony and tongue-in-cheek humor.

[www.spizzwinks.com](http://www.spizzwinks.com)



# OUR HISTORY



*The original Spizzwinks(?) of 1914.*

the Yale forefathers had left Harvard in search of *lux* and not just *veritas*, so too did four young Yalies embark on their own journey.

One night, late in 1913, these four young men met at Mory's Temple Bar, Yale's historic tavern, to choose a new name for their fledgling group. This new singing group was created to provide audiences with the musical quality of the Whiffenpoofs, but with a more light-hearted air. After thinking and drinking, one of them glimpsed the ghost of Frank Johnson, the postmaster of his small Iowa town who had attributed the Corn Blight of 1906 to the mythical insect called the "Spizzwink." The singer jumped up at



*The Spizzwinks with Jack Daniels, Spizzwink '42.*

## Our Founding at Mory's Temple Bar

A long, long time ago, before the dawn of civilization, there existed no a cappella on Yale's campus. In 1909, however, a light emerged from the darkness, and the Yale Whiffenpoofs were founded with great pomp and circumstance. Unfortunately, many thought the group had not found the true light of a cappella music, and much as



*The Shoes. Discovered in a brown lunch bag in the San Francisco airport in the early 1970s, these shoes are worn by one lucky Spizzwink(?) every year and are rumored to have magical powers.*

once and shouted, "That's it! We'll call the group the Spizzwinks!" That year, the editor of the *Yale Banner* was unsure of the spelling of the group's name, and thus added a question mark in parentheses. The group liked the look of "The Yale Spizzwinks(?)" and has kept the punctuation to this day.

## The Tradition Continues

Following a tradition almost a century old, the Spizzwinks return to Mory's once each month to sing for their dinner. These trips to Mory's and the activities of our alumni association – over 300 members strong – illustrate the pride we have in our heritage.

# THE SPIZZWINKS(?)

## WELCOME YOU TO YALE!

We are the Yale Spizzwinks(?), America's oldest underclassman a cappella group. For almost a century, our 14-member ensemble of Yale College students has delighted audiences around the world with outstanding music, humor and choreography. We'd love to take a brief moment to introduce ourselves and to tell you a bit about what it means to be a 'Wink(?).



*The 'Winks following a performance in Manila, Philippines.*



*The Spizzwinks(?) at a temple in Kyoto, Japan.*



*Overlooking Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.*



*Making a guard smile in London, England.*



*Dining at Spago in Beverly Hills, California.*

# PERFORMANCES, RECORDINGS AND ALUMNI ACTIVITIES



*The Spizzwinks(?) following a performance at St. Patrick's Cathedral.*

Cole Porter '13, Leonard Bernstein and Henry Mancini. Our more modern arrangements originate from Billy Joel, the Police, Jeff Buckley, Marvin Gaye, Isaac Hayes, the Foundations and the Beatles. No 'Wink performance, however, would be complete without our choreography and unique brand of tongue-in-cheek humor. We constantly encourage the introduction of new materials by all members, including our freshmen. In addition to our live performances, the 'Winks produce a new album every 1-2 years, allowing each member to perform their own solo. Moreover, this historically high acceptance of Spizzwinks(?) into the esteemed ranks of the all-senior Whiffenpoofs serves as testimony to the musical talent of our members. The Spizzwinks boast more Whiff alumni than any other group, and there have been years when the 'Winks(?) comprised over half of the members of the Whiffenpoofs.

Each year, the Spizzwinks perform nearly 100 concerts in exotic locales across the country and around the world. Over the past few years, the 'Winks(?) have performed at the White House, Carnegie Hall, St. Patrick's Cathedral, professional sporting events, and for some of the most exclusive clubs, schools, private parties, corporations, resorts and communities in the nation.

During the spring of 2004, over 150 Spizzwink alumni from classes dating back to the 1940s gathered in New Haven for their 90th reunion, coinciding with the undergraduate jamboree. For the occasion, the Yale Spizzwinks(?) Alumni Association launched an annual charity concert series that allows the Spizzwinks to give back to the greater New Haven community. Subsidized by the YSAA, these concerts showcase the Yale Spizzwinks to a new and underprivileged audience that would otherwise not have the opportunity to hear the group.



*The Spizzwinks(?) perform for students as part of our New Haven Charity Concert Series.*

# WORLD TOUR

During our Winter, Spring and Summer Breaks, we pack up and go on tour. Travel expenses are completely covered by the group, a most impressive feat considering our travel itinerary spanning 5 continents. Additionally, we return from summer tour in early June, just in time for our members to land an internship with almost any company or organization. Last June, we finished our most ambitious summer tour to date, traveling to Thailand, the Philippines, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan. This year, we will be traveling to Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic for Winter Break, sunbathing in California and South America in the Spring, and jumping across the pond to Europe and Africa in the summer, delighting audiences in Johannesburg, Cape Town, London, Edinburgh, Oslo and Munich. Touring allows our members to witness the fruits of our labor as we perform for captivated audiences the world over.



*At the Arc de Triomphe in Paris, France.*



*With our "biggest" fan, Magic Johnson.*



*Performing in the White House.*



*Performing for the United States Ambassador in Bangkok, Thailand.*

# THE 'WINK EXPERIENCE



*'Winks at the Toji Temple in Kyoto, Japan.*



*Enjoying traditional Babian food in Brazil.*

For those men at Yale considering joining the 'Winks, you will join a family nearly a century old, stretching to all corners of the world. Whether standing around the tables at Mory's Temple Bar in song, traveling on an elephant safari in Northern Thailand, water-skiing in Brazil, or simply playing Frisbee on the Old Campus, the 'Winks always enjoy hanging out together.

For many past members, the times spent with the 'Winks(?) have proven to be the richest and most rewarding of their entire Yale career. Our new taps will not only experience the richness of our long history, but they will also be full-fledged contributors to new realms of excellence. The members of this group all agree that the depth and brilliance of our harmonies is only surpassed by the strength and warmth of the friendships created while making them.

The 'Winks have a saying that is indicative of our devotion to our music and our members, and we use this saying as both a rousing cheer and a hushed benediction: "We Ride, for Ride We Must." Now that we have told you a little about who we are and what it means to be a 'Wink, we hope that you will join us in our ride.



*Current 'Winks and recent alumni at our tailgate for the Yale-Harvard Game.*



*The "Winks in the Swiss Alps.*



*Celebrating Andrew's birthday in Florida.*



*Matt is tapped into the Spizzwinks(?).*



*Enjoying a cup at Mory's.*



*Performing on Brazilian national television.*



*Brock, Eddie, Ilya, Andrew and Matt bamboo-rafting in Chiang Mai, Thailand.*

