



# The Joy, *a community newsletter*

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## Welcome to Issue #3 of The Joy!

Welcome to the third issue of The Joy, the Essence of Joy Alumni Singers (EOJAS) community newsletter. Founded in 2005 and comprised of alumni from Pennsylvania State University's Essence of Joy Choir, the Essence of Joy Alumni Singers® perform sacred and secular music from the African and African-American tradition in an effort to entertain, inspire, affirm and unify the worldwide community.

This newsletter is publically available on our website, [www.eojas.org](http://www.eojas.org), and via email subscription to our 'Friends of Essence' email list. We welcome your comments on what you'd like to see included in this newsletter. In the meantime, this issue includes a review of the choir's activities in the last six months and some information about our plans for the first six months of 2011.

## Recent Performances



Things are as busy as ever for EOJAS. We hope you will enjoy a short summary of some of our engagements for the second half of 2010. The photo to the left shows EOJAS performing at the 2010 Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts (aka 'Arts Fest'), in State College, PA. Photo courtesy of Gene Miller.

## Performances

- **Central PA Festival of the Arts – July 9-11, State College, PA.** This was our fourth year performing the Friday night of Arts Fest. In addition to this Friday night performance at State College Presbyterian Church, the choir also provided a musical offering at Trinity Lutheran Church in State College. EOJAS provided music for a service led by Rev. Ronald C. Miller, president of Essence 2, Ltd.
- **Messiah College – Sept. 25, Grantham, PA.** EOJAS was pleased to present a workshop at Messiah College for the school's music education majors, the Messiah College Concert Choir, and local music educators. The workshop, led by Dr. Anthony T. Leach, Professor of Music and Music Education at the Pennsylvania State University and Artistic Director of EOJAS, provided everyone with the opportunity to learn more about music of the African-American Tradition. EOJAS and the Messiah College Concert Choir then presented an evening concert at the Hostetter Chapel on the Messiah College campus.

## About EOJAS

- Founded in 2005 and comprised of alumni from Pennsylvania State University's Essence of Joy Choir, the Essence of Joy Alumni Singers perform sacred and secular music from the African and African-American tradition in an effort to entertain, inspire, affirm and unify the worldwide community. Under the artistic direction of Dr. Anthony T. Leach, the group has performed extensively in the United States, Europe, and the Caribbean. The choir is a non-profit corporation registered in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a 501 (c)(3) tax exempt organization.

- **Dover United Church of Christ – Sept. 26, Dover, PA.** EOJAS provided the music for the Dover UCC annual Rally Day, held to welcome new minister Rev. Katherine Epperly, who joined Dover UCC in August 2010.
- **Penn State Harrisburg Campus – Oct. 8, Mechanicsburg, PA.** Penn State's Harrisburg Campus hosted EOJAS in August for our annual retreat. As a thank you, EOJAS returned in Oct to present a free concert at the Morrison Gallery.
- **Lancaster Church of the Brethren – Oct. 9, Lancaster, PA.** EOJAS presented a concert for Lancaster Church of the Brethren's Starlight Tea Concert Series. This concert series brings in choral and instrumental groups throughout the year to present sacred and secular music. Our host, Emery Dewitt, is a Penn State alum.
- **Arch Street Presbyterian Church – Nov. 21, Philadelphia, PA.** EOJAS provided the music for the 10:45 service at Arch Street Presbyterian Church. This church, located in the heart of Center City Philadelphia, is undergoing a rebirth under new Musical Director Dr. J. Donald Dumpson.

### Rehearsals & EOJAS Retreat

- For as much as the choir performs, we can always benefit from some rehearsal time. EOJAS organizes rehearsals in various locations throughout the year. Rehearsals provide the choir with an opportunity to introduce new selections to our repertoire and further refine our existing pieces. In the second half of 2010, EOJAS rehearsed in August, September, and November. The August rehearsal was a two-day retreat focused on new repertoire. In November, EOJAS came together for the initial rehearsal of 'Hallelujah to the King,' a new 19-movement cantata by composer Stanley Spotswood, that EOJAS has been contracted to record this summer for N-Time Music Productions of Charlotte, NC.

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## The Business of the Choir

As many of you know, the EOJAS Board is always busy with the business side of the choir. This issue we will highlight some of the recent developments so that our readers can better appreciate what is happening behind the scenes.

### 501(c)(3) Status!

After months of work, EOJAS was recently awarded tax exempt status under section 501(c)(3) of the Federal tax code. EOJAS is now officially recognized as exempt from most forms of Federal taxation and donations to the choir will be treated as deductible charitable contributions. For those of you who itemize your Federal tax returns, this means that every dollar contributed to EOJAS will reduce your tax obligation. This is a big step in the growth of the choir and we anticipate moving forward with new programs and performances. For additional information on this new status, please see the Support the Choir section below or visit [www.eojas.org/support.htm](http://www.eojas.org/support.htm).

### Trademarks Received

The EOJAS name and logo are now registered trademarks. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) officially recognized our organization as the owner of the EOJAS name and logo, ensuring that our

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## Fifty-Seven

What's the importance of 57? EOJAS has performed in 57 venues in the past five years. For the full list, please visit: [www.eojas.org/about.htm](http://www.eojas.org/about.htm).

organization has the sole right to use our name and logo. The choir now has the right to list ® after our name and as part of our logo. These trademarks allow EOJAS to protect our name and logo from uses that are not in line with the choir's mission and goals, and from those who are not associated with the choir.

### **Chorus Management Institute (CMI)**

The EOJAS Board is constantly working to improve our organization. With that in mind, three members of the EOJAS Board will attend the Chorus Management Institute, hosted by Chorus America this January in Washington, DC. EOJAS is eager to learn best practices from Chorus America and other member choirs.

### **Media Section ([www.eojas.org/media.htm](http://www.eojas.org/media.htm))**

Have you visited the new Media Section on the EOJAS Website? The choir is working now to compile recent recordings into our first CD project. As this is a costly endeavor, any support you are able to provide would be much appreciated. For information on how you can contribute, please see [www.eojas.org/support.htm](http://www.eojas.org/support.htm). We still have to raise a little more before we can share a full album with you, but I'm sure our faithful followers will support us in great "Anticipation" of its completion.

### **Education Initiative**

The mission of the Essence of Joy Alumni Singers is to learn, present, and promote music of the African and African-American Tradition. The choir views educational outreach as a key aspect of that mission. We are particularly interested in developing skills in schools and houses of worship through workshop and residency programs. We are working now to develop a new section of our website to describe our educational offerings. EOJAS is also creating new workshop materials that we will share with participants. To request an EOJAS workshop or a program tailored to your needs please contact the EOJAS VP of Business Management at [vpbm@eojas.org](mailto:vpbm@eojas.org).

### **New EOJAS Policies**

In the past six months the EOJAS Board has passed 11 new policies. Many of these policies are based on guidance issued by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), the Pennsylvania Bureau of Charitable Organizations, and most importantly the Pennsylvania Association of Non-profit Organizations (PANO). As a non-profit organization committed to openness, the following policies are available for inspection by members of the public through requests made to [secretary@eojas.org](mailto:secretary@eojas.org).

- Policy 1.1 – Conflict of Interest Policy
- Policy 1.2 – Non-Discrimination Policy
- Policy 1.3 – Whistleblower Policy
- Policy 1.4 – Signature Authority Policy
- Policy 2.1 – Artistic Waiver and Release Policy
- Policy 2.2 – Logo Regulations Policy
- Policy 3.1 – Gift Solicitation and Acceptance Policy
- Policy 5.1 – Copyright Policy
- Policy 6.1 – Document Retention and Destruction Policy
- Policy 6.2 – Internal and External Communications Policy
- Policy 7.1 – Board Review of IRS Form 990 Policy

## Our Mission

- The Essence of Joy Alumni Singers is a family of singers whose purpose is to learn, present, and promote African and African-American sacred and secular music in an effort to entertain, inspire, affirm and unify the worldwide community.

## Welcome New Members!

Please join The Joy and the EOJAS Board in welcoming the 90 individuals who have registered with EOJAS since the first of the year. These additions bring our number of registered users to 171 out of 287 eligible Essence of Joy alums. We've worked hard this year to reach out to many who were not yet registered on the EOJAS Members' site and this recruiting effort has led to a 114% increase. Despite more than doubling our registered membership, we still have only 60% of our eligible membership, so the recruiting efforts will continue in earnest. If you are an Essence of Joy alum who has not yet registered with EOJAS, please register at <https://members.eojas.org>.

## Upcoming EOJAS Performances



EOJAS has some big plans for 2011. In this issue, we'll focus on some of our events scheduled for the first half of the year. Please understand that the information below should be considered tentative. Please watch our Facebook page and [eojas.org/performances.htm](http://eojas.org/performances.htm) for official EOJAS performance details. The photo on the left, courtesy of Gene Miller, shows EOJAS performing at the 2010 Arts Fest.

### State College and Bellefonte, PA – January 22-23

- EOJAS will present a concert at 7PM on Sat., Jan. 22 at Trinity Lutheran Church (2221 North Oak Ln., State College, PA 16803). This concert will serve to inaugurate a new piano for the congregation. On Sun., Jan. 23, EOJAS will provide music for the 10:45 service at Zion Community Church (3261 Zion Rd., Bellefonte, PA 16823). This service is free and open to the public.

### Princeton Club, New York City – February 12

- EOJAS will perform at the Princeton Club (15 W. 43rd St., New York, NY) as part of the Penn State Alumni Association's 'City Lights' event series. As a 2010 Alumni Interest Group of Distinction, EOJAS welcomes the opportunity to strengthen our relationship with the Alumni Association and move forward to projects of increasing scope. The 'Informance' will include singing as well as a multimedia presentation detailing the evolution of the Essence family at Penn State. The event begins with a reception at 1PM, continuing with the EOJAS program at 2:30PM. This event is co-sponsored by the New York City Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association. Ticket information here: <http://alumni.psu.edu/events/citylights>

### Dauphin Way United Methodist Church, Mobile, AL – March 18-20

- It's been a long time since Essence flew South, and EOJAS is looking forward to a trip to Mobile, AL, to perform at Dauphin Way United Methodist Church – home Church for two Essence of Joy alums.

## The Joy

- The Joy is published twice a year. Its mission is to inform and to entertain. Contributions are always welcome. Please note that contributions become the property of EOJAS and may be edited for length or clarity.

### Moses Hogan / Glenn Burleigh Festival, Pittsburgh, PA – April 15-17

- The Pittsburgh Gospel Choir, under the direction of Dr. Herbert V.R.P. Jones, will host the *Moses George Hogan/Glenn Edward Burleigh Choral Festival*. The Festival will open on Friday night, with a 7:00 P.M. concert featuring EOJAS, the Pittsburgh Gospel Choir, and the Pittsburgh Gospel Ensemble. Saturday will have choral and orchestral rehearsals and an 11:00 A.M. panel discussion. There will be a 6:00 P.M. pre-concert panel followed by a 7:00 P.M. concert featuring the Festival Chorus, under the baton of guest conductor Dr. Anthony T. Leach.

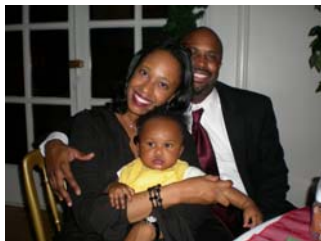
### Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY – May 12-15

- EOJAS will join the VOICES Multicultural Choir and professional soloists to present excerpts from 'Porgy and Bess' at Ithaca College in Ithaca, NY.

### Arts Fest, State College, PA – July 15

- EOJAS will likely present a concert the Friday night of the Central PA Festival of the Arts in State College, PA.

## From EOJAS - Lachele Jack Vaughan



This issue we feature an interview with Lachele (Jack) Vaughn (left in photo). Lachele is joined in the photo with her husband Kenneth and baby. Lachele took some time from her busy schedule to chat with Tom – thanks Lachele! Check out Lachele's company <http://www.mylittlebeethoven.com>. My Little Beethoven provides private music lessons for parents and your baby.

**1. What drew you to PSU?** I felt like I would get the best of both worlds with the big campus "feel" in conjunction with the intimacy of the small school of music.

**2. What did you study and what have you done since graduation?** I studied music education. Since graduation, I worked at the Milton Hershey School, received my Master's degree in education from Penn State, moved to Philly to teach in Lower Merion School District, bought a house, got married, had a baby who is 10 months old, and now, I have private piano, voice, and music therapy students that I teach from my home. I'm also the CEO of my own company, My Little Beethoven. Check us out: <http://www.mylittlebeethoven.com>

**3. What made you decide to audition for EOJ? Tell us about your audition and/or when you found out you were in the group.** At the time, EOJ was just becoming a credited class. My audition was "interesting" (smile). We all love Dr. Leach, but his personality was definitely "present" in my audition. That I do remember, but the rest was all a blur. I think I remember singing the alto part. That year, he was building his alto section, so I felt like I came at the right place and the right time. Of course I was excited to be getting a credit singing songs that I grew up with!



## The Big Caveat

- The views expressed in this newsletter are the views of the authors alone and not necessarily those of the Essence of Joy Alumni Singers Board, its membership, or the Pennsylvania State University Alumni Association. Please don't sue us!

**4. You've performed frequently at home and on the road with Essence and with other groups. Can you share a memorable experience with our readers?** Wow. I remember we sang at Franklin Mills Mall for a Pathmark sponsored event. I remember, he (Dr. Leach) put me on the spot (which he likes to do to us at some point) to sing an African call and response song. My other memory was of course....Chi-Town-ACDA! The whole trip was full of quality sound from the choir and memorable music moments including singing all three Elijah Rocks at the highest level that I have heard or performed.

**5. Many members of the choir have mentioned a favorite Tony Leach quote and/or bit of advice. Can you share a particular anecdote?** Along with the "fantabulous" Pathmark story...before we sang, we were told to be at the mall at 5:00am...I think. Anyway, it was too darn early for EVERYONE, including Dr. Leach. We all were stuffed into this room and the door was very flimsy. People were going in and out to go to the bathroom. Others stayed in the room with the lights off to get some more shut eye. Well, I guess the door opened and shut too much for Dr. Leach because he said (and I quote) "Will you stop closing that door in my right ear!?!?" We all tried so hard not to laugh. In addition, he has been known to wake the whole bus up getting on the bus microphone saying his riddles like, "Choir, do what you need to do." What?!?!? We all were just sleep and we are 30 minutes away from our final destination! Oh...Daddy Leach! Lastly, you can't be mad at him when he says, "Choir, move expeditiously!"

**6. Do you have a favorite EOJ song?** I love the "Gospel Magnificat" by Robert Ray.

**7. Why is that one of your favorites?** I have sung Gospel music all my life. So, Gospel music to me was not new. In turn, singing major works like that was a treat for me because it integrated my classical training along with my personal cultural and religious experiences.

**8. I've often felt that Essence is like a family. Can you share a time when you felt the family dynamic?** Well, I just know that any time I can call any of my EOJ "family members" a piece of trash and they take it as a compliment, you know that is family bonding there...maybe a little dysfunctional, but that is what makes EOJ special. Somehow, Dr. Leach knew EVERYTHING...and still does.

**9. What does it mean to Write the Vision? And why should we make it plain?** Wow. That is a song that I sang a solo to way back when... (smile). To me, it means that no matter what you are going through...if you are clear about what God's plan is for you, the other obstacles that you go through are just necessary stepping stones for you to get to where you need to be.

**10. Anything else we should know about you?** I am the same old Trashelle! (smile)

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## EOJAS fan?

Join us on Facebook:  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Essence-of-Joy-Alumni-Singers/12853487133>

## From EOJ - Rachel Dungan

This issue we speak with Rachel Dungan, President of the EOJ Resident Choir. Rachel took some time from her busy schedule to chat with Tom – thanks Rachel!



**1. What made you choose PSU?** Honestly, I had applied to many schools and found myself pretty sufficiently overwhelmed by the time I needed to make a decision. After months of trying to sort through options using everything from common sense to a deck of cards (no joke...) I found I kept coming back to Penn State. I didn't know exactly what I wanted to study, but knew I wanted to be somewhere the program would enable me to tailor my experience so I could pursue all of my interests (including music) in meaningful capacities. I was glad to find a school where I could do all this while staying relatively close to home, and the Schreyer Honors College program seemed pretty appealing to me. I ultimately followed my intuition and made a great decision.

**2. What is your Major? When do you graduate?** I'll graduate with a degree in Biobehavioral Health, through the College of HDD and a minor in Civic and Community Engagement. I've been working on a second major through the School of Music but haven't formally selected a degree because I recently switched my focus from piano performance to music composition. If I stick with this plan, I'll graduate in either December 2011 or May 2012.

**3. What made you decide to audition for EOJ? Tell us about your audition and/or when you found out you were in the group.**

My family was visiting campus for a tour and wanted to get into Atherton to check out the dorms. The girl who swiped us into the building was a former Essence member who found out about my interests and heavy involvement in my high school music and performing arts programs. She encouraged me to audition for the choral groups on campus and specifically noted Essence of Joy. I remember going into my audition and feeling incredibly intimidated, until I had to sing with Dr. Leach at the end of the audition. I suddenly recognized just how badly I wanted to be able to learn from him, as a both teacher and a musician, and was elated to be on the roster. My college experience would have been drastically different if it had begun any differently.

**4. You've performed frequently at home and on the road. Can you share a memorable experience with our readers?** I remember a discussion between a singer and an audience member after "Anticipation," during one of my early concerts. She had undergone some pretty traumatic experiences and additionally, in light of the progression of her terminal illness, had been struggling with the concept of death. She said our performance inspired her to such an extent that, were she to pass the next day, she would do so with closure and fulfillment. It's probably one of the most powerful moments and greatest compliments I've ever been witness to... certainly it's a testament to what we do.

## Contact the Board

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### **5. Many members of the choir have mentioned a favorite Dr. Leach quote and/or bit of advice. Can you share a particular favorite?**

Mmm...there are so many good ones! Early on, I remember him making a few poignant comments about what it means to be a truly engaged member of a community or family. He expressed the importance of always being the first to arrive and the last to leave, and made it clear that if you love someone you will literally be there for them...that there's a considerable difference between "sending" your love and "showing" your love by making someone a priority worthy of your physical presence and attention. I'm a technological socialite as much as anyone, but I think we sometimes take for granted the power of human connectedness. There's something to be said for the degree to which we take care of each other in a very genuine and distinctive way in Essence of Joy...this is what it's all about.

**6. Do you have a favorite EOJ song?** I don't think I have a favorite, but there are a few that stick out. I love "The Sun Will Never Go Down" because it has a raw and organic quality, which strikes audiences in a unique way. I'm also a sucker for "Use Me" (most recently featuring Christina Harrison and Gilbert Bailey as voices that rock the world), and "I Don't Know What You Come to Do" which is just pure sass.

**7. Now that you've been in the choir for a while, what do you wish you had known earlier.** I wish I had trusted my elders early on when they tried to teach me to relax a bit and live in the moment. I was so intimidated by the talent of the people around me and the closeness of the Essence family that I didn't take advantage of every moment I had to really get to know them and enjoy their company before some of them graduated. Now that I feel a lot older (and only a little wiser...) I'm more aware both of how much I love hanging out with all of Essence, and more painfully of how fast the time goes.

**8. I've often felt that Essence is like a family. Can you share a time when you felt the family dynamic?** Oy, too many to count; family dinners, backyard sports, shared clothing, spilled secrets...I felt it most recently on our resident choir tour this past May. Our new gang of freshman boys took the tradition of bus buddy gifting to a completely new level. At one point, I turned around to a wall of bubbles, play-doh eyeballs, and a likely-deserved Nerf disk to the face. It's nice to have some baby brothers around to keep things interesting, and refreshing to again have pirates on the back of the bus.

**9. If you had the opportunity to meet with any of the composers in the EOJ repertoire, who would you select and why?** I would love to meet Dr. Diane White-Clayton. She's a multidimensional artist and musician, and I feel her work has contributed to the EOJ repertoire in a variety of ways; the rhythm of "Clap Praise," the expressiveness of "My Heart Says Yes," the intensity of "Sweet By and By"...Compositionally, I'm really impressed by her ability to use subtlety and nuance in her writing to create really powerful passages.

**10. Aside from joining EOJAS, what are your plans after graduation?** I'm so anxious to join EOJAS...you guys are way too much fun! I recently decided to attend law school to pursue an interdisciplinary program that allows me to focus my studies on international affairs and global health, while continuing to pursue my musical interests. Not so secretly, my dream is to be a film score composer. All I know for certain is that I want to continue to travel, explore, and surround myself with great people!



## Do you Tweet?

Follow us on Twitter:  
<http://www.twitter.com/EOJAlumni>

## Life News

Got married? New baby on the way? Just graduated? The Joy would be happy to include your news and a photo in an upcoming issue. Just email [vpampr@eojas.org](mailto:vpampr@eojas.org).

## PSAA Group of Distinction

EOJAS was pleased to be recognized as a 2010 Penn State Alumni Association Group of Distinction. This recognition is all the more notable considering that EOJAS was formally accepted as an Alumni Interest Group only in Spring of 2010.



### Life Membership in PSU Alumni Association?

Are you interested in joining the Penn State Alumni Association as a Life Member? If so, please visit (<https://www.lionlink.psu.edu/member.nsf/4Life>), tick the box for Alumni Interest Groups, and scroll down to the Essence of Joy Alumni Singers (code ICB). For every new Life Member, the Alumni Association will make a donation to EOJAS. Unfortunately this donation is not retroactive and applies only to new lifetime members. Thank you for your support!

## Supporting EOJAS



EOJAS would love your support. Below are some ideas on how you can support EOJAS in our mission to learn, present, and promote African and African-American sacred and secular music in an effort to entertain, inspire, affirm and unify the worldwide community.

### Support EOJAS Financially

- The choir would greatly appreciate any financial support you are able to provide. EOJAS members are not compensated financially and we rely heavily on donations to grow as an organization. EOJAS is a tax-exempt organization as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Tax Code. All appropriate donations, contributions, bequests, transfers, devices, or gifts made to EOJAS on or after March 22, 2010 under sections 170, 2055, 2106, or 2522 of the Internal Revenue Code are fully deductible against federal income tax for U.S. residents and corporations registered in the U.S. While the choir prefers donations via check or money order, we gladly accept credit card or bank transfer donations via PayPal™, using the link below. If you have a question regarding donations to EOJAS, please contact our Vice President of Development and Fundraising at [vpdf@eojas.org](mailto:vpdf@eojas.org).

### Come See About Us

- Most EOJAS performances are open to the public. Our events are often ticketed, with tickets available for purchase at the door. Aside from subscribing to 'The Joy,' you can also check the News section on [eojas.org](http://eojas.org) for information about future performances.

### Follow EOJAS Online

- EOJAS is online at Facebook and Twitter. You can become a Fan of EOJAS on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Essence-of-Joy-Alumni-Singers/12853487133>
- You can follow our Tweets at [www.twitter.com/EOJAlumni](http://www.twitter.com/EOJAlumni)

## Next Issue?

Look for the next issue of The Joy in your email mailboxes and on the EOJAS Website in July, 2011.

### Tell Your Friends

- If you enjoyed your EOJAS performance, please invite your friends and family to join you for a future performance. We'd love to hear from them too. Please encourage them to become a Friend of EOJAS by going to [www.eojas.org](http://www.eojas.org) and entering their email address on our mailing list.

### Support EOJAS With Your Time

- EOJAS is always eager for pro bono assistance. If you have skills in a particular field that you feel could be of assistance to the choir on a pro bono bases, please email [info@ejas.org](mailto:info@ejas.org). If you are a lawyer who can assist with 501 (c) 3 issues, contracts, etc. we can use your help! If you are a graphic designer who can assist with marketing materials, we would like to hear from you. Do you have skills in grant writing or fundraising? We need that help too! Professional photographer or videographer with some extra film? Accountants and tax lawyers are always in need. Instrumentalists? We'd like to hear from you too. Thanks!

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## From the EOJAS Repertoire - The 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm

In this column, we discuss an EOJ and EOJAS favorite, the *23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm*. EOJAS performs a setting of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm that was featured in the 1996 film, "The Preacher's Wife."

As many of you know, the Psalms form the basis of many songs in the Jewish and Christian tradition. More than just beautiful poetry, for EOJAS and countless other groups, the 150 Psalms of the Bible represent song lyrics that are thousands of years old.

Seventy-three of the Psalms are attributed to King David, including the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm. For Christians, the image of God as a shepherd is also reflected in the Gospel of John, where Jesus is referred to as 'The Good Shepherd.' David himself was a shepherd and therefore the allusion to God as a shepherd shows his ability to draw upon his personal experience in creating this eloquent sacred poem.

The overall message from this Psalm is that God is there for His people in their times of struggle. As you read and perform this Psalm, remember the role each of us plays in providing that comfort and assurance to others

1. The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters.
3. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness, For His name's sake.
4. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.
5. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over (overflows)
6. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me, All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord FOREVER.

## Contact Us

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## QR Codes

EOJAS has recently introduced Quick Response codes (aka QR Codes) into our advertising and concert program materials. These codes, originally invented in Japan, are matrix barcodes that are readable by QR scanners, and camera-enabled mobile phones. The code consists of black modules arranged in a square pattern on white background. The information encoded can be text, URL or other data. If you have a phone with a QR code reader, then please scan the codes below.



## EOJ THON Team



EOJAS is proud to support the Essence of Joy Dance Marathon (aka THON) Team. Below is a message from their Thon chair. Please consider supporting their cause. For more information about THON and the Four Diamonds Fund, please visit [THON.org](http://THON.org)

Hello Family, Friends and Alumni of Essence of Joy, My name is Meagan Norman, and I am a senior at Penn State and member of the current edition of Essence of Joy.

For those of you who are alumni or affiliated with Penn State in any way, I'm more than certain you are aware of Penn State's Dance Marathon. For those of you who may not know, THON, the largest student run philanthropy in the world, is a 46-hour no sleeping, no sitting dance marathon that raises millions of dollars annually for children and families suffering from pediatric cancer.

In the past few years, EOJ has become an organization officially recognized by THON, and has continued to grow, gaining more members and raising more money each year. We have an adopted THON family, the Smiths, and have all had the opportunity to spend time with their courageous daughter, Lindsay. Lindsay is 16 years old, a bundle of energy, and most importantly a fighter - she has been battling cancer on and off for the last couple of years. We have

had the privilege of getting to know this family and we continue to be an emotional support for them.

Today, we are reaching out to our extended EOJ family in hopes that you will aid us in our efforts to continue fighting for this worthy cause. If you would like to make a contribution to the Four Diamonds Fund and THON 2011, you may make donations online at [www.THON.org](http://www.THON.org). Click on Donate Now in the right hand corner, fill out your info and then select "General Organizations." On the next page you will be able to select Essence of Joy as the organization on whose behalf you are donating.

If you prefer to donate in check or money form, please send your donations to Courtney Lope at 600 North Allen Street, State College PA 16803. Please make checks payable to Penn State Dance Marathon, (Essence Of Joy #1206, in the memo section).

Remember, every penny, dime, and dollar counts towards helping to save the lives of children who are fighting a constant battle. We thank you in advance for your love and support!

All the best,  
Meagan Norman

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## It's a Girl! And a Girl!



The Joy would like to wish special congratulations to EOJAS member Marielle, who recently adopted two beautiful twin girls from Malawi. This 29-year-old single woman has just begun the journey on an amazingly inspirational life-changing event. Marielle came to Malawi in July as a volunteer with a clean water initiative and during her time there felt God calling her to adopt not one, but TWO 14-month girls. For additional information, read her very personal and emotional Blog entry here: <http://mariellebevan.wordpress.com/>

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Look for the Next Issue of  
The Joy in July, 2011