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*Whim 'n Rhythm*  
2804 Yale Station New Haven, CT 06520

Kelly M. Askew  
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Kathryn A. Parker  
Colette Sartor  
Lisanne Sartor  
Wendy P. Wilkins

February 10, 1988

Dear Whim'n Rhythm alumna:

Each year, the new members of Whim'n Rhythm bring their individual personalities to the group, thereby continuing Whim's tradition as a unique representation of women's talents and abilities. Whim'n Rhythm of 1988 is proud to represent this tradition. We believe it would be strengthened even further through certain revisions of the original Whim charter. After discussing these ideas at great length, we decided to propose them to each of our alumnae so that they could be implemented in the charter.

As you consider each of our suggested revisions, please remember, our intention is not to change the ideas and beliefs upon which Whim was founded. Indeed, we would not be members of Whim if we did not value these ideas and beliefs. However, we believe our revisions are important in order to preserve the charter's basic premise and still reflect woman's ever-changing role in society. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of the original charter, a copy of our proposed charter, with the suggested revisions in boldface, and a list explaining each of our revisions. We ask that you read our proposed charter in its entirety before examining our explanations so that you get a general feeling for it as a whole.

As stated in the charter itself, revisions can be implemented upon the positive vote of at least three-quarters of the current and responding alumnae. We have enclosed a postcard itemizing each revised area, enabling you to consider each section separately, as well as facilitating your response. We hope you will also respond with a letter elaborating on your thoughts concerning our proposal, be those thoughts criticism, praise, or both. We value your opinion, both as an alumna and as an intelligent, concerned woman. We know you will want the strength and vitality of the Whim'n Rhythm tradition to continue to grow as much as we do.

Thank you for considering our proposal.

Sincerely,

Whim'n Rhythm of 1988

Enc.

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Rachel Monfredo  
Kathryn A. Parker  
Colette Sartor  
Lisanne Sartor  
Christa F. Soell

Dear Whim 'n Rhythm Alumnae:

At last, Whim of '88 surfaces from rehearsals and studies to greet our illustrious forbears! Boy, have we been working hard. We want to be busy this year, and, so far, we have been.

The big Parents' Weekend Jam with the Whiffs was extremely well-attended and enthusiastically received. We performed old favorites and new tunes, with the usual witty banter between songs, and for the grand finale the Whiffs joined us on stage in a coed mega-shoe for a collaborative number. The piece was a folksong called "Soldier Boy," arranged by the two pitchpipes. It went over fabulously; I'm sure we'll be doing it again from time to time.

So now we're good and psyched for the Hahvahd Jam - The Game is home this year, so The Jam will be too. Don't miss it if you're going to be up New Haven way! We'd love to see y'all! The big day is Saturday, November 21. Whim and Whiff alums sit up front, so you're guaranteed good seats.

Of course, we'd love to hear from y'all, too. Tours are in the planning stages and contact suggestions are a BIG HELP. We're looking at the Chicago area for the first half of January, the Southern Route (you know - NH-FLA and points in-between) for March, and the Far East - Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan - for the summer. Please help us in any way you can to carry that inimitable Whim style to music-lovers everywhere.

Whether or not you can help us with contacts, do drop a note our way and let us know what's up with you out there in the Real World. Especially if you've changed your address or are spending a year under an assumed name for tax purposes. I'm playing with the idea of opening up this here little

newsletter as a communications channel for y'all - for finding errant pals, broadcasting special bits of news, etc.

Incidentally, my name is Sam and I'm the official Contactor of Ye Revered Alums. I'll be writing the newsletter and telling you about who we are and what we're doing. I won't hit you up for money, though. We have fundraisers for that!

We also have a powerhouse pitch. Judi Kraft is an alum (and last year's pitchpipe) of Something Extra and has put in three years with Frosh Chorus and Glee Club. She's added her own section to the newsletter, so, without further ado, here are some

## NOTES FROM THE PITCHPIPE:

As is always true with singing groups, we are in search of new arrangements. Many of you wrote arrangements while you were in Whim; we would gladly welcome any more you might write in your "spare time." I have enclosed a list of styles/artists that we are particularly interested in, but please feel free to choose others. We especially would like jazz or other upbeat styles. Thanks for your help; I look forward to hearing from you!

## NOTES FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER:

To reserve tickets for the Harvard Jam, send a check to 2804 Yale Station and they'll be waiting at the box office. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for students.

Records and cassettes are available at \$10 each. Miscellaneous financial support is always appreciated, of course!

Hope to see you soon!

## Explanations of the Revisions

### Principles and Premises

1) In this section, we have added the phrase **lyrics and introductions** to the statement that Whim members should "search for arrangements and arrangers that effectively use the strong points of women's ensemble." While a small addition, we believe further specifications for the guidelines Whim members should use when searching for new songs were necessary.

We altered the parenthetical "(i.e. the walking bass line or toom, toom, etc.)" because many of the songs that have been added to the repertoire over the years have used such methods effectively, without being unflattering to the medium of women's voices.

2) We have suggested these simple revisions in order to clarify the ideas presented in this portion of the charter.

3) This portion of the charter is the most inspiring of the "Principles and Premises" of Whim. However, as we stated in our cover letter, in order to preserve the charter's basic premise and still reflect woman's ever-changing role in society, we have suggested revisions in this section as well. Due to Whim's example, the women's singing groups at Yale have made a conscious effort to avoid and even alter lyrics that suggest a one-dimensional portrait of woman. They now pursue songs, introductions, etc. that emphasize woman's many-faceted nature. For these reasons, we believe that phrases and statements like "Typical lyrics speak (to men) of the romantic desirability of a beautiful woman (and occasionally the converse) of the conniving of women to trap a man (preferably a Yale man), etc." and "We are bored and offended by the unoriginality and narrowness of the repertoire in general" are no longer applicable. We have suggested other statements we believe are more representative of the atmosphere in which the women's singing groups at Yale now perform.

### Choosing the Group, Officers, Duties and Details

The revisions we suggest here are self-explanatory and reflect changes in the group that have occurred gradually since 1980.

# Whim 'n Rhythm

## Charter

### Introduction

After numerous discussions with Yale women singers in the fall of 1980, it was decided that there was a need for a new kind of women's singing group. We, the founders of Whim'n Rhythm, have decided to make our group an alternative to the present tradition of women's close harmony at Yale, and, we hope, to fill the need that many women, both in and outside the tradition itself, perceived. We offer this alternative to the classes that follow in the hopes that other women will agree with our assessment of the current situation, share our ideas of how we can affect the future, and gain satisfaction, enjoyment, and friendship through their effort.

### Principles and Premises

1) Musical considerations should come first, as the primary purpose of the group is communication through song. Search for arrangements, arrangers, **lyrics and introductions** that effectively use the strong points of women's ensemble. Be critical. Challenge both the group's musical potential and that of your arrangers. Feel free to reject arrangements or to suggest changes in them. Avoid cliches in the tradition that sound good in men's groups but that do not translate well to women's groups (**i.e. fifty's medleys, etc.**) and don't be afraid to try new sounds or effects. The group cannot sound good if the songs we sing are unflattering to the medium of women's voices, but with good voices, good arrangements and good, hard practice, Whim will sound fantastic and be a lot of fun for all concerned.

2) We see the possibility of Whim becoming a unifying force for all the women's groups. It can provide incentive for the undergraduates to develop their skills **so they might have the opportunity to become** members of the senior group, a select group of talented and experienced singers. **Whim can be an experience that undergraduate women look forward to and learn from.**

Rivalry has too often, unfortunately, caused bad feelings between and factioning of the women's groups and their members. We hope that the mingling of women from all the groups and those from outside the singing group population will foster the communication necessary for understanding, mutual help and respect, and a stronger sense of community. We do, after all, have at least one thing in common.

3) Last, but not least, **Whim'n Rhythm** should promote and reflect the dignity of women and women's experience. **Traditional** singing group lyrics limit the portrayal of women's experience to the romantic. We feel that there is much more to be said about being a woman - and many more spheres of human experience than the romantic. **This is not to say that romantic songs should not be considered as additions to Whim's repertoire, since romantic songs do reflect one aspect of woman's nature. However, it is Whim's responsibility to make sure that such songs, and indeed, all of the songs in Whim's repertoire, also reflect woman's inherent dignity, a dignity that Whim is proud to represent. In this way, we believe our repertoire will present diversified perspectives, while at the same time upholding a newer, stronger tradition of women's singing.**

Some may label the above a feminist point of view. Others may agree with the sentiment and reject the label. What it is called is does not really matter. What does matter is that members of Whim understand that this is one of the main reasons the group was formed. It is our intent that Whim be a group that, through its excellence and example, shows that women can be entertaining and funny without demeaning themselves. All the group's major decisions should be made with this in mind.

#### Choosing the Group

- 1) An effort should be made to include Juniors both from the singing groups and from outside the tradition. However, talent should be first priority, representation second.
- 2) New members are to be selected on the basis of audition. All prospective members should read the Principles and Premises section of the charter to insure that they understand Whim's raison d'etre. The audition should test for range, ear training, sight reading and blend. It should be given by the pitch with all of the other members present, taking notes.
- 3) The maximum number of singers is to be **fourteen (14)**. The current group has option of choosing a smaller number if **fourteen** qualified singers cannot be found in the spring. This leaves the new group with the task of filling the empty spots with those who have taken leaves of absence or were overlooked by the parent group.
- 4) New members will be notified of their acceptance into Whim'n Rhythm **the morning of the Zeta Psi Jamboree via a letter written by the parent group. Auditionees who are not accepted into the group**

**will also be notified at this time.** This is traditionally the last jamboree of the year and was the occasion of Whim's first public appearance. **Public announcement of the new members will be made by the parent group at this jamboree. The new members will then join the parent group to sing "The Hammond Song."**

### Officers

**The officers to be appointed by the parent group are the Pitchpipe and the Business Manager. Other officers, such as the Historian, the Alumnae Contact, the Treasurer, Tour Managers, Record Managers, Fundraisers, etc. will be appointed as needed by the new group.**

### Duties

**Pitchpipe:** Musical director of Whim'n Rhythm and leader of the group. She has final say in all matters of a musical concern.

**Business Manager:** She is in charge of singing engagements and the general finances of the group. A file should be kept of all business transactions and contacts made during the year, making the job of future managers a little easier. The Pitch and Business Manager work very closely with each other and must agree on all major decisions other than musical ones.

**Historian:** Her duties include recording events in the life of Whim. For example, she should save posters, programs, newspaper clippings, and cataloging them in an orderly fashion.

**Alumnae Contact:** She will be responsible for sending out to all alums the Whim'n Rhythm newsletter to keep everyone up to date on the progress of the group.

### Details

**Logo:** The original logo consisted of Whim'n (regular type) Rhythm (italic type) with "A Senior Women's Singing Group" in smaller italic type below and centered, to the left of which is the drawing of a hand holding a magnifying glass (meant to somewhat resemble a women's symbol) up to a section of "The Hammond Song."

**Over the years, this logo has evolved into one that consists of the name "Whim'n Rhythm" in stylized type. It appears at the top of the first page of this charter.**

The Hammond Song: The "Group Song" that shall be sung last at all concerts. Any alums in the audience should be invited to join the current group at this time.

Newsletter: This will be an up-date for previous members on the current goings-on of Whim. It should include any information of interest such as tours, recordings, etc. This is potentially a good place for the current group to solicit help of any kind from its predecessors.

### Revising the Charter

Revision may occur with a combined vote of three-quarters (3/4) of current and responding alumnae members. Proposals for any revision must be sent out to all alums and two months allowed for response, as many will undoubtedly be in remote areas of the globe. If current addresses are not on file with the group, permanent addresses are on file at the Yale Alumni Office.

GOOD LUCK !!!!