

## Renowned a cappella group, the Yale Whiffenpoofs, to perform free concert at Eau Gallie Yacht Club; physician Adam Oppenheimer once toured with group

By Ken Datzman

Spring is coming and some Ivy Leaguers are heading to the Space Coast.

Specifically, a group of 14 musically talented Yale students who are carrying on a more than 100-year-old tradition at the New Haven, Conn., school will be showcasing their skills in the surroundings, fittingly, of a yacht-club environment.

Their concert attire includes white tie, black tails, and white gloves.

The storied Yale Whiffenpoofs, touted as the “world’s oldest and best-known collegiate a cappella group,” will perform from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11, at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club in Indian Harbour Beach.

The concert is free of charge and open to the public. To make a reservation for the event, call 727-3223 or send an e-mail message to [RSVP@DrClevens.com](mailto:RSVP@DrClevens.com).

The concert is being presented by Dr. Ross Clevens and his wife Dani Clevens, and Dr. Adam Oppenheimer, who in 2001 was a member of the Whiffenpoofs and will be joining them on stage toward the end of their performance that evening. All three are graduates of Yale University.

Dr. Clevens and Dr. Oppenheimer are plastic surgeons practicing at Clevens Face and Body Specialists, with their flagship office in Melbourne.

The Clevens’ founded Face of Change, a charitable foundation whose mission is to feed the hungry and provide medical care to the needy in both Central Florida and east Africa, and this concert will benefit their organization.

“We are not charging for entry into the concert,” said Dani Clevens, who met her husband at Yale. “We’re hoping we will have a nice cross-section of people turn out to see the Whiffenpoofs and that these people will buy raffle tickets for the items that have been donated. And we’re hoping they will support Face of Change through donations at the event.”

She added, “The Whiffenpoofs put on a show. They don’t just stand there and sing. They are full of personality.”

Each year, 14 senior Yale men are selected to be Whiffenpoofs. “They are picked from among dozens and dozens of potential candidates,” said Dr. Oppenheimer. “Each group selects its successor group. There is no faculty involvement. There are no administrators. This is a student-only run group.”

He will be hosting half of the 14-member contingent at his home for this event. “I did get permission from my wife,” he said. Dr. Karina Oppenheimer is a clinical psychologist.

The Yale students compete in the spring of their junior year to be part of the Whiffenpoofs. Their best-known alumnus may be Cole Porter (1891-1964), who sang in the 1913 lineup. The group often performs Porter songs in tribute.

Porter grew up in Peru, Ind., and went on to graduate from Yale, and for a brief period after, attended Harvard Law School and Harvard School of Music.

A prolific songwriter, he wrote 300 songs while at Yale, according to J.X. Bell’s “Cole Porter Biography,” including the school’s fight song, “Bulldog.”

In all, the famous composer and lyricist penned nearly 800 songs and 24 musicals. Some of Porter’s well-known songs, now standards, are “I Get a Kick Out of You,” “Begin the Beguine,” “I’ve Got You



BBN photo — Adrienne B. Roth

The storied Yale Whiffenpoofs will perform on Tuesday, March 11, at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club in Indian Harbour Beach. Each year, 14 senior Yale men are selected to be Whiffenpoofs. They tour worldwide. Dr. Adam Oppenheimer, left, is a former Whiffenpoof. He practices at Clevens Face and Body Specialists, with Dr. Ross Clevens, right. Dani Clevens, center, and Dr. Clevens founded Face of Change. The three are Yale graduates. This concert will benefit Face of Change.

Under My Skin,” Let’s Do It, Let’s Fall in Love,” “In the Still of the Night,” and “Anything Goes.”

Yale has few fraternities but many singing groups on campus, making it different from the typical collegiate atmosphere.

“Music and the arts are a centerpiece of Yale culture,” said Dr. Oppenheimer.

Over the decades, the Whiffenpoofs have performed in front of audiences in the U.S. and abroad. The venues have included Carnegie Hall in New York City, Broadway’s Lincoln Center, the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif., and the White House. They have appeared on such television shows as “60 Minutes,” “The West Wing” and “Jeopardy!”

The Whiffenpoofs generally book some 200 concerts each year. Many of the students take part of the year, or even the full year, off from their

classes at Yale to tour with the group.

“We rehearsed every day,” said Dr. Oppenheimer, who traveled worldwide with the group just before he started medical school. The 2002 Whiffenpoof tour started in California, he said. “We went to Hawaii, Japan, China, Thailand, Hong Kong, Turkey, Austria, and Spain. The traveling is an education in itself. And I think it’s the best kind of education — learning about all these different cultures.”

Dr. Oppenheimer, who specializes in surgery of the breast and body, said the Whiffenpoofs drew their largest crowds in Tokyo and Hong Kong. He estimates that 1,000 people filled an auditorium in Tokyo to watch their performance.

“We have a lot of fans. There is a lot of interest

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in the Whiffenpoofs. In each of those places we toured around the world, there are Whiffenpoof expatriates. They know the songs. They know the lore of the Whiffenpoofs."

Their repertoire features a diverse selection of songs, ranging from traditional Yale songs to original compositions to hits from every decade.

They include "Down by the Salley Gardens," "Bright College Years," "I Only Have Eyes for You," "Time After Time," "Too Darn Hot," and "I'll Be Seeing You," one of the great songs of World War II, with music by Sammy Fain and lyrics by Irving Kahal.

"Today, that song (I'll Be Seeing You) almost brings a tear to my eye," said Dr. Oppenheimer.

Perhaps the group is best known for its signature "The Whiffenpoof Song," which is its traditional closing number.

The origin of this song can be traced to a 1907 winter trip by the Yale Glee Club, when two of the group's founding members created a humorous adaptation of the Rudyard Kipling poem, "Gentleman Rankers."

The "Whiffenpoof Song" goes like this: "To the tables down at Mory's, to the place where Louis dwells, to the dear old Temple Bar we love so well sing the Whiffenpoofs assembled, with their glasses raised on high and the magic of their singing cast its spell."

In the hundred years since, each class of Whiffenpoofs has sung this song at the end of every concert as a celebration of brotherhood and tradition.

Dr. Oppenheimer said he has been vocalizing a bit to

prepare for the moment when he rejoins the group at the Eau Gallie Yacht Club for The Whiffenpoofs Song. "That should be exciting."

He added, "I think it's going to be an amazing event,

not only from the standpoint that the group is coming here but also that it's benefiting an amazing cause — Ross and Dani Clevens' Face of Change, which does both domestic and international community service."

## Health First names Paula Just chief human resources officer; relocating from St. Louis

ROCKLEDGE — Health First has named Paula Just as its chief human resources officer. Just has 27 years experience in health care human resources. She most recently served as network vice president of human resource effectiveness at SSM Health Care Corp. in St. Louis.

Just began her career at St. John's Mercy Medical Center as a compensation and benefits analyst in 1986. Since that time, she has held the position of manager of compensation and benefits, human resource director and regional recruitment director. In addition to St. John's Mercy Medical Center, she also worked for established health systems such as Tenet Healthcare and Missouri Baptist Medical Center, and as an adjunct professor for Webster University.

Just earned her master's in business administration with a focus on human resources and has a Green Belt Certification in Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI). She is also a certified CQI coach and facilitator, and a member of the Society for Human Resource Management.

Founded in 1995, Health First is Central Florida's only fully integrated health system and employs more than 7,500 people. The organization owns and operates four hospitals in the region — Holmes Regional Medical Center in Melbourne, Palm Bay Hospital, Cape Canaveral Hospital in Cocoa Beach and Viera Hospital.

## Pritchard House to host Women's History Month events

In celebration of Florida Women's History Month in March, the Historic Pritchard House in Titusville will host a "Women's Vintage Clothing Exhibit" with clothing and accessories dating from 1884 to the 1950s. This will be a month-long exhibit. The Pritchard House's address is 424 S. Washington Ave. Exhibit tours will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday and evenings, for \$15 per person. Reservations are required. Call Barb Hoelscher at 268-5888 or Roz Foster at 267-4480 for tour reservations. Other events are scheduled including an "Afternoon Tea on the Porch" at 2 p.m. on March 15.



**CAN-GINEERING**  
Brevard County Catholic Schools  
**FOOD DRIVE**

**Food Items of need:**

Tuna	Peanut butter
Chicken	Jelly
Pork and beans	Dried/powdered milk
Chef Boyardee pastas	Macaroni and cheese
Spaghetti sauce	Vegetables
Boxed pasta	Corn/Beans

## Brevard County Catholic Schools Host First Annual Can-gineering Design & Food Drive Festival

**Join Us**  
on April 12, 4 - 10 PM at  
Melbourne Central Catholic  
High School Stadium

Can-gineering Festival features: Catholic school students' canned food sculptures contest, youth activities, delicious food from area restaurants, live music, and entertainment.

You can help make a difference. Donate canned/boxed foods to your local Catholic school office March 1 - April 11, 2014. All canned food collected benefits Catholic Charities and parishes' food pantries in Brevard County.

**For more information, visit**  
[BrevardCatholicSchools.org/can-gineering](http://BrevardCatholicSchools.org/can-gineering).