

THE YALE WHIFFENPOOFS OF 2006 – FOR RELEASE

Every year, fourteen senior men are selected to be in the Yale Whiffenpoofs, the world's oldest and most famous *a cappella* group. Founded in 1909, the "Whiffs" began as a senior quintet that met for concerts at Mory's Temple Bar, the renowned Yale tavern that dates back to 1849. Cole Porter, Yale Class of 1913, highlights the list of noteworthy Whiffenpoof alumni, which also includes Senator Prescott Bush, father of former President George H.W. Bush.

"The Whiffenpoof Song," the group's signature ballad, gained nationwide recognition when Rudy Vallee (Whiffs of 1927) recorded a solo version in the 1930s. Later, Louis Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald (made an honorary Whiffenpoof in 1979), Bing Crosby, and Elvis Presley followed suit with their own recordings.

Today, the group has become one of Yale's most celebrated and hallowed traditions, carrying on almost a century of musical excellence and professional showmanship at Yale, across America, and around the world. In recent years, satisfied clients have included hotels, corporations, and the likes of Presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton, Mother Theresa, and the Dalai Lama, in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Rose Bowl, and for events such as the World Series, *Saturday Night Live*, NBC's *Today Show* and *The West Wing*. *A cappella* arrangements of jazz standards, classic ballads, traditional Yale songs, and recent popular hits continue to delight audiences all over the world.

The Whiffenpoofs maintain a performance schedule of over 200 concerts annually, in addition to recording an album and embarking on a 17-week world tour. The Whiffenpoofs are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that supports a worldwide children's literacy campaign and educates students about music and a cappella singing.

(Digital or printed photographs of the Whiffenpoofs available upon request.)