

After a hustling and bustling October, November was a chance for SBSB to slow down, to improve on blending and learning our music and to relax and have fun together. Our practices started to have more structure to them, but this only allowed us to have more fun during our breaks and “jam sessions.” We put together “Come Thou Fount,” which now sounds phenomenal after several sectionals and octets, which revealed our problem spots and also helped us blend better. Originally, everyone was frustrated when Amy passed the music out because it was so traditional and difficult, but by the end of the month, we had mastered the beautiful arrangement and admitted that Amy was right, something we probably should’ve guessed all along. We continued working on our old repertoire as well, but in more exciting news: we began learning music for our Christmas concert with Sapphire, which seemed to put everyone in a good mood as holiday music has a tendency to do. Even though it wasn’t even Thanksgiving, we got into the groove of “The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy,” and “Away in a Manger!”

On Saturday, November 15th, SBSB had a mini-practice and then traveled to the Erwin Gardens Nursing Home right off of Duke’s campus to do a concert for the elderly and to play some bingo! Despite the dry acoustics and inability to hear each other very well, the residents obviously loved the performance and just the fact that we were there with them. One particular woman, Charlotte Davis, was adorable and just loved playing Bingo with Karmel even though she couldn’t see her own board. She didn’t stop smiling the entire time, and she even knew the words to “Lord Bless” and hugged us goodbye (several times!) The nursing home also donated money to SBSB, so on all fronts it was an afternoon very well spent.

Our semester social event happened on Saturday, November 22nd when eight of us went to see UNC’s co-ed Christian a cappella group, Pslam 100, in their annual winter concert. We ventured onto enemy territory, ate dinner on Franklin Street and were impressed by not only Psalm 100 and their musicality and inspiring message but by the talent of the Cleffhangers, UNC’s version of The Pitchforks. After, we discussed the concert, so it was both a musically fulfilling and important learning experience. To wrap up the month, on our last practice before Thanksgiving break, we wrote what we were thankful for after meditating over verses of thanks. Minxi’s great poem really encompassed our thankfulness:

*A family full of joy and love
Sent to me from God above
Friends who are loyal and true*

*Who cheer me up when I'm blue
SBSB, which always makes me smile
Singing with y'all makes it all worthwhile
Challenges that help me to learn and grow
A God who is there through highs and lows
All thanks and praise to Him forever
From whose love I'll never be severed!*



A bunch of us before the Psalm 100 concert!