

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

## A Guide to the Capitol Hill Choral Society Records

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### Summary Information

**Repository**

Albany Institute of History & Art Library

**Creator**

Virginia Bowers

**Title**

Capitol Hill Choral Society Records

**Identifier**

MG 189

**Date**

1953-1987

**Physical Description**

3 boxes

**Physical Location**

The materials are located onsite in the Museum.

**Language of the Material**

English

**Abstract**

The collection contains audition posters for the years 1961-1984, performance posters for the years 1960-1987, the 1986 Albany High School 45th Anniversary Reunion program, 1969 reprints of Metropolitan Opera House Performance posters from 1907 and 1931, and four bound scrapbooks which contain letters, newspaper clippings, thank you letters, organization constitution, outline of plans for organization, photographs of performances and rehearsals.

## Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Capitol Hill Choral Society Records, 1953-1987, MG 189. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, Albany, New York.

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## Conditions Governing Access and Use

### Restrictions on Access

None

### Copyright

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## Immediate Source of Acquisition

Accession: # LIB.2008.059

Accession Source/Date: Virginia Bowers, 2008

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## Processing Information

Processed by R. Luedtke, February 2010; finding aid updated by H. Cox, June 2021.

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## Biographical/Historical

The Capitol Hill Choral Society is a mixed choral group created by Judson Rand (conductor) in spring 1953, with its premiere performance on Dec. 18, 1953. An organizational meeting was held on March 24th 1953, and the first attendance was taken at the April 21st rehearsal. The Society started its publicity with Mr. Rand being interviewed on the radio regarding the newly formed group, and an "open to the public" rehearsal at which time members worked on several excerpts from Handel's *The Messiah*

*and Faure Requiem*, which were being prepared for the concerts the following season. Constitutions for the newly formed society were given out at the October 6th meeting.

The Society's constitution from 1953, states that it was created to educate both the members of the organization and the outside community through the study and artistic presentation of choral music of the highest quality. In order to become a member a person must attend at least three rehearsal periods. The officers of the Society were a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Concert Secretary, Financial Secretary, Librarian, and a Historian. All officers were to be elected by ballot at the annual meeting for the term of one year and entered their duties at once. No officer was to serve more than two consecutive terms in a position. Rehearsals were to be held on every Tuesday commencing the second Tuesday in September and ending the second Tuesday in June except on Holidays and special occasions, with special rehearsals being held when deemed necessary by the conductor. Business meetings were held following rehearsals when deemed necessary by the President, with the annual business meeting held in June.

The Choral Society gave at least three performances for which there was admission charged. Members were required to attend five consecutive rehearsals preceding any public performance in order to participate in the performance. In order to be considered an active member in the Society, each member was required to participate in at least two concerts each season. All members were expected to pay dues to the society, at one point there was a separate amount for regular members and student members. Dues were to be paid in full at the beginning of the year, or in an installment plan suitable to the individual member. If there was a default in the payment of dues for four months, membership was automatically suspended until all financial obligations were met.

In addition to its member count of 85 to 100 persons, the organization frequently had guest performers from New York City. The Society performed operas, and many types of musical orations, and tended to perform the Messiah every December.

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## Scope and Contents

The majority of materials within are membership posters or performance posters about the Capitol Hill Choral Society. There are also four scrapbooks that contain newspaper articles and clippings, as well as photographs, programs, and letters pertaining to the Society.

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## Contents List

The following section contains a listing of the materials in the collection.

**Description**

**Box Folder**

Audition Posters		
1961-1970	1	1
1972-1984		2
Performance Posters		
1960-1962		3
1963-1966		4
1967-1969		5
1970-1973		6
1974-1976		7
1977-1979		8
1980-1982	2	1
1983-1987		2
undated		3
Albany High School 45th Anniversary Reunion Program, 1986		4
Scrapbook page with Albany Light Opera Company program, undated		5
Reprint of Metropolitan Opera House Poster from 1931 performance of Lucia Di Lammermoor, 1969		6
Reprint of Metropolitan Opera House Poster from 1907 performance of Madame Butterfly, 1969		7
Dark Brown Scrapbook, 1953-1958		8
Teal Scrapbook, 1968-1969 (incomplete)		9
Brown Scrapbook, 1964-1968	3	1
Emerald Green Scrapbook, 1970-1972		2