

ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

A Guide to the Capitol Hill Choral Society Papers

Collection Summary

Collection Title: Capitol Hill Choral Society Papers

Call Number: MG 189

Creator: Virginia Bowers

Inclusive Dates: 1953 - 1987

Bulk Dates:

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.

Quantity:

Administrative Information

Custodial History: These items were donated by Virginia Bowers.

Preferred Citation: Capitol Hill Choral Society Papers, MG 189, Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

Acquisition Information:

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Accession Date: Unknown

Processing Information:

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Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: None

Restrictions on Use: Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

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Organizations

Capitol Hills Choral Society

Subjects

Music
Members
Albany, NY

Places

Cathedral of All Saints
Cathedral of The Immaculate Conception
Chancellors Hall
Cohoes High School
Emmanuel Baptist Church (Guild Hall)
Empire State Plaza Convention Center
Mercy High School
Palace Theatre
Philip Schuyler Auditorium
Philip Schuyler Elementary School
Philip Schuyler Concert Hall
Siena College Gibbons Hall
St. Peter's Guild House
St. Peter's Church
St. Vincent De Paul Church
Temple Israel Main Sanctuary
Third Reformed Church
Trinity Methodist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Document Types: Organization constitution, organization outline, pamphlets, photographs of performances and rehearsals, news clippings, progress reports (minutes), letters to members, letters to editors, reviews, events calendars, programs, WRGB Television transcription Nov 12 1955, NY World Fair Certificate 1964-1965, list of

active members 1953-1976, thank you letters, audition posters 1962-1985, event posters 1960-1987, bound scrapbook

Titles

None

History of

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 were 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.

Scope and Contents of the Papers

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.

Organization of the Papers

Related Material

None

Separated Materials

None

Other Finding Aids

None

Detailed Description of the Records/Papers/Collection

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

Series # [#] . Series Title [title]

Box #	Folder #	Item #. Title / Description
1	1	Audition Posters 1961-1970
1	2	Audition Posters 1972-1984
1	3	Performance Posters 1960-1962
1	4	Performance Posters 1963-1966
1	5	Performance Posters 1967-1969
1	6	Performance Posters 1970-1973
1	7	Performance Posters 1974-1976
1	8	Performance Posters 1977-1979
2	9	Performance Posters 1980-1982
2	10	Performance Posters 1983-1987
2	11	Performance Posters without a year listed
2	12	Albany High School 45th Anniversary Reunion Program 1986
2	12	Scrapbook page with Albany Light Opera Company program
2	12	1969 Reprint of Metropolitan Opera House Poster from 1931 performance of Lucia Di Lammermoor
2	12	1969 Reprint of Metropolitan Opera House Poster from 1907

	performance of Madame Butterfly
2	Dark Brown Scrapbook 1953-1958
2	Teal Scrapbook 1968-1969 (unfinished)
3	Brown Scrapbook 1964-1968
3	Emerald Green Scrapbook 1970-1972