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

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:
Accession #: LIB.2008.059
Accession Date: Unknown

Processing Information:
Processed by Robbilee Luedtke; completed on February 5, 2010.

Restrictions

Restrictions on Access: None
### Index Term

#### Persons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adkins, Paul Spencer</th>
<th>Brown, Marguerite</th>
<th>Davies, John R. S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aldrich, Gary</td>
<td>Brunell, Tina Parri</td>
<td>Davis, Patricia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aleschus, Ruth Ann</td>
<td>Bucci, Jane</td>
<td>Davison, Jack</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander, Carroll</td>
<td>Buchaca, Emilio</td>
<td>de Roos, Norma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexander, Ellen</td>
<td>Byrd, Louise</td>
<td>Deis, Jean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argyros, Maria</td>
<td>Cantrell, Scott</td>
<td>Deitrich, Grace</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aristo, Jan</td>
<td>Caplan, Joan</td>
<td>DeLa Garza, Rene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong, Louise</td>
<td>Carey, Mary</td>
<td>Densen, Irwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armstrong, Nancy</td>
<td>Carey, Wilhelmina C.</td>
<td>Derr, Emily</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aroe, Rosemary</td>
<td>Carragan, William</td>
<td>DeRuiter, Albert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asch, Adele</td>
<td>Carroll, Frank</td>
<td>DeVoll, Ray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asch, Robert</td>
<td>Carron, Elizabeth</td>
<td>Diacetis, Anthony, Rev.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asher, Christine</td>
<td>Cast, Loy</td>
<td>Dietsch, James W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atkiss, William</td>
<td>Chapman, Thomas</td>
<td>Dodd, David</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babakin, Natalie</td>
<td>Chepaitis, Marita</td>
<td>Dougherty, Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Babikian, Virginia</td>
<td>Cho, Philip</td>
<td>Drake, Willie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baldwin, John</td>
<td>Cinny, James</td>
<td>Dretvic, Martin, Fr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnard, Alvin</td>
<td>Clancey, Nova</td>
<td>Drew, Doris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barnard, Paul</td>
<td>Clark, Doris</td>
<td>Drozdal, Rita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beaupre, Josephine</td>
<td>Clark, Rae</td>
<td>Druke, Frances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beavon, Constance</td>
<td>Clark, Stephen</td>
<td>Du Pont, John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bell, Kenneth</td>
<td>Cleaves, Anne</td>
<td>Dutcher, Alice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benefield, Richard</td>
<td>Colligan, Sara</td>
<td>Dutton, Cynthia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bessmer, Alice</td>
<td>Comfort, Harriet</td>
<td>Eames, Harriet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best, Richard</td>
<td>Cook, Glen</td>
<td>Earl, Anna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackeby, Evelyn</td>
<td>Cornett, Stanley</td>
<td>Eckel, Fred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blatz, Susan</td>
<td>Courter, Raymond</td>
<td>Eldredge, Barbara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloom, Judy</td>
<td>Couves, Dorothea</td>
<td>Ellsasser, Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bogart, Marie</td>
<td>Couves, William</td>
<td>Esmond, Alice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boggs, Mary</td>
<td>Crawford, Iris</td>
<td>Farris, Judith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonner, Mary</td>
<td>Creighton, Martha</td>
<td>Fazah, Adib</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bowers, Virginia</td>
<td>Crist, Richard</td>
<td>Ferro, Daniel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brackett, Richard</td>
<td>Croom, James</td>
<td>Fitzpatrick, John, Rev.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradley, Bonnie</td>
<td>Curry, Corinne</td>
<td>Forgaes, Bonnie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brady, Jean</td>
<td>Dadd, Stephen</td>
<td>Fraser, Louise</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brigham, Jean</td>
<td>Danner, Harry</td>
<td>Fretwell, Dorrie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britton, David</td>
<td>Danzig, Patricia</td>
<td>Fuller, Marjory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brobyn, Virginia</td>
<td>Davidson, Nancy Jo</td>
<td>Gardner, Ann</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gavoorian, Joan
Girard, Valerie
Giuliano, Charlotte Roser
Godfrey, Batyah
Goeke, Leo
Gottschalk, Nathan
Graff, Anne
Gray, William
Grobe, Donald
Gustern, Josef
Hackert, Carl
Haldaman, Constance
Haley, Peter
Hall, David
Hall, Joyce
Hallenbeck, Jane
Hamilton, Margaret
Handy, Michael
Harding, Joy
Harms, Virginia
Hartzell, Ann
Haven, Sally
Havens, Charles
Hawkins, Terrence
Hayes, Marvin
Heard, Winifred
Heath, Milton
Henderson, Lynn
Henning, Abigail
Henning, Hortense
Herrmann, Albert
Hilborn, Jay
Hoaglund, Diana
Hoffmeister, Frank
Hollister, Clarence
Holmes, Leslie
Holt, Elizabeth
Hopkins, Dorothy
Horn, Cathryne
Horn, Julie
Horton, Jack
Hostetler, Gregory
Hostetler, Renee
Hostig, Susan
Houck, Bert
Houck, Robert
Howard, Mark
Howell, Hervey
Hubbell, Judy
Hughes, Claude
Hull, Ed
Hunt, Paul
Hupp, Rosalind
Irwin, Thyra
Jabbur, Kawther
Jackson, Helen
Jackson, Mrs. Andrew
Jamison, C. Ellen
Jenkins, Lucille
Jenkins, Volney G.
Jewell, Lyle
Johnson, Jean
Johnson, Leonard
Johnson, Richard
Jones, Fred
Jones, Robert Owen
Jordon, Betty Jane
Jornov, Mary Ann
Judd, Mary
Karlsrud, Edmond
Keenan, James
Kellis, Charles
Kelsey, Virginia
Kerner, Lisette
Kershenbrock, Joan
Khatchadourian, Sylvia
Killy, Marion
Kinnear, Patricia
Kirk, Allan
Kirk, Doris Stickles
Kirkham, Robert
Knapp, Clayton, Rev.
Kolesnikoff, Lee
Kontogiannis, Dorothea
Kopmar, Jerome B.
Kramek, William
Krause, Richard
La Ganke, Adrienne
Lakeway, Ruth
Lamere, Clifford
Landon, Gerald
Lapole, June
Lavender, Donna
Leberherz, Louis
Ledgerwood, Mary
Lee, Mary Esther
Lenehan, Richard
Leslie, John
Littlefield, Leah
Locke, Russell F.
Logan, Bradford
Loucks, Ann
Loucks, Constance
Lowe, Sherman
Lucas, Roger
Lynyard, Fred
Mack, Sally Sears
Macomber, Catherine
Mahigian, Leo
Malthouse, John
Manley, Douglas
Marcelli, Missa Papae
Marek, Dan
Mark, Frederick
Marshman, David
Massara, Harriet
Matzke, Calvin
May, Charles
McAlister, Olive
McBournie, Barbara
McCann, Mary K.
McClung, Marjorie
McDevitt, Kerry
McGill, Alan
McGill, Mary
McGrath, William
McKee, Richard
Melcher, Ritz Mary, Sr.
Melton, Albert
Memik, Lillian
Meskil, Alan
Metcalk, William
Meyerson, Janice
Miller, Joanne
Mills, Allen
Mintline, George
Mirritt, Helen
Moncrief, Robert
Montavon, Kathy
Moore, Helen
Morash, Barbara
Morcom, Joan
Morgan, Peter
Morris, James
Moser, Jeffery
Moser, Margot
Motisher, Marion
Motisher, William
Mount, William
Mullen, Joan
Murakami, May
Murphy, Kitty
Murphy, Michael
Myer, Gordon
Nisstad, David
Normile, Betsy
O’Connor, Tim
O’Neill, Elizabeth
O’Neill, Jack
O’Brien, Mary
Olcott, Robert
Olsen, Carl
Olsen, Carolyn
Onufrak, Marian
Opaloch, Jan
Osborne, Robert
Osmond, Stephen
Ossewaarde, Jack
Ostendorf, Jack
Owen, Chloe
Owen, Robert
Parella, John
Park, Nicholas
Payne, Charlotte
Peck, John
Peil, Mary Beth
Perrins, Valarie
Perry, Douglas
Peyton, Bruce
Philips, Linda
Pierson, Edward
Platt, Janice
Plume, David
Popiel, Laurence
Porrello, Joseph
Potts, J. Beverley
Potts, Lois
Pratt, Robert
Provenzano, Tony
Quinn, Mairin
Ragotzie, James
Ramey, Sam
Rand, Judson
Randall, Patricia
Ray, Ruth
Reeves, Rand
Reger, Richard, Mr & Mrs.
Reichl, Charles
Reilly, John
Rennie, Moir
Reynolds, Terry
Ring, Rhodric
Rodier, John
Rollings, Norman
Romero, Janice Wetmore
Rosen, Diana
Ross, Carla Cook
Ross, Patty
Rowley, Dorothy
Roy, Margaret
Ruether, Janet
Salon, Corine
Sawyer, Ann
Schmidt, Carolyn Val
Schontal, Helen
Schwartz, James
Scott, Eugene
Scott, Helen Farrell
Scott, Karen
Seabold, Nancy
Serwin, Violet
Shaffer, Kay
Sheehan, Robert
Sheffer, Patricia
Shelford, Elizabeth Herrick
Shelford, Robert
Shirley, George
Shulman, Judith
Silva, Leon
Smiley, Gladys
Smith, Edna
Smith, Katherine
Smith, Margaret
Smithlen, Charlotte
St. Pierre, Jo Mutch
Stalford, Ronald
Stasio, Janet
Stauffer, Morag
Stedman, Ted
Steinmann, Hildegard
Stowell, Faye
Stranley, Paul
Strasser, Terry
Stubbins, Helen
Sumner, William
Szczechpanek, Chris
Tate, David
Taylor, Myron
Ten Eyck, Leonard
Thomas, Ivan
Thomsen, David
Tobey, Eugene
Tompkins, Amy
Tompkins, Ethel Cermak
Toomey, Gerald
Toscano, Diana
Trueblood, Christopher
Turner, Ann Margaret
Van Wely, Richard
Van Wye, Benjamin
Vander Werf, Mark
Vernieu, John
Volk, Helen
Wainer, James
Walker, Charles
Wallace, Carol
Wallace, Dwight
Walters, Carole
Ward, Cornelia
Watthows, Tom
Weber, Carolyn
Webster, Eugene
Weiss, Stephanie
Wentzel, Andrew
White, Donald
Whitmyer, Cora
Wickenden, Lynn
Wilbert, Harlan
Wiles, John
Wilson, James
Wolhäupter, Alice
Wright, Ruth
Wright, Susan Standfast
Yervanian, Ann
Youtz, Carol Lynn
Zeppieri, Al

**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]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box #</th>
<th>Folder #</th>
<th>Item #, Title / Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Audition Posters 1961-1970</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Audition Posters 1972-1984</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Performance Posters 1960-1962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Performance Posters 1963-1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Performance Posters 1967-1969</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Performance Posters 1970-1973</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Performance Posters 1974-1976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Performance Posters 1977-1979</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Performance Posters 1980-1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Performance Posters 1983-1987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Performance Posters without a year listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Albany High School 45th Anniversary Reunion Program 1986</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Scrapbook page with Albany Light Opera Company program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1969 Reprint of Metropolitan Opera House Poster from 1931 performance of Lucia Di Lammermoor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>1969 Reprint of Metropolitan Opera House Poster from 1907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Description</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Dark Brown Scrapbook 1953-1958</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Teal Scrapbook 1968-1969 (unfinished)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Brown Scrapbook 1964-1968</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Emerald Green Scrapbook 1970-1972</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

performance of Madame Butterfly