Finding Aid

Oratorio Society of Baltimore (1880-1924) Collection

Descriptive Summary

Extent
Number of containers: 1 box
Linear feet: 0.25 lin. ft.
Date span: 1884-1908

Repository
Peabody Archives
Johns Hopkins University

Location
Archives stacks, second floor of the Friedheim Music Library

Processed by
Melissa Wertheimer (2011); Grace Minghsuan Tsai (March 2016)

Administrative Information

Accession Number
Unknown

Provenance
Unknown

Access
Materials in the Oratorio Society of Baltimore Collection are available for use by appointment, Monday through Friday from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm.

Publication Rights
All requests for permission to publish or perform materials in this collection must be submitted in writing to the Head Librarian.

Contact Information
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Biography

The history of the Oratorio Society of Baltimore is intricately linked to the Peabody Institute through the Society's music directors, members, and accompanists. The Oratorio Society was founded in 1880 by Baltimorean Otto Sutro (1833-1896). Sutro also founded the Wednesday Club, a music appreciation ensemble. The first performance of the Oratorio Society of Baltimore took place in 1882 in New York City at Theodore Thomas's May Festival.
The first Music Director was Fritz Fincke, a member of the Peabody Institute's voice faculty from 1879-1896. Asger Hamerik (1843-1923), second Director of the Peabody Institute and faculty member from 1871-1898, also served as Music Director. In 1894, Joseph Pache, a student of Max Bruch, succeeded until ca. 1918. Pache also founded the Women's Philharmonic Chorus. Harold Randolph (1861-1927), the Oratorio Society's organist, succeeded Hamerik as the Institute's third Director in 1898. Randolph studied piano at Peabody with Carl Faelten from 1882-1885, and was a member of the piano faculty from 1888-1898.

The Oratorio Society of Baltimore was the predecessor to the Handel Choir of Baltimore, which gave its first concert in 1934. The Handel Choir is an important part of Baltimore's musical life to this day.

Melissa Wertheimer

Scope and Content

This collection contains papers of the Oratorio Society of Baltimore from 1884-1908, including an incomplete run of concert programs from 1884-1903. (For programs from March 27, 1890, and November 25, 1891, see the Aloysius Reidinger Collection of Programs.)

Container List

Box 1

1. President’s Report, 1884 (financial review; photocopy)
2. Programs, 1884-1903 (incomplete)
3. Piano-vocal score of Max Bruch’s Das Lied von der Gocke (Berlin: Simrock, 1879) owned by George Gibson, president of the Oratorio Society. Pinned inside cover are two membership tickets from the 1886-87 season and one chorus seat check ticket marked, “Alto. Bench F. Seat 1.”
5. Souvenir booklet from the 1907-08 season. Contains reprinted photographs of Asger Hamerik (page 1) and Joseph Pache (page 2). Cover signed by Agnes Thurman.

Related Materials

Click here to view a picture from 1896 of the Oratorio Society of Baltimore in the Historic Images Collection.

Revised

6.27.2016 jk/jo