

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Music Department

**Title: Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA), Pittsburgh Chapter Collection**

Overview of the Collection

**Reference Code:** Pittsburgh Music Archive #34

**Creator:** Bob Brandl, Sr.

**Dates:** 1941 - 2003

**Extent:** 2 boxes

**Language:** English

**Repository:**

Music Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh-Main, 4400 Forbes Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213

**Acquisition Information:** Items donated to the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Music Department by Bob Brandl, Sr., a long-time active member of the Pittsburgh Chapter of SPEBSQSA.

**Copyright:** yes, for recordings

**Restrictions:** none

**Requested Citation:** Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA), Pittsburgh Chapter Collection, Pittsburgh Music Archive #34, Music Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

**Finding Aid Created by:** Joelle Killebrew

Notes on the Collection

**Historical Note**

Traditional barbershop quartets consist of four men singing a cappella in four-part harmony. The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA) began in 1938 and was divided into 16 geographical districts from the US and Canada. Maurice (Molly) E. Regan founded the Pittsburgh Chapter in 1941. The Pittsburgh Chapter was part of the Johnny Appleseed District, which included Ohio and portions of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Members were all men, and paid dues that went toward singing lessons, the chapter bulletin (Pitchburgh Press), the district newsletter (Cider Press), the international bi-monthly magazine (The Harmonizer), sheet music, recordings, an annual family picnic, a Christmas party, a lapel pin (shaped like a barber pole),

educational opportunities, participation in shows and singing competitions, and engaging in charitable fundraisers. The Society held annual conventions and competitions in different cities. Groups formed in the chapters would compete against each other.

### **Scope and Content Note**

- Pittsburgh chapter history
- Newspaper clippings
- List of charter members
- Photographs
- press articles
- Convention notes and files 1982, 1991, 1994
- Chapter directories 1994, 1998
- Newsletters
- Music Programs
- Correspondence
- Cassette tapes, 1998

### Container List

#### **BOX 1**

- **Folder 1**
  - Envelope containing chapter history, including history as recounted by Maurice E. Reagan, founder. Other correspondence, notes. etc.
- **Folder 2**
  - Handwritten notes
  - Newspaper article from the Pittsburgh Press (April 27, 1941) announcing formation of the Pittsburgh Chapter.
  - Newspaper clippings (April 28, 1941) from various newspapers announcing formation of the Pittsburgh chapter. Also included is an article on the "Sawdust Four" quartet.
  - List of charter members (taken from Pittsburgh Press article of April 27, 1941).
  - Typed list of charter members on Society letterhead.
  - Article from the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (October 20, 1941)
  - Copies of 5 photographs taken from the collection of Mr. John M. "Jiggs" Ward, baritone, of the 1948 International Quartet Champions - THE PITTSBURGHERS (some with names/information).
  - Advertisement for barber shop quartet program on April 11, 1953, at the Syria Mosque sponsored by the Society.
  - Article from August 1964 issue of the Cider Press detailing the 1964 international convention in San Antonio, Texas.
  - Article from August 1964 issue of The Cider Press listing recipients of the "Men of Note" awards including members of the Pittsburgh chapter.
  - Correspondence and history dated January 25, 1967, on Society letterhead.
  - Badge with Three Rivers Chorus chapter logo designed 1979
  - Envelope containing: Program for "A Harvest of Harmony" hosted by the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter on September 12, 1987; and, County of Allegheny Proclamation declaring September 12, 1987, as "Barber Shop Society Day."

- Correspondence/history dated April 4, 1994, from Jack Bagby to Bob Brandl, Sr. on Society letterhead.
- **Folder 3**
  - 1991 Convention – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary file
  - 1994 Convention file
- **Folder 4**
  - Chapter directories: 1994, 1998

## **BOX 2**

- **Folder 1**
  - 1982 Convention file
- **Folder 2**
  - Bob Brandl at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
  - Newsletters: The Pittsburgh Press: Official Bulletin of the Greater Pittsburgh, PA Chapter
  - Music Programs
  - Directories
  - News articles
  - Histories
  - Correspondence
- **Folder 3**
  - Cassette tapes, 1998

## See also:

- [Maurice Levy Oral History of Music in Pittsburgh Collection](#) - Interviews #9 and #91