

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Music Department

**Title: Jacob A. Evanson Collection**

Overview of the Collection

**Reference Code:** Pittsburgh Music Archive #7

**Creator:** Jacob A. Evanson (1899-1994)

**Dates:** 1937 - 1965

**Extent:** 6 binders and 4 volumes of bound folksongs

**Language:** English

**Repository:**

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

**Acquisition Information:** This collection was donated to Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

**Copyright:** none

**Restrictions:** none

**Requested Citation:** Jacob A. Evanson Collection, Pittsburgh Music Archive #7, Music Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

**Finding Aid Created By:** Mina Belle Wichmann, Joelle Killebrew

Notes on the Collection

**Historical Note**

Jacob Evanson was a Pittsburgh Music Educator, and a Pittsburgh (and PA) folk music expert. He was the Special Supervisor of Vocal Music, Pittsburgh Public Schools and Pittsburgh Board of Education (1937-1965).

**Scope and Content Note**

Binders and bound volumes of Evanson's collection of folk songs. Evanson's reports of his studies of folksongs and singing in Pittsburgh Public Schools.

**Arrangement Note**

These binders are miscellaneous in nature. There are no exclusive collections in any one binder. Various fields of interest can be found throughout.

## Container List

1. Binder #1: Folk songs representative of French, English, Appalachian Mountains, Negro (Leadbelly and others), Sacred Harp, American ballads, Early ballads from "Popular Music of Olden Times" by William Chappell; Shanty tunes, etc.
2. Binder #2: His folk song transcriptions from the Krepps MS.: James Taylor Krepps of Fayette City, PA (d.1901). Collection found at Senator John Heinz History Center, Pittsburgh, PA.
3. Binder #3: Songs representative of those sung at collegiate institutions such as Rhode Island State College (1917), Harvard, Brown, Dartmouth, etc. Also in this binder is a hand-written rebuttal of music critic Paul Henry Lang's review in the New York Herald-Tribune of composer Roy Harris's "Festival Folk Fantasy" of February 23 (1956?).
4. Binder #4: Folk songs representative of Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, Vermont, Virginia, Alabama, Newfoundland, and others. (Includes "The Twelve Days of Christmas" as found in John Jacob Niles "Ten Traditional Carols.")
5. Binder #5: Religious ballads; Spiritual folk songs of early America; Sacred Harp, "Trail" ballads; French folk songs.
6. Folksongs of Pennsylvania. Songs were included in a concert performed by high school students in a program in 1959.
7. "A Miscellaneous Collection of American Folk Songs Compiled for the Pittsburgh Public Schools." 1943.
8. "Some Western Pennsylvania Folksongs." Bound volume. Traditional folksongs found in Western Pennsylvania. Collected and used by the Dept. of Music, Pittsburgh Public Schools. 1946.
9. "The Pittsburgh Schools' experiment with the vernacular song; a review of ten years of activity. Presented by Jacob A. Evanson, Special Supervisor of Music, before the American Folklore Society meeting in conjunction with the American Anthropological Association." Dec. 28, 1946

10. "The breakdown and rejuvenation of the folksong-making tradition in Pittsburgh since the Civil War. A documentary presentation together with a report and index of the Mason Family Collection of Civil War Broadside Songs by Jacob A. Evanson, Special Supervisor of Vocal Music, Pittsburgh Public Schools."

See also

1. [Pittsburgh Music Information File](#)
2. [Jacob A. Evanson](#) in the CLP library catalog
3. [Maurice Levy Oral History of Music in Pittsburgh Collection](#): #3, #18, #19, #52, #55, #64, #77, #147
4. [\*Folksong making in Pittsburgh\*](#)