

Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, Music Department

**Title: Toerge Collection**

Overview of the Collection

**Reference Code:** Pittsburgh Music Archive #27

**Creator:** George Toerge and Frederick Toerge

**Dates:** 1874-1896

**Extent:** 1 box

**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

**Requested Citation:** Toerge Collection, Pittsburgh Music Archive #27, Music Department, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

**Finding Aid Created by:** Joelle Killebrew

Notes on the Collection

**Historical Note**

George Toerge: Sep. 4, 1840 - Mar. 17, 1909

Frederick Toerge: Feb. 17, 1850 - Apr. 12, 1915

Brothers George Toerge (1840-1909) and Frederick Toerge (1850-1915) were born in Darmstadt, Germany. They arrived in New York in 1854, then moved to Pittsburgh with their family. George helped establish the Great Western Band, active in the 1860s, and was the cornet soloist. The brothers organized and conducted Toerge's Orchestra, playing society weddings and other prominent functions around the region from the 1860s - 1900, including at the Penn Avenue home of their friend Andrew Carnegie. The Toerges introduced chamber music concerts to Pittsburgh with the Toerge Quartet. They founded the Germania Orchestra in 1874, the first prominent orchestra in Pittsburgh and forerunner of the Pittsburgh Orchestra. George was the conductor, Fred the concertmaster. The Germania Orchestra performed concerts and Gounod Club operas. Fred Toerge became the conductor of the Alvin Theater Orchestra in 1894.

**Scope and Content**

This collection contains photographs of the Germania Orchestra (with description) and the Alvin Theatre Orchestra, calling cards of Fred Toerge, 3 music programs of the Germania Orchestra 1874-1875, constitution of the Germania Orchestra, and a letter from Wm. G. Dietrich, 1896.

### Container List

#### **BOX 1**

- Photographs: Germania Orchestra; Alvin Theater Orchestra
- Calling cards of Fred Toerge (2)
- Programs (3) Germania Orchestra 1874-75
- Letter (1) from Wm. G. Dietrich, 1896
- Constitution of Germania Orchestra
- Copies of newspaper clippings

### See also

- Baynham, Edward G. [\*A History of Pittsburgh Music, 1758-1958\*](#)