

Guide to

MS 3

**Orpheus Male Chorus Records,
1929-1992**

Bulk Dates 1929-1992

7 linear feet, 2½ inches

Prepared by Lisa Gezelter
September 1997

Donation by David M. Kelly, President, Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix, in 1996.

Citation: Orpheus Male Chorus Records, 1929-1992, MS 3, Library and Archives,
Central Arizona Division, Arizona Historical Society.

Library and Archives
Arizona Historical Society
Central Arizona Division

HISTORICAL NOTE

In January, 1929, Phoenix voice teacher L. Douglas Russell conceived of the idea of an all-male chorus as a place for his students to perform. He enlisted the aid of Robert Munn, who played piano and organ for funeral homes in Phoenix. The first notice they posted attracted 15 to 25 men. They chose the name "Orpheus Men's Club" from the name of a Greek god associated with music. Ed Bradford became the first president, L. Douglas Russell the first director, and Robert Munn the first accompanist.

Raymond Marquis directed the chorus from 1930 to 1938, a period of sustained growth, high standards of musicianship and increased activities. He did not require auditions or any knowledge of music theory for membership. David Murdock became the next director, but left the chorus for military duty in 1941 and died in action in 1943. A series of directors succeeded, with Ralph Hess taking the position in 1946. He did require auditions and knowledge of music, but volunteered to teach interested men so they too could join. He led the chorus until 1979. John Holland, President of the Orpheus Male Chorus (OMC) in 1949-1950, added the positions of social chairman, librarian, and travel chairman.

Nineteen fifty-four marked the OMC's first tour abroad. That year they traveled to Mexico. They traveled to Europe in 1958, 1962, 1968, 1971, 1976, and 1980, to Canada in 1964, and to Australia and New Zealand in 1987. In 1965, a German chorus, Schubert-Bund Wuppertal, came to Phoenix as part of an American tour. They returned in 1973. In 1966, the OMC traveled to Hawaii. All of these national and international "goodwill tours" led Governor Paul Fannin to dub the chorus "Arizona's Cowboy Ambassadors" in 1964.

The OMC, a voluntary association, has always included men from various professions and walks of life, including Victor Manuel, a Pima Indian and chorus member who performed traditional chants and dances for audiences in Arizona and abroad. He sang with the chorus until his death on October 18, 1969.

The OMC recorded and released several recordings throughout its history. It also participated in fundraising for musical scholarships to various schools throughout the area. It has performed throughout Europe at various concerts and music festivals, in Phoenix Symphony Hall and Grady Gammage Auditorium, as well as at religious services throughout the valley.

(Taken from A 60-year History of the Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix, 1929-1989)

SERIES DESCRIPTION

The Orpheus Male Chorus Records are arranged in 9 series:

Series 1. Administration, 1930-1992. 12½ inches, 51 folders.

This series consists of legal documents, reports, balance sheets, newsletters, awards, correspondence, itineraries, rosters, directories, and publicity publications regarding the administration of the Orpheus Male Chorus organization.

Series 2. Concerts, 1931-1992. 10½ inches, 56 folders.

This series consists of chronologically-arranged concert programs, advertising materials and tickets from concerts the OMC hosted and those in which they sang as guests.

Series 3. Articles About Orpheus Male Chorus, 1929-1986. 7 inches, 26 folders.

Taken mostly from newspapers and magazines in Arizona and Europe, the articles in this series describe high points in OMC's history, its financial status, and concert reviews. All articles are arranged chronologically.

Series 4. Travel Brochures and Pamphlets, 1950-1988. 4 inches, 10 folders.

Chronologically-arranged brochures, pamphlets, and maps from OMC's travels abroad comprise this series.

Series 5. Sheet Music, No Dates. 2 inches, 4 folders.

The music in this series is arranged alphabetically. Song books and staff paper follow.

Series 6. Images, 1949-1982. 44 inches, 31 folders, 2 boxes of lantern slides, and 1 box of slides.

The photographs in this series are arranged chronologically. The lantern slides are divided into subseries based on types of songs, and the slides are both sing-a-long slides and pictures of American landmarks.

Series 7. Realia, 1958-1976. 2 inches, 1 box.

This series contains ribbons, stickers, patches and pins.

Series 8. Recordings, 1958-1967. 4½ inches, 2 boxes.

This series contains one reel-to-reel recording and three vinyl records.

Series 9. Posters, 1962-1992. 1 inch.

This series contains posters advertising OMC concerts from various tours abroad.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records document the Orpheus Male Chorus' activities in Arizona and Europe from 1929 to 1992. The bulk of the materials relate to the administration of the OMC, its concerts and its trips abroad. The records also document OMC activities such as

fundraising and publicity. The collection lacks many years of documents such as treasurers' reports, committee reports and minutes of meetings of the Board of Directors. This collection contains documents in English, French, German, Russian, Japanese and Spanish.

Series 1: **Administration**, 1930-1992. This series is divided into five subseries: General Business, Trips, Rosters and Directories, Publicity, and Correspondence. These documents treat the day-to-day running of the organization as well as information on subjects such as fundraising, membership, and recordings.

Series 2: **Concerts**, 1931-1992. Arranged chronologically, the concert advertisements, programs, and tickets in this series show the types of music sung by the OMC as well as shifts in organizational emphasis that went along with changes in the directorship. Also contained in this series are programs from memorials and tributes in which the OMC participated, including tributes to Barry Goldwater and OMC director Ralph Hess as well as a program from the memorial service for OMC director David Murdock, killed in action during World War II.

Series 3: **Articles About Orpheus Male Chorus**, 1929-1986. This series contains chronologically-arranged articles clipped from magazines and newspapers in English and German. The articles detail the OMC's trips abroad as well as concert activities in Phoenix and around Arizona.

Series 4: **Travel Brochures and Pamphlets**, 1950-1988. Tourist information booklets, advertising pamphlets and maps make up this series. Items are arranged chronologically and show various aspects of the tourist experience.

Series 5: **Sheet Music**. The songs in this series are arranged alphabetically and show the types of music used by the OMC. Songs in English, German and Spanish are included.

Series 6: **Images**, 1949-1982. This series is divided into three subseries: Photographs, Lantern Slides, and Slides. The photographs are arranged chronologically, and complete descriptions are available in the Image Database table. The Lantern Slides contain song lyrics and are arranged by song type: General Folk Songs, Spirituals, College Football Songs and Christmas Songs. The Slides also contain song lyrics, but also photographs of various American landmarks.

Series 7: **Realia**, 1958-1976. This series contains buttons, patches, ribbons, stickers and nametags showing various aspects of the group's tourist experiences.

Series 8: **Recordings**, 1958-1967. This series contains a reel-to-reel recording of the OMC, vinyl records of the OMC and the Schubert-Bund Wuppertal Chorus, and videotapes of the OMC and its reunions.

Series 9: **Posters**, 1962-1992. This series contains chronologically-arranged posters for concerts the OMC sang abroad. Included are posters in English, German and Russian.

PROVENANCE

On March 4, 1996, OMC president David M. Kelly donated the Orpheus Male Chorus Records to the Arizona Historical Society, Central Arizona Division.

RESTRICTIONS

One folder entitled "Constitution and Bylaws" (Box 1, Folder 2) is restricted because of its fragility.

Other copyright restrictions may apply to already-published material found in the collection, such as music or travel books.

LITERARY RIGHTS STATEMENT

Permission to publish material from the *Orpheus Male Chorus Records, 1929-1992* must be obtained from the Library and Archives Department at the Central Arizona Division of the Arizona Historical Society.

NOTES TO RESEARCHERS

In order to stabilize the materials and preserve the information contained in this collection, newspaper clippings and items on deteriorating acidic paper were photocopied onto acid-neutral paper and the originals were recycled. Also, staples were removed and replaced with paper clips to preserve the documents' context. These paper-clipped documents are now protected by strips of acid-neutral paper. Wherever staples in concert programs appeared to be rusting, they were removed and not replaced. Photographs were placed in acid-neutral sleeves. The posters were numbered, measured and encapsulated in mylar and onto acid-neutral board.

Wherever possible, documents were left in the folders in which they came. However, in order to maintain the boundaries of the series, many documents were rearranged.

CONTAINER LIST**SERIES 1: ADMINISTRATION, 1930-1992.****General Business**

Box : Folder

- 1 : 1 Constitution and Bylaws
- 1 : 2 Constitution and Bylaws (Restricted)
- 1 : 3 Board of Directors, 1979-1983
- 1 : 4 Treasurers' Reports and Balance Sheets, 1959-1960, 1979-1983
- 1 : 5 Committees, 1959, 1979, 1980-1981, 1982-1983, Undated
- 1 : 6 History (Committees), 1961-1981
- 1 : 7 Newsletters, 1959, 1979, 1983, Undated
- 1 : 8 Awards, 1958, 1969, 1978
- 1 : 9 Rehearsal/Concert Business, 1959, 1960, 1963-1964, 1980,
Undated
- 1 : 10 Concert Program Business, 1961, 1963
- 1 : 11 Concert Business, 1969-1970
- 1 : 12 Membership Cards, 1946-1959
- 1 : 13 Associated Male Choruses of America, 1957, 1961-1972
- 1 : 14 Levi Strauss Correspondence, lists of sizes for uniforms, 1958-
1962, Undated
- 1 : 15 Salvation Army Correspondence, 1965-1966
- 1 : 16 *History of the Phoenix Boys Choir From 1947 Through 1989*, 1992
- 1 : 17 Assorted Notes and Receipts, 1946-1962, Undated
- 1 : 18 Questionnaires and Blank Forms, c. 1964, Undated
- 1 : 19 Logos and Letterheads, Undated

Trips

- 1 : 20 1958 Trip
- 1 : 21 1962 Trip
- 1 : 22 1964 Trip (Toronto)
- 1 : 23 Hawaii Trip, 1966
- 1 : 24 1968 Tour
- 1 : 25 1980 Trip
- 1 : 26 Itineraries, Undated
- 1 : 27 Play, Undated

Rosters and Directories

- 2 : 28 1930-1947
- 2 : 29 1957-1969
- 2 : 30 1969-1974
- 2 : 31 1974-1991

Box : Folder
2 : 32 Undated

Publicity

2 : 33 Cletus Sharkey/Publicity Committee Fundraising, Undated
2 : 34 Cletus Sharkey/Publicity Committee, 1955-1959
2 : 35 1957-1960
2 : 36 1962-1968
2 : 37 1971, 1973, 1976
2 : 38 1983, 1989, 1990
2 : 39 Undated

Correspondence

3 : 40 Reminders Sent to Members, 1940-1956, Undated
3 : 41 1951-1958
3 : 42 R.F. Marquis Correspondence, 1955-1957
3 : 43 1959
3 : 44 Ralph Hess Correspondence, 1958-1960, Undated
3 : 45 1960-1962
3 : 46 Orpheus Christmas Record, June-July 1963
3 : 47 November, 1963-1968
3 : 48 1970-1973
3 : 49 Vienna Trip, 1975-1976
3 : 50 1979-1980
3 : 51 Undated

SERIES 2: CONCERTS, 1931-1992

3 : 52 1931
3 : 53 1932
3 : 54 1933
3 : 55 1936
3 : 56 1937
3 : 57 1938
3 : 58 1939
3 : 59 1940
3 : 60 1941
3 : 61 1942
3 : 62 1943
3 : 63 1944
3 : 64 1945
3 : 65 1946
3 : 66 1947

3	:	67	1948
3	:	68	1949
3	:	69	1950
3	:	70	1951
3	:	71	1952
3	:	72	1953
4	:	73	1954
4	:	74	1955
4	:	75	1956
4	:	76	1957
4	:	77	1958
4	:	78	1959
4	:	79	1960
4	:	80	1961
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4	:	92	1973
4	:	93	1974
4	:	94	1975
4	:	95	1976
4	:	96	1977
5	:	97	1978
5	:	98	1979
5	:	99	1980
5	:	100	1981
5	:	101	1982-1983
5	:	102	1984
5	:	103	1985
5	:	104	1986
5	:	105	1987
5	:	106	1988
5	:	107	1991-1992
5	:	108	Undated

Memorials and Tributes

5	:	109	1945, 1956-1958, 1987
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SERIES 3: ARTICLES ABOUT ORPHEUS MALE CHORUS, 1929-1986

5	:	110	1929, 1930, 1939
5	:	111	1941-1943
5	:	112	1946-1947
5	:	113	1948
5	:	114	1949
5	:	115	1950
5	:	116	1951
5	:	117	1952
5	:	118	1953
5	:	119	1954
5	:	120	1955-1956
5	:	121	1957
6	:	122	1958
6	:	123	1959, 1960
6	:	124	1961
6	:	125	1962
6	:	126	1963
6	:	127	1964
6	:	128	1965
6	:	129	1966-1967
6	:	130	1968
6	:	131	1969-1970
6	:	132	1971
6	:	133	1974-1976
6	:	134	1978-1986
6	:	135	Undated 1
6	:	136	Undated 2

SERIES 4: TRAVEL BROCHURES AND PAMPHLETS, 1950-1988

7	:	137	1950
7	:	138	1958
7	:	139	1960
7	:	140	1962, 1964, 1968
7	:	141	1971
7	:	142	1976 (1)
7	:	143	1976 (2)
7	:	144	1988
7	:	145	Undated Booklets
7	:	146	Undated Pamphlets, Maps, and Memorabilia
7	:	147	Undated Postcards

SERIES 5: SHEET MUSIC

- 7 : 148 Songs, A-E
- 7 : 149 Songs, G-R
- 8 : 150 Songs, S-Y
- 8 : 151 Method Books, Unidentified Sheet Music, Empty Manuscript Book

SERIES 6: IMAGES, 1949-1982**Photographs**

- 8 : 152 1949
- 8 : 153 1950, 1953, 1954
- 8 : 154 1955 (1)
- 8 : 155 1955 (2)
- 8 : 156 1956
- 8 : 157 1957 (1)
- 8 : 158 1957 (2)
- 8 : 159 1958 (1)
- 8 : 160 1958 (2)
- 8 : 161 1958 (3)
- 8 : 162 1958 (4)
- 9 : 163 1958 (5)
- 9 : 164 1959
- 9 : 165 Phoenix Boys' Choir, c. 1950s
- 9 : 166 1960
- 9 : 167 1962
- 9 : 168 1963
- 9 : 169 1964
- 9 : 170 1965
- 9 : 171 1966
- 9 : 172 1967
- 9 : 173 1968 (1)
- 9 : 174 1968 (2)
- 9 : 175 1971
- 9 : 176 1973
- 9 : 177 1975
- 9 : 178 1977
- 9 : 179 1982
- 9 : 180 Undated Photographs (1)
- 9 : 181 Undated Photographs (2)
- 9 : 182 Undated Photographs (3)
- 9 : 183 Negative
- 14 Scrapbook, 1965
- 14 Oversize photographs

Lantern Slides

- 10 General Folk Songs
- 11 General Folk Songs, 1997.155.305-1997.155.323
- 11 Spirituals, 1997.155.324-1997.155.331
- 11 College Football Songs, 1997.155.332-1997.155.339
- 11 Christmas Songs, 1997.155.340-1997.155.348

Slides

- 12 Sing-A-Long Slides
- 12 Pictures of American Landmarks

SERIES 7: REALIA, 1958-1976

- 13 Orpheus Male Chorus Ribbons, Sticker and Decal
Booklets of Patches
Buttons (Pins)-1958, 1971, 1976
Nametags

SERIES 8: RECORDINGS, 1958-1967

- 15 Reel-to-Reel Recording—Vienna, 1958. “Recorded at 15 I.P.S.”
Vinyl Record, 45-rpm. Orpheus Male Chorus singing “Now is the
Hour” and Cindy,” c. 1962.
Vinyl Record, Schubert-Bund Wuppertal, “und habe ein liedlein
gesungen,” 1967.
- 16 Vinyl Record, “Schubert-Bund Wuppertal, 1946-1966.”

Video Cabinet

- Drawer 7 Videotape 1997.155.428: “58ers individual photos including The
Newkirks, the McLeans, Gene Wahlman.”
Videotape 1997.155.429: “Duke and Pat Lieurance host the
Orpheus 30-yr. Reunion 5/29/88 to Vienna 1958 at their
home.”
Videotape 1997.155.430: “50th Anniversary Party and Arizona-Go-
Round Ser. '00I”

SERIES 9: POSTERS, 1962-1992

Shelf 15.01.03 Posters for OMC concerts in Europe and Mexico.
German, English, Russian and Spanish.
Numbers 1997.155.423-1997.155.428.