

Amasong: Champaign-Urbana's Premier Lesbian/Feminist Chorus

Archives Inventory

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Creator: Amasong: Champaign-Urbana's Premier Lesbian/Feminist Chorus

Inclusive Dates: 1993-2009

Physical Description: Approximately 8 filing cabinet drawers

Access: Available by appointment only. Interested researchers should first contact the Champaign County Historical Archives.

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE

Amasong was founded in 1990 in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois by Kristina Boerger who was about to begin her master's degree in choral conducting at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Amasong provides an opportunity for lesbians and feminist women to gather together in the pursuit of choral excellence. The group's name was a play on the words *amazon* and *song*. The choir's first members were diverse in interest, age, and experience, and this has continued to the present version of the chorus. Amasong's repertoire draws most heavily upon folk music from various world traditions, music written by women, and other music reflecting women's experiences. The Board of Directors was established in 1995 to oversee the organizational, promotional, and financial matters of the chorus. Amasong has released multiple CDs, some of which have won Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards, and has been the feature of a PBS documentary entitled "Singing Out." The chorus can be found online at <http://www.amasong.org/>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of eight series: music, administrative, media, finances, correspondence, photographs, choral operations, and the subject file.

The collection includes correspondence, financial records, photographs, programs, minutes, sheet music, by-laws, and other working papers produced by Amasong and its members. The collection covers the activities of the chorus and the Board of Directors.

Two strengths of the collection include the concert program files (1994-2008) and the correspondence files (1997-2008). Taken together, these two sets of papers thoroughly document both the formal and informal, external and internal, activities of Amasong.

ARRANGEMENT**Music**

This alphabetically-organized series is chiefly composed of copies of the sheet music from Amasong performances, but also includes unsolicited sheet music samples sent to Amasong.

Administrative

This series includes minutes from the meetings of the Board of Directors, ranging from the creation of the Board in 1995 through 2009. The series includes other materials pertaining to the operation of the Board, including board and singer contact information, by-laws, and information about each of the Board positions and Board-appointed positions, including music director and chorus manager. The folders are organized alphabetically, with the minutes and other selective folders arranged chronologically.

Media

This series includes publicity materials and press coverage for performances, CDs, and the DVD. It also includes production information for the CDs and the website. It is organized alphabetically, with some folders arranged chronologically.

Financial

This series includes treasurer's reports, tax forms, invoices, receipts, insurance information, contracts, and investment statements. The highlights of this series are the 501(c)(3) documents and the Articles of Incorporation.

Correspondence

The chronologically-organized correspondence series is one of the strengths of the collection. It primarily consists of printouts of email correspondence among members of the Board of Directors. Spanning from 1997 to 2008, it thoroughly documents the development of the chorus.

Photographs

The photographic documentation is especially strong for the chorus trip to the Czech Republic.

Choral Operations

This series contains materials relating to the operation and organization of the chorus, including concerts and rehearsals. The highlight of this series is the collection of concert programs. Although lacking the early years of Amasong's existence, the concert programs document the bi-annual performances of Amasong from 1994 through 2008. The series is organized alphabetically, with concert program files arranged chronologically.

Subject File

The subject file exists to organize the materials relating to Amasong's connection to various associations, such as GALA Choruses and the Gay and Lesbian American Music Awards (GLAMA), and materials relating to Amasong's participation in annual special events, such as the National Women's Music Festival. This series is organized alphabetically.

CONTAINER LIST

Drawer 1

Series 1: Music

Sheet Music A-L

Drawer 2

Series 1: Music

M-Z

Music Samples

Sheet music—bound booklets

Sheet music—incompletes

Drawer 3

Series 2: Administrative

Folder 1: BOD Application Forms (blank)

Folder 2: BOD Guidelines & Best Practices

Folder 3: BOD Minutes—1995

Folder 4: BOD Minutes—1996

Folder 5: BOD Minutes—1997

Folder 6: BOD Minutes—1998

Folder 7: BOD Minutes—1999

Folder 8: BOD Minutes—2000

Folder 9: BOD Minutes—2001

Folder 10: BOD Minutes—2002

Folder 11: BOD Minutes—2003

Folder 12: BOD Minutes—2004

Folder 13: BOD Minutes—2005

Folder 14: BOD Minutes—2006

Folder 15: BOD Minutes—2007

Folder 16: BOD Minutes—2008

Folder 17: BOD Minutes—2009

Folder 18: BOD Minutes—n.d.

Folder 19: BOD Nominations

Folder 20: BOD Positions & Titles n.d.

Folder 21: By-laws—1993-2007

Folder 22: Calendars—2003-2007, n.d.

Folder 23: Committee & working group organization

Folder 24: CD committee

Folder 25: Conductors & ASK

Folder 26: Dues Committee

Folder 27: Finance committee

Folder 28: Fund development committee

Folder 29: Long range planning committee

Folder 30: Publicity committee

Folder 31: Website committee

Folder 32: Contact info—BOD—1996-2007

Folder 33: Contact info—Directories—1998-2008

Folder 34: Contact info—Members—n.d.

Folder 35: Contact info—Former Members—2004-2006

Folder 36: Positions—Chorus Manager

Folder 37: Positions—Music Directors—General

Folder 38: Positions—Music Directors—Search Application Materials

Folder 39: Positions—Music Directors—Boerger, Kristina—1990-1999

Folder 40: Positions—Music Directors—Skydell, Deborah—1999-2000

Folder 41: Positions—Music Directors—Rejskind, Margot—2001-2003

Folder 42: Positions—Music Directors—Gillie, Esther—2003

Folder 43: Positions—Music Directors—Smith, Megan—2006-

Folder 44: Welcome packets

Series 5: Correspondence

Folder 1: Correspondence—Email—1997

Folder 2: Correspondence—Email—1998

Folder 3: Correspondence—Email—1999

Folder 4: Correspondence—Email—2000

Folder 5: Correspondence—Email—2001

Folder 6: Correspondence—Email—2002

Folder 7: Correspondence—Email—2003

Folder 8: Correspondence—Email—2004

Folder 9: Correspondence—Email—2005

Folder 10: Correspondence—Email—2006

Folder 11: Correspondence—Email—2007

Folder 12: Correspondence—Email—2008

Folder 13: Correspondence—Email—n.d.

Folder 14: Correspondence—Intra-chorus

Folder 15: Correspondence—Non-email—n.d.

Drawer 4

Oversized Material

Folder 1: Kristina's dissertation

Binder—"Amasong Past Concert Programs and Singer History" 1994-2004 binder

"GALA Choruses Handbook" binder

Publicity Material

Series 6: Photographs

Photographs and photo albums

Drawer 5

Series 4: Financial

Drawer 6

Series 4: Financial

Drawer 7

Series 7: Choral Operations

Folder 1: Amasong audition forms 2007

Folder 2: Choir release form

Folder 3: Concert logistics

Folder 4: Concert performances—Special—2003-2008, n.d.

Folder 5: Concert programs—Annual—1994-1999

Folder 6: Concert programs—Annual—2000-2005

Folder 7: Concert programs—Annual—2006-2008, n.d.

Folder 8: Concert program proofs 2007

Folder 9: Czech exchange

Folder 10: Positions—chorus, voluntary

Folder 11: Section & section leader assignments, n.d.

Folder 12: Rehearsal logistics—1999-2007, n.d.

Drawer 8

Series 3: Media

Folder 1: Advertising opportunities

Folder 2: How to Make an Amasong CD

Folder 3: CD – Bridges of Song 2008-

Folder 4: CD – Laulu Voim 2002-

Folder 5: CD – Amai 1999-

Folder 6: CD – Over Here the Water is Sweet 1996-

Folder 7: CD Czarina Reports, ca. 2000-

Folder 8: CD-Related Invoices

Folder 9: CD order forms with handwritten personal messages

Folder 10: CD orders (2004)

Folder 11: Check copies from CD orders

Folder 12: CD publicity 1997-1999

Folder 13: Concert publicity 1995-2008

Folder 14: Database of Recordings Printout, 2008

Folder 15: Intellectual Property Rights Form

Folder 16: Sanyo/Product ID Form

Folder 17: Singing Out documentary publicity 2003

Folder 18: Singing Out Documentary Invoices 2003-

Folder 19: Singing Out Documentary Feedback 2004

Folder 20: Press Coverage 1995-2006

Folder 21: Press Coverage n.d.

Folder 22: Website content

Folder 23: Website domain name registration

Series 8: Subject file

Folder 1: GALAgrams 2002

Folder 2: GALA leadership institute 1998

Folder 3: GALA membership rosters 1998, 2002

Folder 4: GALA music directors' and managers' meetings 2002

Folder 5: Gay games

Folder 6: GLAMA

Folder 7: Habitat for Humanity

Folder 8: National Women's Music Festival 2006-2007, n.d.

Folder 9: Sister Singers—2001