

The **Monday Musical Club of Albany** was founded in 1904 by a small group of women with a common interest in music, who first met on Monday afternoons to study music, perform musical works for each other, and serve formal teas. Today we still honor their original mission statement:

The objective of this club shall be to encourage a broader culture in music and the performing arts among its members and in the community at large.

As membership increased through the years, these monthly Monday meetings were transformed into three distinct entities: a Women's Chorus with weekly rehearsals and two annual concerts, informal Performance Workshops held in members' homes, and Artist Concerts where select members perform for public audiences. Men were first admitted as full members in 1988.

The Monday Musical Club is proud to include amateur as well as professional musicians in nearly every performance genre from singers to pianists, woodwind and string players, pipe organists and classical guitarists, some of whom have performed as far away as Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. We can boast a member listed in the International Who's Who in Music and World Who's Who of Women; singers who have performed with Opera Excelsior, Lake George, Wolf Trap, and Washington Operas, and with Albany Pro Musica, the North Carolina Symphony, the Cape Ann Symphony, and at the Tanglewood Music Festival. Some of our members are on the music faculties of such educational institutions as the Albany Academy for Girls, the College of Saint Rose, Schenectady Community College, Vassar College, and Russell Sage College.

Anyone interested in music may join **The Monday Musical Club**. Presently there are four Artist Concerts and two Women's Chorus concerts each year at several venues in Albany, including the First Congregational Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Third Reformed Church. Club concerts have also been held recently at the Hyde Collection in Glens Falls, and the Caffé Lena in Saratoga Springs. We encourage the public to attend.

Helen Rockwell Henshaw (1903-1998) was a prominent organist and choir director in the Capital District for many years. She was born and educated in Schenectady, receiving a B.A. degree in English from Bryn Mawr College in 1925. She pursued a career as organist and music teacher, studying with Dr. Elmer Tidmarsh at Union College, then with Marcel Dupré at the American Conservatory in Fontainebleau, France. In 1930 she earned American Guild of Organists' Fellowship Degree, its highest academic honor. After teaching at the Indian Mountain School in Lakeville, Connecticut and the Brown School in Schenectady, **Helen Henshaw** joined the music department of Albany Academy, later becoming its Director of Music. She was organist first at Scotia Reformed Church, then in 1931, Associate Organist at First Presbyterian Church, Albany. From 1934 until her retirement in 1972, she served that church as Organist-Choir Director, conducting its four choirs at Sunday services and in cantata and oratorio performances. Involved in the musical life of the community, she played many organ recitals, including at the 1939 World's Fair in New York City, and annually at the Church of Saint James in Albany. **Helen Henshaw** was first accompanist and later conductor of the Monday Musical Club Chorus, the Schubert Club Chorus, and the Thursday Musical Club. A notable accomplishment was the introduction of English handbells to the Capital District. She founded the Willett Ringers in Albany, and the Golden Bells and Thursday Bells in Schenectady. During the 1970s she conducted tours of Europe for music lovers, visiting cathedral organs, birthplaces of famous composers, and music festivals. She volunteered her time tirelessly to the Bryn Mawr Book Store, helping to raise scholarship funds for needy college students, one of her favorite causes. The generous bequest which **Helen Henshaw** left to **The Monday Musical Club** is allocated for music student scholarships.