

# Lithograph of The Germania Musical Society

Lithograph of The Germania Musical Society  
circa 1848-1850



## Title Statement

Lithograph of The Germania Musical SocietyGuide to Lithograph of The Germania Musical Society C0542

**Subtitle:** Lithograph of The Germania Musical Society

**Author:** Meghan Glasbrenner

## Publication Statement

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Fenwick Library, MS2FL  
4400 University Dr.  
Fairfax, Virginia 22030  
Business Number: 703-993-2220  
Fax Number: 703-993-8911  
speccoll@gmu.edu  
URL: <https://scrc.gmu.edu>



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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

C0542

**Unit ID**

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**Unit Date**

circa 1848-1850

**Language**

English

## Abstract

Single-sided lithograph depicting the twenty-two members of The Germania Musical Society circa 1848-1850.

## Creator

Sarony & Major

## Extent

.01 Linear Feet 1 item

## Physical Location

Map Case 27.2

## Repository

George Mason University. Libraries. Special Collections Research Center

# Administrative Information

## Access Restrictions

There are no access restrictions.

## Use Restrictions

Public Domain. There are no known restrictions.

## Acquisition Information

Purchased by Steve Gerber from J & J Lubrano Music Antiquarians in October 2011.

## Processing Information

Processing and finding aid completed by Meghan Glasbrenner in December 2025.

## Preferred Citation

Lithograph of The Germania Musical Society, C0542, Special Collections Research Center, George Mason University Libraries

# Historical Information

Formally founded in 1848, the group that became the Germania Musical Society originated with members of Joseph Gungl's orchestra in Berlin, Germany in late 1847. The group's first concert took place on May 4, 1848 at the Milentzschen Saale in Berlin and was attended by both the United States Minister to Berlin and the English Ambassador. After a brief tour in London, England, the group set sail for the United States on August 2, 1848. After arriving in New York City on September 28, the group gave their first United States performance on October 5 at Niblo's Garden (also known as Niblo's Opera House) and were soon in-demand for both public and private events in and around New York City and among the wealthy summer residents of Newport, Rhode Island. The Germania Musical Society eventually settled in Boston, Massachusetts before formally disbanding in the mid-1850s, although some members would continue to use the name for smaller orchestra groups.

# Scope and Content

Single-sided lithograph depicting the twenty-two members of The Germania Musical Society circa 1848-1850. The title is written in large font at the bottom of the illustration, with publisher attribution "Lith. Of Sarony & Major, New York" appearing above the title in smaller font. Underneath the illustration of each individual member is a number, possibly indicating their chair or position, which then corresponds to a more detailed listing below this containing their first initial, last name, and instrument, with the exception of No. 18 which includes just the individual's name. Twenty-one of the individuals are depicted holding their musical instrument, with the individual in the center, labeled No. 1 and identified as the "Leader," depicted holding a scroll of paper and possibly a baton.

Dating for the lithograph is based on the use of Sarony & Major as a credit line between 1845-1857, the society's formation in 1848, and Charles Lenschow's resignation as Leader in 1850.

# Related Materials

The Special Collections Research Center holds other pieces of lithography, such as the "La Navarraise" opera scene and costume lithographs, and other music and performing arts collections.

## Keywords

## Keywords

Lithography  
Art  
Music  
Performing arts  
Germania Musical Society

## Bibliography

Eiseman, Lee. 2024. "Dance Music of the Germania Musical Society." News & Features. The Boston Musical Intelligencer, February 8. <https://www.classical-scene.com/2024/02/08/dance-germania/>.

Historic Music of Newport. n.d. "The Germania Musical Society in Newport." Accessed December 17, 2025. <https://www.historicmusicofnewport.org/blog/germania-musical-society>.

Huntington Digital Library. n.d. "The Germania Musical Society. - Jay T. Last Collection of Graphic Arts and Social History." Accessed December 17, 2025. <https://hdl.huntington.org/digital/collection/p16003coll4/id/2648>.

"Sarony, Major & Knapp." n.d. American Historical Print Collectors Society (AHPCS). Accessed December 17, 2025. <https://ahpcs.org/publisher/sarony-major-knapp/>.

## Arrangement

This is a single item collection.